

NAPHA-Raspeco. Cheetah in Namibia - Program for the Enhancement of a Valuable Species Through Sustainable Utilization. Ref Type: Pamphlet

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Abstract: The Namibian Professional Hunting Association NAPHA works closely with conservationists and researchers in understanding the cheetah and its interactions with the Namibian farmland ecosystem. The pamphlet presents how hunters and farmers contribute to on-going research efforts and basic biological data on cheetahs.

## CHEETAH FACTS

It is estimated that only 12 000 to 15 000 cheetah remain in the world.

Namibia has the last remaining viable population of cheetah (estimated at 2 000 to 3 000), 90% of these live outside of protected reserves, mainly on farmlands.

In Namibia, cheetah have been found in a variety of habitats, including grasslands, savannas, dense vegetation, and mountainous terrain.

Cheetah in Namibia occupy home ranges of up to 1 500 km<sup>2</sup>, and individuals can move 13 to 26 km per day.

Cheetah in Namibia frequent playtrees (trees with sloping trunks and large horizontal limbs) that they mark with urine, faeces, and scratching for communication.

Adult body length: 112-135 cm; tail length 66-84 cm; shoulder height 73+ cm; weight 34-54 kg. Males are slightly larger than females.

The cheetah's flexible spine, oversized liver, enlarged heart, wide nostrils, increased lung capacity, and thin muscular body make this cat the swiftest hunter of Africa.

Cheetah can cover 7 to 8 meters in a stride, and can reach a speed of 110 km/h in seconds.

Cheetah's natural prey in Namibia includes kudu calves, springbok, steenbok, warthog, other young antelope, hare and game birds.

Cheetah hunt in the early morning and early evening. They capture their prey by stalking - until within 10-30 metres, before chasing. The prey is suffocated by a biting grip on the throat.

Chases last about 20 seconds, and rarely longer than one minute. Only about half of the chases are successful.

Males live alone or in coalitions made up of brothers.

The female lives alone and raises the cubs on her own. The cubs stay with her for at least 18 months learning critical survival skills. Older cubs with their mother can be hard to distinguish from adults.

Cheetahs are non-aggressive and do not pose a threat to human life.

## HUNTERS SUPPORTING CHEETAH CONSERVATION RESEARCH

Good hunters are generally good conservationists and play an important role in conservation. Many actively support the management of the resource they utilize. In order for the cheetah to survive, its management must incorporate its habitat, natural prey, and a holistic approach to management of the farmlands in which it lives.

NAPHA, hunters and farmers must work together with researchers and conservationists in helping to ensure the species survival. Hunters are encouraged to participate in cheetah conservation efforts. A programme of 'sustainable utilization' will ultimately enhance the survival of the species.

NAPHA works closely with conservationists and researchers in understanding this unique species and its interactions with the Namibian farmland ecosystem. Researchers continually monitor the cheetah population's health, genetics, and behaviour. Cheetah movements are monitored by radio tracking and ear tagging. From information gained, management strategies have been developed to aid farmers in reducing conflict with cheetah.

Hunters and farmers contribute to on-going research efforts by:

1. Hunting ethically, for "sustainability" of the species.
2. Hunting on farmlands that are a part of NAPHA's COMPACT agreement.
3. Assisting in research by the collection of biological samples from trophy animals.
4. Helping to define the population, including sex and age structure.
5. Supporting farm management techniques that reduce predator conflict.
6. Learning more about the cheetah, its uniqueness as a species and its role in the ecosystem.



## Cheetah in Namibia

# NAPHA RASPECO



Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)

Program for the Enhancement  
of a Valuable Species Through  
Sustainable Utilization



**RASPECO**

Cheetah Committee

Professional Hunters and Conservationists  
Working Together for Survival of the Species  
Namibian Professional Hunting Association

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## THE CHEETAH, NAPHA AND RASPECO

In 1975, the cheetah was internationally classified as an "endangered species" by CITES and as a "protected animal" by the Namibian government. However, cheetah have continued to decline due to loss of habitat, declining prey, and largely due to indiscriminate and illegal removal. Many farmers in Namibia view the cheetah as a threat to their livestock farming interest and regularly remove them from their property. In 1992, in an attempt to prevent indiscriminate removal, CITES allowed an annual quota of 150 cheetah to be taken legally as trophy animals or for live export.

