



CCF hosts livestock training Courses reach out to farmers who are managing predators

The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) hosted five one-week long courses in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Management in February, and again in July.

Over 45 communal conservancy farmers and representatives from MET and NGOs attended the workshop each week.

Participants came from conservancies in the north and northwest and eastern communal areas, the Kavango and Caprivi. The objectives of the course were to



Dr. Arthur Bagot-Smith (right) discusses goat husbandry with course participants at CCF in February. A similar course took place in July.

provide all participants with an understanding of the economic and ecological value of integrated livestock and wildlife management

and teach them how to reduce conflict with wildlife through a better understanding of wildlife behaviour and range land ecology.

Participants were provided information on livestock husbandry and management to reduce losses to disease, poisonous plants, birthing problems and predation. A desire to protect and integrate predators into their farming and conservancy areas was discussed and participants were taught how to correctly identify causes of livestock losses due to

See **TRAINING**, page 8

Gala fundraiser

The seventh annual gala dinner and auction, *Cheetah Country: A Celebration of Speed and Elegance*, in support of CCF's efforts to ensure the survival of Namibia's cheetahs, was held at the Windhoek Country Club on 30 July 2005. The evening included a candlelight dinner, silent auction, live music, performance arts and awards. Over 380 people attended the dinner which included individuals from the business, conservation and government sectors. Namibia's Founding

President, Dr. Sam Nujoma, gave the welcoming speech in which he spoke about Namibia being the Cheetah Capital of the World, and reminded all Namibians of their responsibility to care for the Earth.

CCF's Executive Director, Dr. Laurie Marker, reviewed the accomplishments of the organisation, in keeping with the dinner's theme, "Cheetah Country". On behalf of the fund, she presented the year's conservation awards to several individuals.

Guest speakers for the evening were Ms. Mary



(From left) Dr. Laurie Marker, former Namibian President Dr. Sam Nujoma, Mrs. Nujoma, and Miss Namibia Leefa Shiikwa at CCF's gala dinner in July.

Wykstra, CCF Kenya's programme director, and Mr. Brian Jones, an Environment and Development Consultant who has worked in Namibian conservation since 1988. Mr.

Jones' evening presentation highlighted the value of Namibia's wildlife and conservation programmes.

See **FUNDRAISER**, page 3

New President meets CCF USA



Namibia's new President Hifikepunye Pohamba (middle left) shakes hands with CCF USA Washington DC chapter Chairwoman Beth Wallace, during an official visit to the United States. CCF USA Director Lynda Gearheart (far left), Minister of Foreign Affairs Marco Hausiku (right), and CCF Board member Dr. Stephen O'Brien (far right) discussed CCF USA support of Namibia's conservation efforts and presented President Pohamba with a cheetah picture.

Carnivore management association meets

The Large Carnivore Management Association held its fourth AGM and 16th general meeting on 25 April. Dr. Mark Jago, well-known Otjiwarongo veterinarian, was elected chairman for the third consecutive year. Bonnie Schumann, CCF staff member, was elected secretary again.

The LCMAN's primary objective is to ensure the conservation of Namibia's large carnivores through collaboration with all stakeholders. Since the farmer/predator conflict zone is the most critical arena within which to achieve that objective, it is gratifying to note that the Namibian Agriculture Union has re-committed its participation in LCMAN through Mr. Jasper Brand.

During the past year, LCMAN has continued to tackle a number of issues ranging from research to conflict resolu-

tion on farmlands. In his Chairman's Report, Dr. Jago stated that the need for a national cheetah census remains a priority, and noted that LCMAN has been proactive over the past year in taking the first steps towards making this a reality. LCMAN currently has 15 members, and their open meetings are regularly attended by other interested parties.

Namibia, the Cheetah Capital of the World, is also home to a host of other predators including the lion, leopard, wild dog and hyaena, and the potential for human/predator conflict is great. It is only through collaboration with all stakeholders that practical solutions to this conflict can be found, ensuring that both predators and farmers can survive on Namibia's farmlands.

Cat specialist group

CCF's Dr. Laurie Marker is pictured with other members of the Core Group of the IUCN's Cat Specialist Group (CSG) at a 3-day June workshop in Brazil. Following the Core Group meeting, a workshop was held by the CSG on the South American cats and was attended by over 80 cat biologists and conservationists.



notes FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dr. Laurie Marker sits in the Algerian desert with nomads after looking for signs of cheetahs in the area.

Dear CCF Friends,

As you will read in this edition of our newsletter, CCF staff continue to be busy in our cheetah conservation efforts. I have travelled a lot this year and have had the opportunity of sharing the values of wildlife with many people in other countries, as well as with fellow Namibians. Learning about different cultures has been very interesting, especially when it includes discussions around cheetahs and other predators and ways of reducing conflict between humans and wildlife.

