

**Livestock depredation by large carnivores:
An analysis of human-wildlife conflict in Ehi-rovipuka, Namibia.**

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UVM SRC Abstract, Spring 2012

Human-predator conflict is a critical impediment to conservation efforts and has large economic and cultural impacts on rural communities. This project analyzed eight years of human-wildlife conflict data (2003-2010) from the Ehi-rovipuka conservancy in the Kunene region of Namibia.

I examined instances of livestock predation by spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*), lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), black-backed jackal (*Canis mesomelas*), and cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*). I evaluated the data set to identify patterns according to predator preference by prey species and age, number of livestock damaged per incident, and seasonal trends in predation. I also analyzed the data set geographically using ArcGIS, with respect to distance from predator population sinks such as Etosha National Park, water resources, human settlements, and livestock grazing areas. The insights from this study will enable the improvement of livestock protection plans, encourage more appropriate attitudes toward real and perceived threats posed by predators, and ultimately enable more effective conservation efforts in the region.