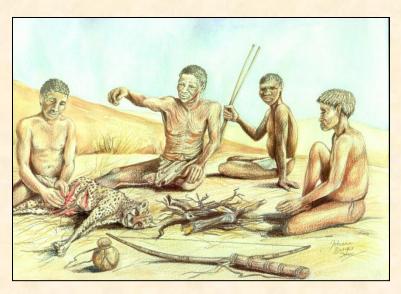


## In a 5,000 Year History With Humans, cheetahs were...

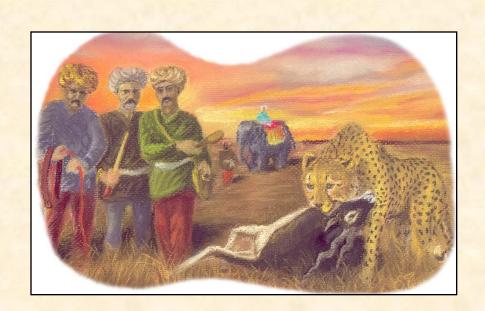


Worshipped as symbols of speed

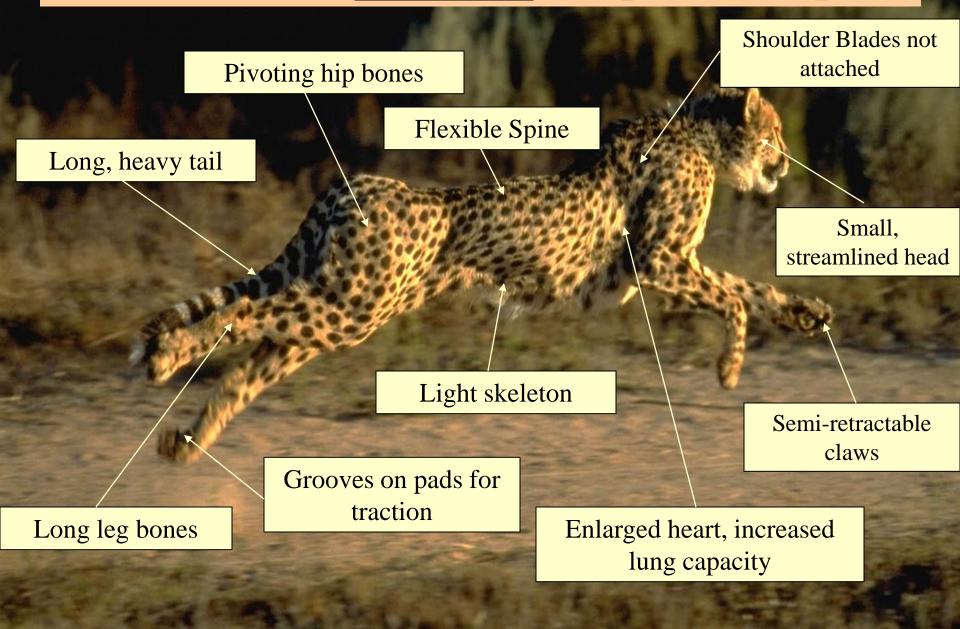
Used as hunting animals in the sport of coursing



Revered by royalty



### The cheetah is uniquely adapted for speed



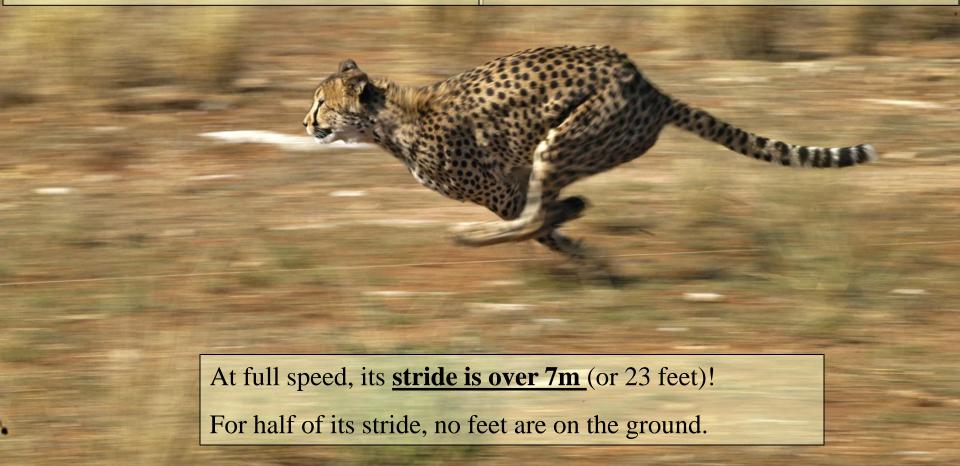
### Just how fast are cheetahs?