During my travels, I have been continuously pleased to see how our Namibian programmes have taken root in various other countries where conflict occurs with predators. Namibia's farmers have become role models for integrated livestock and wildlife farming methods. Because of this, we are even more pleased to be working together with MeatCo and the Conservancy Association of Namibia (CANAM) in developing a market that will pay a price premium for non-lethal predator farming practices through "Cheetah Country Beef". Economic support will continue to be extremely important as it relates to maintaining habitat for a species like the cheetah. That is why we are so pleased that our BushBlok factory in Otjiwarongo has now been opened and is producing fuel logs daily. Together, CCF's programmes are helping farmers and cheetahs in Namibia, as well as in other African countries.

Dr. Laurie Marker
CCF Executive Director

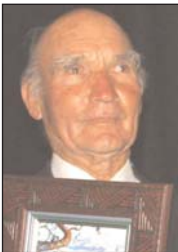
gala FUNDRAISER

For the sixth year, CCF presented a series of awards at its fund-raising gala dinner to raise awareness of the unsung heroes of conservation.

Good farmers have always been conservationists, working with nature to ensure sustainability. Conservation involves land and animal stewardship and wise business practices. Conservation Farmers of the Year practice predator-friendly livestock and game management practices, accepting predators as a natural component of a healthy ecosystem. They demonstrate, through these management practices, that predator conservation is not contrary to the needs of humans, and that we can live together.

The 2005 Cheetah Conservation Farmer of the Year Award was presented to two outstanding farmers from both the commercial and communal farming community.

One award was presented to **MR. HELLMUT VON LEIPZIG**, a farmer from the Otavi region and an active member of the Ngarangombe Conservancy.



In the 1960s, he began developing an interest in cheetahs by observing captured cheetahs, all with different behaviours. He did not want to kill them, and tried to convince other farmers to live with cheetahs as well. He was one of the early supporters of CCF and has been very active in both conservancy development and cheetah conservation.

The 2nd Conservation Farmers Award was presented to **MR. GERSON KAAPEHI** from the Wild Dog Conservancy in the eastern communal area. He has been involved in development



Top: A selection of silent auction items at the gala.

Above left: Kenya High Commissioner Dado and son displays some items they purchased at the auction.

Above right: CCF volunteers Caitlin Curry and Alicia MacManus sell stuffed cheetahs during the gala.



work to improve the lives of rural people within the Ojozondjupa region. He is the Field Coordinator for the Namibian Development Trust, supporting communal residence in the establishment of Conservancies.

Mr. Kaapehi represents a proactive farmer who is open and willing to incorporate new farming techniques into his practices in order to live with cheetahs and other predators.

The 2005 Cheetah Conservation Educator Award was presented to two of CCF's senior staff members, whose outstanding contribution to environmental education, and especially predator conservation, helps to ensure the cheetah will be enjoyed by future generations. This year the awards were presented to **MS. BONNIE SCHUMANN AND MR. MATTI NGHIKEMBUA**.

BONNIE SCHUMANN has been a key element in building relations with Namibian farmers who face cheetah problems, by attending farmer's workshops and agriculture shows. In the cheetah world, Bonnie is one of the most well known cheetah conservation educators.



MATTI NGHIKEMBUA guides and trains student interns from Polytechnic of Namibia, the University of Namibia (UNAM), as well as international students. During the past eight years, Matti has worked with over 30 Namibian interns, teaching field research tech-



niques, statistics, and report writing. His dedication to educating the Namibian youth and improving the knowledge of good conservation practices inspires students to excel in their education and to become productive citizens of Namibia.

The evening highlighted CCF's new conservation initiatives, including Bushblok and Cheetah Country Beef. Bushblok is a fuel log that is made from harvested encroached bush. Table decorations displayed samples of this new product, now available in Namibia as an alternative fuel source for heating and braais.

Cheetah Country Beef, provided by MeatCo and conservancy farmers who support cheetah-friendly farming methods, was served as a main course by the Windhoek County Club. Cheetah Country Beef is a new eco-friendly initiative, in cooperation with MeatCo and CANAM, which will eventually offer cheetah-friendly Namibian conservancy farmers premium rates for their beef.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by a Namibian jazz band, called the Cocktail Suite Trio, as well as drummers from the Ongoma group in Swakopmund. The silent auction items were donated by businesses within the community which supported the evening's Cheetah Country theme. The wide range of items brought in contributions for CCF's programmes, which are all supported through donations.

Nematode discovered in cheetahs

A nematode (*Ollulanus tricuspis*), previously recorded in cheetahs in a zoo in New Zealand (paper published in the International Cheetah Studbook, 1998), was found recently in Southern Africa for the first time in cheetahs resident at CCF. These pesky little guys caused quite a headache for CCF staff, affecting the health of five cheetahs over a prolonged period of time before being diagnosed by Dr. Emily Lane, a veterinary pathologist in South Africa. The diagnosis was made from stomach biopsies taken from the sick cheetahs. Symptoms caused by an infestation of this nematode include passing undigested meat in the feces and vomiting, causing a chronic loss in weight and condition.

