

**Appendix S1.** List of potential prey excluded for African wild dog, cheetah, leopard and spotted hyaena, i.e. species which have not been reported to be preyed on by that carnivore.

| Carnivore        | Excluded prey   |
|------------------|---|
| African wild dog | Black rhinoceros <i>Diceros bicornis</i> , African elephant <i>Loxodonta africana</i> , giraffe<br><i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i> , hippopotamus <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> and white rhinoceros <i>Ceratotherium simum</i>   |
| Cheetah          | Black rhinoceros; elephant; hippopotamus; white rhinoceros.   |
| Leopard          | Asian elephant <i>Elephas maximus</i> ; banteng <i>Bos javanicus</i> ; black rhinoceros; elephant; hippopotamus; one-horned rhinoceros <i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i> ; pygmy hippopotamus <i>Choeropsis liberiensis</i> ; white rhinoceros; wild water buffalo <i>Bubalus arnee</i> . |
| Spotted hyaena   | Black rhinoceros; white rhinoceros.   |

**Appendix S2.** List of papers considered for analyses, for each carnivore species. Studies with the same number of asterisks have been pooled.

*African wild dog*

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### Cheetah

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*Jaguar*

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#### *Leopard*

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**Appendix S3.** Relationships between indices of diet breadth and prey richness for large terrestrial carnivores: model coefficients and 0.95 confidence intervals of fitted models. L: Levins index; LP: Large Prey index.

| Species          | Index | Predictor           | Model coefficient | SE    | CIs         |
|------------------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|-------------|
| Dhole            | L     | Intercept           | 0.651             | 0.201 | $\pm 0.438$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | -0.214            | 0.215 | $\pm 0.468$ |
|                  | LP    | Intercept           | 0.984             | 0.189 | $\pm 0.370$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | -0.413            | 0.202 | $\pm 0.396$ |
| Eurasian lynx    | L     | Intercept           | 0.037             | 0.106 | $\pm 0.227$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.465             | 0.167 | $\pm 0.358$ |
|                  |       | Sample type (scats) | -0.071            | 0.062 | $\pm 0.134$ |
|                  | LP    | Intercept           | 0.173             | 0.132 | $\pm 0.258$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.465             | 0.208 | $\pm 0.407$ |
|                  |       | Sample type (scats) | -0.138            | 0.078 | $\pm 0.153$ |
| African wild dog | L     | Intercept           | 0.645             | 0.375 | $\pm 0.802$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | -0.223            | 0.287 | $\pm 0.614$ |
|                  | LP    | Intercept           | 0.371             | 0.226 | $\pm 0.445$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.180             | 0.173 | $\pm 0.339$ |
| Wolf             | L     | Intercept           | -0.011            | 0.678 | $\pm 0.114$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.367             | 0.063 | $\pm 0.125$ |
|                  |       | Sample type (scats) | 0.182             | 0.053 | $\pm 0.105$ |
|                  | LP    | Intercept           | 0.191             | 0.053 | $\pm 0.105$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.447             | 0.050 | $\pm 0.098$ |
|                  |       | Sample type (scats) | 0.077             | 0.042 | $\pm 0.082$ |
| Snow leopard     | L     | Intercept           | 0.365             | 0.063 | $\pm 0.132$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.007             | 0.107 | $\pm 0.222$ |
|                  | LP    | Intercept           | 0.585             | 0.055 | $\pm 0.107$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | -0.194            | 0.092 | $\pm 0.180$ |
| Cheetah          | L     | Intercept           | -0.229            | 0.424 | $\pm 0.908$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.443             | 0.321 | $\pm 0.688$ |
|                  |       | Sample type (scats) | 0.596             | 0.202 | $\pm 0.433$ |
|                  | LP    | Intercept           | 0.090             | 0.327 | $\pm 0.641$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.370             | 0.248 | $\pm 0.486$ |
|                  |       | Sample type (scats) | 0.287             | 0.156 | $\pm 0.305$ |
| Leopard          | L     | Intercept           | 0.262             | 0.111 | $\pm 0.221$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.149             | 0.081 | $\pm 0.162$ |
|                  |       | Sample type (scats) | 0.092             | 0.054 | $\pm 0.107$ |
|                  | LP    | Intercept           | 0.456             | 0.101 | $\pm 0.198$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.117             | 0.074 | $\pm 0.146$ |
|                  |       | Sample type (scats) | 0.039             | 0.049 | $\pm 0.096$ |
| Puma             | L     | Intercept           | 0.139             | 0.074 | $\pm 0.148$ |
|                  |       | Log (prey richness) | 0.279             | 0.106 | $\pm 0.213$ |

|                |    |                     |        |       |             |
|----------------|----|---------------------|--------|-------|-------------|
|                |    | Sample type (scats) | 0.041  | 0.038 | $\pm 0.076$ |
|                | LP | Intercept           | 0.306  | 0.072 | $\pm 0.142$ |
|                |    | Log (prey richness) | 0.319  | 0.104 | $\pm 0.204$ |
|                |    | Sample type (scats) | -0.016 | 0.037 | $\pm 0.073$ |
| Spotted hyaena | L  | Intercept           | -0.153 | 0.144 | $\pm 0.300$ |
|                |    | Log (prey richness) | 0.505  | 0.106 | $\pm 0.221$ |
|                |    | Sample type (scats) | 0.123  | 0.091 | $\pm 0.190$ |
|                | LP | Intercept           | 0.202  | 0.085 | $\pm 0.166$ |
|                |    | Log (prey richness) | 0.381  | 0.062 | $\pm 0.122$ |
|                |    | Sample type (scats) | -0.005 | 0.054 | $\pm 0.105$ |
| Jaguar         | L  | Intercept           | 0.024  | 0.098 | $\pm 0.203$ |
|                |    | Log (prey richness) | 0.520  | 0.150 | $\pm 0.312$ |
|                | LP | Intercept           | 0.255  | 0.088 | $\pm 0.172$ |
|                |    | Log (prey richness) | 0.386  | 0.134 | $\pm 0.263$ |
| Lion           | L  | Intercept           | 0.072  | 0.128 | $\pm 0.261$ |
|                |    | Log (prey richness) | 0.467  | 0.095 | $\pm 0.195$ |
|                |    | Sample type (scats) | 0.049  | 0.071 | $\pm 0.143$ |
|                | LP | Intercept           | 0.474  | 0.108 | $\pm 0.212$ |
|                |    | Log (prey richness) | 0.240  | 0.081 | $\pm 0.158$ |
|                |    | Sample type (scats) | 0.033  | 0.06  | $\pm 0.117$ |
| Tiger          | L  | Intercept           | 0.407  | 0.142 | $\pm 0.294$ |
|                |    | Log (prey richness) | 0.150  | 0.149 | $\pm 0.310$ |
|                | LP | Intercept           | 0.438  | 0.090 | $\pm 0.177$ |
|                |    | Log (prey richness) | 0.276  | 0.095 | $\pm 0.187$ |