The cheetah is **the fastest land mammal** on earth and can easily outrun the fastest human sprinter.

It can reach speeds of <u>up to 110 km/hr</u> (about 70 mph) in seconds.

It can only <u>maintain its speed for 400-500 meters</u> before it overheats and <u>will have to rest for up to 30 minutes.</u>

It can go from <u>0 to 80 km/hr in 3 seconds</u> (a Ferrari needs 4 seconds!).



### The Cheetah's Challenges

- 1- Conflict with <u>larger predators</u> in protected game reserves
- 2- Conflict with <u>humans over livestock</u>
- 3- Destruction of <u>habitat</u> and <u>prey base</u>
- 4- Low genetic variability



## Cheetah Conservation Fund International Research and Education Center.

Founded by Dr. Laurie Marker in 1990, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)

international non-profit - based in Namibia



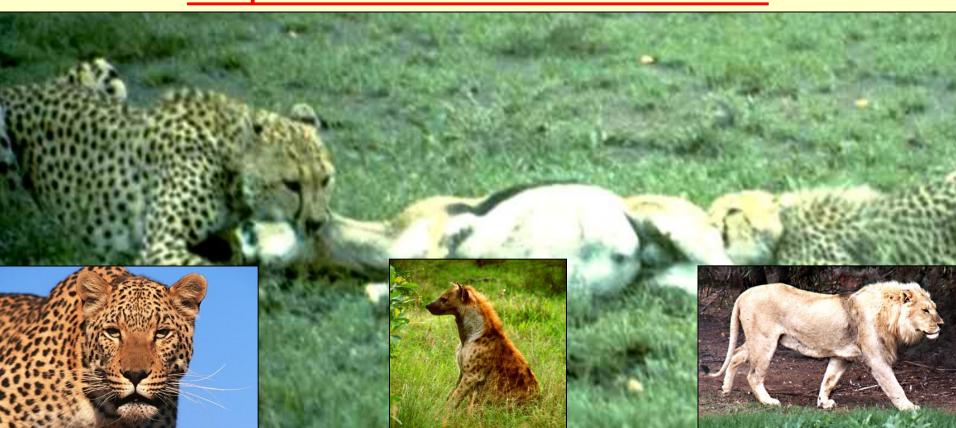
"We see a world in which cheetahs live and flourish in co-existence with people and the environment." (<u>CCF Vision Statement</u>)

# 1- Conflict with larger predators in protected game reserves

Cheetahs are <u>built for speed</u>, not power. This makes it easy for other large predators such as lions, leopards, and hyenas to <u>steal their kills</u>.

Because game reserves have many other large predators, cheetahs are pushed out. 95% of all cheetahs live on farmland.

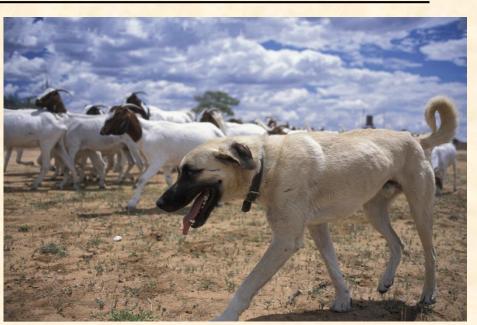
This puts them in direct contact with humans!



## 2- Conflict with humans- CCF Model Farm Reducing conflict - Alternative Livelihoods











### Training Program (para-vet)

**VACCINATIONS** 



**RECORD KEEPING** 



**HOOF MAINTENANCE** 



PRODUCTION = \$



PROTECTION FROM PREDATORS





#### Value Added to Livestock Production

#### CCF is teaching how to make cheese, yogurt, and fudge









900 liters of milk per goat per year!

