



The cheetahs of Zimbabwe

Between 2013 and 2015 Cheetah Conservation Project Zimbabwe (CCPZ) carried out a nationwide survey to assess the size and distribution of Zimbabwe's cheetah population. Historically, the country's cheetah population consisted of more than 1 500 cheetahs, the majority of which resided on commercial farmland. Within the past 15 years there have been considerable changes in land use. As a result, cheetahs have lost 61% of their historic range. Today, Zimbabwe's cheetah population consists of ca. 150-170 adult and independent adolescent cheetahs which mainly occur in wildlife protected areas. The largest free roaming cheetah populations in Zimbabwe can be found in Hwange, Mana Pools and Gonarezhou National Park and surroundings.

The full report is available at cheetahzimbabwe.org. For more information or the submission of sightings visit our website, [Facebook CheetahZimbabwe](https://www.facebook.com/CheetahZimbabwe), or mail us: cheetah@cheetahzimbabwe.org.

Historic
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Present study

0 172 km

Cheetah sightings

Cheetah

Shoulder height: 0.69-0.86 m
Weight: 36-60 kg
Territory size: 126-1 651 km²
Diet: small to medium sized antelopes
Main activity: diurnal
Habits: solitary but males are also found in coalitions of 2-3 males (usually brothers), cubs stay with their mother for 18 months, cheetahs live in a wide range of habitats, from open grassland to a range of bush, scrub and woodland

Other carnivores

The cheetah was the main focus of CCPZ's study, however, the survey also provides an insight in the distribution of twelve other carnivores. Although for the small elusive carnivores these occurrence maps remain with uncertainties due to the low sighting probability, they provide a starting point for future studies and biodiversity monitoring.

<p>Aardwolf</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.47 m Weight: 8-10 kg Territory size: 1-4 km² Diet: termites, insects Main activity: nocturnal Habits: usually solitary, sometimes seen in pairs or family groups, found in dry open country, grasslands</p>	<p>African wild cat</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.35 m Weight: 3-7 kg Territory size: 3-4 km² Diet: rats, mice, birds, reptiles, insects Main activity: nocturnal Habits: solitary, found everywhere where there is enough thicket, tall grass or rocks for shelter</p>	<p>African wild dog</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.60-0.75 m Weight: 20-32 kg Territory size: 450-650 km² Diet: small to medium sized ungulates Main activity: diurnal Habits: live in packs with an alpha male and female, can be found in a wide variety of habitats</p>	<p>Bat-eared fox</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.30 m Weight: 3-5 kg Territory size: 1-3 km² Diet: termites, ants, insects, scorpions Main activity: diurnal/nocturnal Habits: live in pairs (often mate for life) or family groups in open dry savanna habitats</p>
<p>Black backed jackal</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.38 m Weight: 5-11 kg Territory size: 0.5-18 km² Diet: scavenge, hunt small mammals, birds, eat fruit Main activity: dusk and dawn Habits: live in pairs (mate for life) in most habitats, avoid well watered areas</p>	<p>Brown hyena</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.70-0.79 m Weight: 32-50 kg Territory size: 170-480 km² Diet: scavenge, hunt birds, reptiles, eat tubers and melons Main activity: nocturnal Habits: live in loosely organised groups in dry open woodland and bushland</p>	<p>Caracal</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.41-0.44 m Weight: 10-13 kg Territory size: 4-65 km² Diet: mainly birds, also small mammals, reptiles Main activity: nocturnal Habits: solitary, prefer savanna and open patches in woody habitats</p>	<p>Leopard</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.70-0.80 m Weight: 35-82 kg Territory size: 13-35 km² Diet: opportunistic, from mice to medium sized antelopes Main activity: nocturnal Habits: live solitary near thickets, mountain sides, riverine and arid areas</p>
<p>Lion</p> <p>Shoulder height: 1.00-1.20 m Weight: 120-250 kg Territory size: 20-400 km² Diet: large antelopes, buffalo, giraffe, sometimes elephant Main activity: nocturnal Habits: live in prides in most types of habitat</p>	<p>Serval</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.50 m Weight: 9-14 kg Territory size: 11-20 km² Diet: rodents, birds, insects, reptiles Main activity: nocturnal Habits: solitary but sometimes hunt together, found in tall grass, woodland with shelter</p>	<p>Side striped jackal</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.38 m Weight: 7-12 kg Territory size: 0.5-4 km² Diet: scavenge, hunt small mammals, birds, eat fruit Main activity: nocturnal Habits: live in pairs (mate for life) or family groups in well watered areas</p>	<p>Spotted hyena</p> <p>Shoulder height: 0.75-0.90 m Weight: 46-85 kg Territory size: 25-1 000 km² Diet: scavenge, hunt medium sized ungulates Main activity: nocturnal Habits: live in loosely organised clans in open woodland savanna</p>

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