

FARMERS FIGHT! CREATING SOLUTIONS FOR HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT IN BOTSWANA



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The Problem

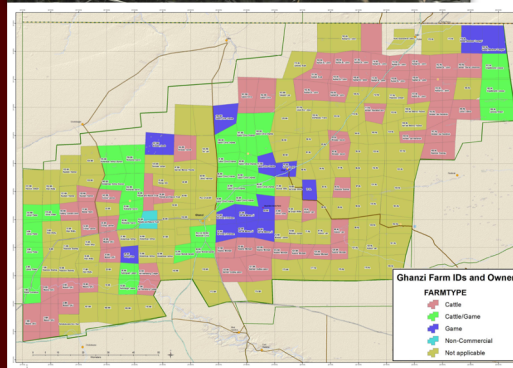
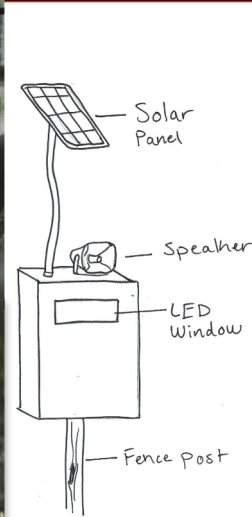
Botswana supports an array of predators as vast as the plains they prowl. Lions, cheetahs, hyena, leopards, jackals, and African wild dogs roam the land with the goal of finding food to survive to the next day. Botswana also has a thriving beef industry where ranchers make a living off raising cattle. Both predators and ranchers must do what it takes to survive. Unfortunately, this sometimes leads to conflict when predators can't find natural prey and take a cow or calf instead.

Our goal was to co-create solutions with local knowledge to help farmers protect their cattle, which would in turn protect natural predators.

Local Partner



Throughout the year our team has partnered with Cheetah Conservation Botswana (CCB), a local organization dedicated to promoting coexistence between carnivore species and ranchers. CCB facilitated discussions between our team and several ranchers in order to better understand local needs. By asking questions, we were able to better understand the problem we're aiming to solve and create solutions that are feasible in these communities.



Our Prototypes

-Deterrents

We designed a device to provide a variety of scents, lights, noises, and fladry to discourage predators away from cattle areas. We focused on a cost-effective design where parts can be found locally as well as withstand local weather conditions.

-GPS Cattle Tags

We used GPS cattle tags to create a live-monitoring feed system to watch livestock. This notification system allows ranchers know if any animals are in vulnerable positions, such as a calf separated from its mother or a cow when she is calving.

-Predator Eyes

We created a reflective light system to mimic the eyes of other potential predators. These will be placed strategically along the fence lines.

Taking it to the Field

Our next step is to test our prototypes in the field with CCB and ranchers in Botswana. We will travel there this December to make the next iteration of our prototypes based on what we learn during the testing period over the summer and fall.