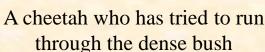
### 3- Habitat Destruction - Poor farming practices change habitats

### Habitat restoration program

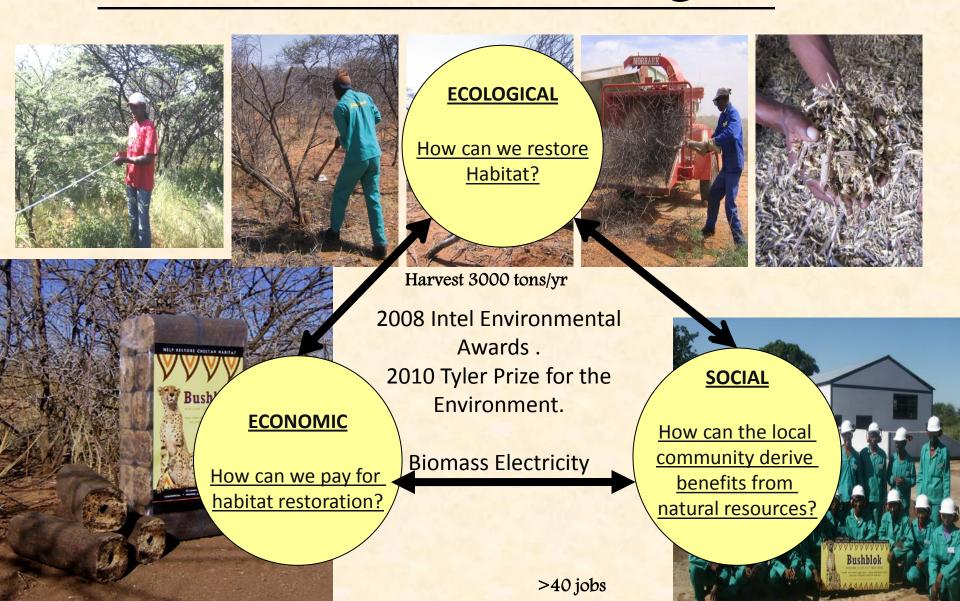
Overgrazing by livestock turns the savannah from normal grassland perfect for cheetahs to dense bush like below.

Why do you think cheetahs have a difficult time in this new environment?





### CCF's Habitat Restoration Program



### 4- Genetic Research and Ecological Research





### Research - cheetah health and reproduction

#### The Genetic Bottleneck

After the last ice age 10,000 years ago, most cheetahs throughout the world disappeared.

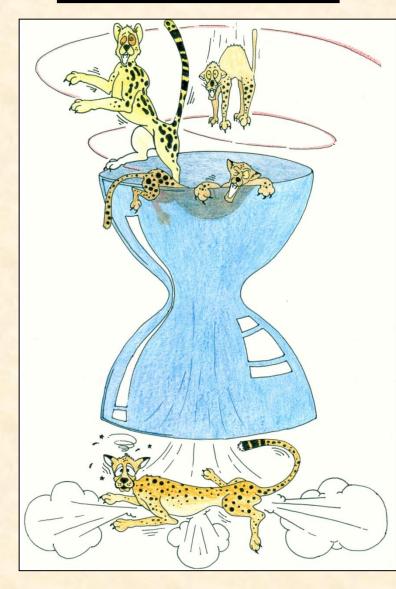
Only a very small population in southern Africa survived.

With such a drastic reduction in numbers, <u>close</u> relatives were forced to breed and the cheetah became genetically inbred meaning all cheetahs are closely related.

In most species, related individuals share about 80% of the same genes. With cheetahs, this figure rises to about 99%.

This lack of genetic variability has led to a large number of animals dying at birth, poor sperm quality, and greater susceptibility to disease.

#### **Genetic Problems**



Genetic variability is essential for a species to survive!

### Ecological Research

- Cheetah ecology
- Surveying techniques
- Prey and habitat studies







Scat Detection Dogs









Camera trapping

### 6- Education – school children

Education is <u>the key</u> to saving the wild cheetah. At CCF we educate everyone we can including school <u>children</u>, <u>teachers</u>, <u>local farmers</u>, <u>politicians</u>, <u>university students</u>, and <u>tourists</u>.



### The race is on and its up to us to save the cheetah



