**Adders and Vipers**

- Bush vipers (Atheris spp.) are active both day and night. They live on the ground and in trees and are quick to strike if disturbed. Some species have very small fangs.
- African adders (Bitis spp.) can be found throughout the region, absent only from Namibia and the Horn of Africa. They have a very short fang in the front of the mouth, but a very long body and tail, and are very fast.
- Sandvipers (Bitis crotaloides) are mainly nocturnal and terrestrial. They can be found in areas with loose sand and areas of desert shrub (a narrow fang area only). They are very fast and difficult to capture due to their speed.
- Viper snakes (Vipera spp.) are active both day and night. They live on the ground and in trees and are quick to strike if disturbed. Some species have very small fangs.
- Cobra snakes (Naja spp.) are found in tropical and subtropical areas. They are very fast and difficult to capture due to their speed.

**Habitat:**
- Adders and vipers live in loose sand and areas of desert shrub (Sandvipers only).
- Cobras live in dense forests and savannas.
- Adders and vipers live in burrows in sand or soft soil, semi-desert areas, woodlands, and savannas.

**Boomslang, Vine, and Tree Snakes**

- Active during both the daytime and nighttime.
- Live in trees and feed on fruits, insects, and lizards.
- They usually are not aggressive, but they will strike if disturbed.
- When encountered, they will run away from the current danger to the nearest structure or shade.
- They are not aggressive unless threatened.
- They will run away from the current danger to the nearest structure or shade.

**Habitat:**
- Boomslang in warm and wet areas, thick forests and wooded areas, vineyards and farms. Boomslang in savannas.
- Vine and tree snakes in dense forests.

**Burrowing Asps**

- Active both day and night. They seek shelter in termite mounds, termite nests, and natural cavities.
- Cobra snakes are ground-dwellers, but can climb and are good swimmers.
- When threatened, cobras will expand their necks into the air to startle their predator.
- They are not aggressive unless threatened.
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**Mambas**

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**Adderbite Prevention**

**Large Adderbite (Mamba)**

- All adderbites (Mamba) are venomous snakes found throughout West Africa. Treat all adderbites with severe local and systemic effects. Many people are bitten because they try to kill snakes or get a closer look at them. Adderbites are usually not aggressive, but will strike if provoked.

**Habitat:**
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**Snakebite First Aid**

- Stay calm and avoid panic. Do not remove the snake from the area. Use a clean, sterile dressing to cover the bite site.
- Administer antivenin (if available) and check for signs of severe reactions. In case of severe reactions, seek medical attention immediately.
- Do not apply a tourniquet or large dressing to the bite site.
- Keep the bite site clean and free of infection. Use a sterile dressing to cover the bite site.
- Contact the local emergency medical services immediately.

**Snakebite Venoms and Their Effects**

**Snake Venoms**

- Venomous snakes have a wide range of systems, including open wounds, closed wounds, and systemic effects. Most bites cause only local pain and swelling. Severe bites cause significant pain, swelling, and possibly shock.

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