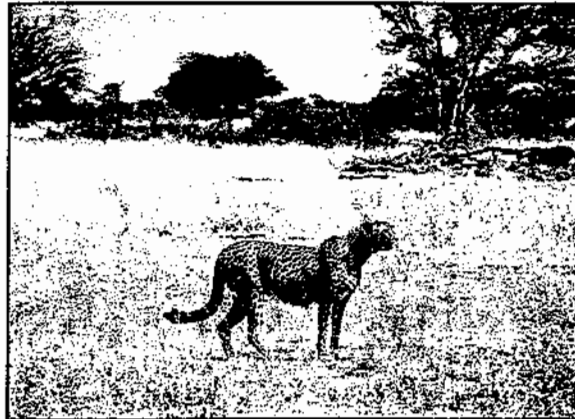
To support long-term conservation strategies for the cheetah, the Namibian Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA) established the Rare Species Committee (RASPECO) in 1994. The purpose of RASPECO is to develop guidelines and programmes which will support the sustainable utilization of a rare species, such as the cheetah, to the enhancement of the species. Sustainable utilization is the use of a wild population compatible with its long-term survival and its ecosystem.

The RASPECO Cheetah Committee believes that it is important to activate the hunters and farmers towards long-term cheetah conservation. It is the responsibility of the hunters and farmers to make sure that all trade in cheetahs is both sustainable and legal, and hunting quotas are enforceable. Trophy hunting must be carefully monitored within the limits of CITES and the Namibian government. NAPHA, in conjunction with conservationists, has established a set of cheetah hunting guidelines. These guidelines will help ensure that cheetah trophy hunting is carried out responsibly and ethically.

It is expected that indiscriminate catching and killing of cheetah will stop. Half of the trophy fee will be given to the farmer on whose land the cheetah is taken, thus providing an economic incentive for the cheetah's existence on the farmlands.

## COMPACT FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHEETAH IN NAMIBIA

NAPHA members participate in cheetah conservation efforts having signed a COMPACT for Management of the Cheetah on farms under their control. By signing the COMPACT, farmers agree that the cheetah is a valuable resource and that they will co-operate in efforts to ensure survival of the species, including responsible and monitored safari hunting. Farmers additionally agree to control indiscriminate killing of cheetah and manage their property as cheetah habitat. The signatories of the COMPACT have agreed to donate N\$1 000 (of the trophy fee) to the Namibian Nature Foundation to support on-going research for cheetah conservation.



## NAMIBIA'S MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Trophy hunting of cheetah is facilitated through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The Permit Office serves as a central location for information concerning cheetah available for trophy hunting. Professional hunters, as well as farmers with problem cheetah, should contact the Ministry's Permit Office for more information.

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## NAPHA'S CHEETAH HUNTING GUIDELINES:

### Ethical Ways of Hunting a Cheetah

1. Stalking/tracking.
2. Waiting at an area where cheetahs pass through (i.e. playtrees, walkways and waterholes).
3. Using a predator caller (no 24-hour calling).
4. Baiting a trap with goat or sheep.

### Non-Ethical Ways of Hunting Cheetah

1. Shooting of cheetah in traps or small game-proof camps (legal minimum camp size is 1 000 ha game-fenced).
2. Using artificial lights for hunting at night.
3. Using pre-conditioned or 'set-up' hunts (e.g., partially tranquilizing the cheetah or catching a cheetah to be released at time of).
4. Using a live-trapped cheetah as bait to attract other cheetah.
5. Using dogs to hunt cheetah.

### Additionally:

1. Hunters must have a cheetah hunting permit prior to the hunt.
2. Females that have cubs should not be shot, as orphaned cubs can become "problem animals."
3. Cubs should not be shot (cubs 18 months or less may be as large as their mother and therefore hard to distinguish).
4. All trophies must be properly documented.