

SAMEVATTING

Waarnemings oor die jagluiperd (*Acinonyx jubatus jubatus*) is in die Nasionale Kruger-wildtuin en die Kalahari-Gemsbok Nasionale Park gedoen wat, onderskeidelik, subtropies en semiwoestyn-toestande voorstel.

'n Gedetailleerde studie van alle verslae handelende oor die jagluiperd-bevolking van die Kruger-wildtuin vanaf 1902 tot 1957 is gedoen. Sensussyfers vir 1958 tot 1969 word gegee. Aanduidings is dat die jagluiperd-bevolking van die Kruger-wildtuin deurgaans 'n relatiewe lae digtheid gehandhaaf het. Dit beklemtoon die belangrikheid van verspreide teelgebiede, eerder as om die getalle van gevestigde bevolkings kunstmatig te verhoog.

Liggaamsmates en massas van volwasse en onvolwasse jagluiperds en jagluiperdwelpies word gegee.

Jagluiperds wat vanuit Suidwes-Afrika na die Kruger-wildtuin ingevoer is, is geïmmobiliseer en met gekodifiseerde nekbande gemerk. Hulle bewegings is ná loslating aangeteken. Hoewel sommige jagluiperds die grense van die Kruger-wildtuin verlaat het, was daar nogtans enkeles wat hulself suksesvol in hulle nuwe tuiste aangepas het. Een voorbeeld hiervan is wyfie 24T wat haarself in die omgewing van die Onder-Sabieruskamp gevestig het en 349 dae ná loslating met twee welpies by haar opgemerk is.

In die Gemsbokpark is van spoorinterpretasies gebruik gemaak om bewegings en geassosieerde aktiwiteite te bestudeer. Twintig jagluiperdgroepe is vir meer as 1 150 kilometer agtervolg. Jagluiperds van die Gemsbokpark het 'n nie-uitputtende en nie-blootstellende aktiewe lewenswyse geopenbaar. 'n Gemiddelde afstand van 12,3 kilometer is per 24 uur afgelê. Gedurende die warm somermaande is daar 'n onaktiewe periode tussen ongeveer 10h00 en 16h00. Hulle is meer naglewend van aard as wat aanvanklik verwag is — veral geïllustreer deur die aanslae op uitsluitlik naglewende diere soos springhase.

Jagluiperds is goed by die semi-woestyn-toestande van die Gemsbokpark aangepas. Behalwe vir die feit dat hulle gemiddeld slegs eenkeer elke 82 kilometer wat hulle geloop het water gesuip het, het hulle by tye tsamas gevreet en word liggaamsvloei-stowwe van prooi soos bloed, urine en amniotiese vloei-stowwe benut.

Jagluiperds baken tuisgebiede af deur teen bome en derglike voorwerpe te urineer. Tuisgebiede kan tot 300 km² groot wees. Oorvleueling van bewegings kom algemeen voor. Hoewel intergroep-aggressiwiteit geopenbaar word, is jagluiperds nogtans verdraagsaam teenoor indringers wat buite onmiddellike bereik is.

Twee jagluiperdwerpsels is onder waarneming gehou. Predasie op welpies is 'n belangrike reguleringsmeganisme van jagluiperdbevolkings en word grootliks deur die asosiale neigings van jagluiperds teweeggebring.

Jagluiperds van die Gemsbokpark het gedurende 1970 'n vangsukses van 33,71 persent gehad. Hulle het op 10 geïdentifiseerde spesies jaggemaak en met sewe sukses behaal. Vangfrekwensie was een vangs elke 59 uur. Hoewel springbokke die hoogste relatiewe frekwensie-persentasie van alle vangste uitgemaak het, het die aanslae van enkelopende jagluiperds en jagluiperdpare op die prooibevolking merkbare verskille van mekaar getoon.

Jagluiperds kon nie altyd net op snelheid staatmaak om prooi te vang nie. Hulle het geen identifiseerbare jagtegniek nie en versmoor gewoonlik hulle prooi.

Jagluiperds is skoon metodiese, vinnige en indien die grootte van die karkas dit toelaat, selektiewe vreters. Verdraagsaamheid teenoor mekaar word gedurende die vreetproses geopenbaar, maar sodra vleis minder word ontstaan kortstondige skermutselings. Spilsiekheid hou verband met jagluiperdgroepgroottes deurdat enkelopende jagluiperds gewoonlik kleiner prooi vang wat dikwels heel opgevreet word.

Cheetahs are well-adapted to the semi-desert conditions of the Gemsbok Park. Apart from the fact that they drink water once every 82 kilometres travelled, they at times, are tannas and utilized bodyfluids of their prey such as blood, urine and amniotic fluid.

Cheetahs demarcate their home-ranges by urinating against trees and similar objects. Home-ranges can extend to 300 km². Overlapping of movement is common. Although intergroup aggressiveness is shown, cheetahs are tolerant of intruders not immediately within their reach.

SUMMARY

Observations on the cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus jubatus*) were undertaken in the Kruger and Kalahari Gemsbok National Parks, representing, respectively, sub-tropical and semi-desert conditions.

A comprehensive study was carried out of all reports detailing the cheetah population of the Kruger Park during 1902 to 1957. Census figures are given for 1958 to 1969. Indications are that the cheetah population maintained a relatively low density throughout this period. This emphasizes the importance of distributed breeding areas as against an artificial supplementation of an established population.

Body measurements and mass of adult and juvenile cheetahs and cheetah cubs are given.

Cheetahs imported from South West Africa to the Kruger Park were immobilized and fitted with coded neckbands. Their movements after release were recorded. Although some cheetahs left the boundaries of the Park, a few successfully adapted to their new environment. One example is female 24T who established herself near the Lower Sabie rest camp and 349 days after release was seen with two cubs.

Spoor interpretation was used to study the movement and associated activities of cheetahs in the Gemsbok National Park. Twenty groups were followed for more than 1 150 kilometres. The cheetahs demonstrate an active but non-exhaustive lifestyle. On the average they covered a distance of 12,3 kilometres per 24 hours. In addition they displayed a degree of non-exposure by sheltering, especially during the hot summer months, between 10h00 and 16h00. They were more nocturnal than anticipated as is illustrated particularly by their attacks on predominantly nocturnal animals such as springhares.

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Two litters were kept under observation. Predation on cubs is an important population control mechanism brought about largely by the asocial tendencies of cheetahs.

During 1970 the cheetahs of the Gemsbok Park had a 33,71 per cent successful kill-rate. They hunted 10 identified species of which seven were successfully taken. The kill frequency was one per 59 hours. Although springbok contributed the highest relative frequency percentage of all kills, the attacks by solitary cheetahs and cheetah pairs on the prey population showed marked differences from each other.

Cheetahs do not only rely on speed to kill. They had no identifiable hunting technique and usually killed their prey through strangulation.

Cheetahs are clean, methodical, fast and, if the size of the carcass permits, selective feeders. Tolerance to one another was noted during feeding but, towards the end, skirmishes of short duration can develop among individuals. Wastage was related to the size of cheetah groups as solitary cheetahs usually killed small prey, eating it completely.

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