Fortunately, following a specific deworming regime, all five cheetahs have completely recovered. Regular deworming will not eliminate this nematode, and it does not show up in fecal floats as it is passed on through vomitus. We are still puzzled as to where the infestation came from, given that all the other cheetahs on site appear unaffected. We suspected that Daisy and Rosy, two of the five sick cheetahs, picked up the initial infestation when they were held illegally, in very small and horrifically unhygienic conditions on a farm near Omaruru, prior to being confiscated by CCF. However, their brother showed no signs of health problems and gastric biopsy showed the nematode was not present in his stomach.

Predators

On candid camera

Hair snares, trip cameras give data on cheetahs, leopards, hyaenas.

CCF has "shot" several cheetahs using trip cameras, and "snared" hair samples from cheetahs, brown hyaenas and leopards using lures laced with irresistible scent.

Several cheetahs have been photographed on CCF farms while testing camera traps, and CCF is planning a project in the Waterberg area to provide population estimates.

In photo trapping, the animal will trigger self-activating cameras and take their own pictures.

In the DNA-based hair snare sample surveys, instead of a picture of the animal, the individual identification is provided by a sample of a body hair that is snagged by a device placed in the animal's path. DNA material is then extracted from the root of the hair and is used to identify individuals using advanced laboratory techniques. At present, DNA-based methods

Cats' health checked in annual exams

In February, veterinarian Dr. Arthur Bagot-Smith worked with CCF on annual health examinations of all of their cheetahs.

In all, 25 cheetahs were examined, and gastric biopsy samples and blood were collected. Semen collection was



for identifying individual cheetahs using hair samples have not been developed, although CCF has identified individual cheetahs using DNA derived from blood samples using microsatellites. CCF's research during the past six months has focused

CCF is planning a project in the Waterberg area, to provide population estimates.

also carried out on the six resident adult male cheetahs. All were declared fit and healthy.

In May, CCF travelled to Amani Lodge, and in June to Bagatelle Lodge near Hardap, carrying out annual health checks and collections for the nine cheetahs on loan to these

facilities from CCF. The four cheetahs at Bagatelle (Mr. Big, Rolf, Etosha and Tuano) arrived at CCF with health issues ranging from broken legs to calcium deficiencies. They are now in excellent health, with Mr. Big living up to his name, weighing in at 47 kgs.

on developing techniques to employ these census methodologies in CCF's research study area.



A tail of two cheetahs

While testing trip cameras to be used in cheetah population estimates, CCF photographed two male cheetahs visiting the 64-hectare cheetah pen where 11 of our resident female cheetahs live. The photos clearly showed that one of the brothers had a severely injured tail. Almost a month later when photographed a second time, the tail showed no signs of healing. Trap cages were set and the injured cheetah was caught the same night. Dr. Mark Jago at the Otjiwarongo Vet Clinic amputated the necrotic section, leaving only about 6 cm of tail.

As this cheetah had to be held in CCF's quarantine pens while his wound healed, his brother was also captured to ensure that he did not leave the area. Much to our surprise, this very healthy cheetah weighed in at a record 60kgs, the heaviest wild cheetah recorded by CCF. Once the tail healed, both were released to resume their lives on and around the CCF farms.



CCF's Bonnie Schumann and veterinarian Dr. Mark Jago peek their heads into a plane carrying three orphan cheetahs to CCF. The cubs became known as the "Three Musketeers."

3 musketeers arrive at CCF

CCF was called to collect three eight-month-old cheetahs from a game farm near Karibib, caught after their mother, one sibling and two other adults were shot. All three are doing well, and are now being integrated with another group of youngsters. They are inseparable, and it was a foregone conclusion that they would become named for

musketeers: Athos, Porthos, and D'Artoignian.

Many of the cheetahs we deal with are trapped in game camps. This remains a difficult problem to solve, as the only solution to predator conflict in a game camp area is to keep the predators out, a very costly exercise few farmers are willing to undertake. The result is that any cheetahs getting through the game fence are simply shot, a futile exercise, as they will be replaced by others.

Cat in a bag

CCF was recently called to a farm south of Otjiwarongo to collect a young cheetah caught that morning. Much to our surprise, when we got there, the cheetah was literally bagged. Being only about four months old, this little guy fit quite comfortably into a "streepsak" (feedbag). The mom and two cubs were seen on the road by the farm manager and some workers and the temptation to try catch them could not be resisted.

The farm workers set off in hot pursuit and one of them returned triumphant, carrying the unfortunate cub.

Luckily, the farm owner agreed to make the cat's day by releasing it where it was caught. Mum had been looking for him, as her tracks were in the car tracks left by the vehicle that "abducted" her youngster earlier that morning. Cheetahs can hear one another calling for a distance of up to three kilometers, so we are confident the group was happily reunited.



Otjiwarongo veterinarian Dr. Mark Jago (left) assists dentist Dr. Dennis Profitt during minor surgery on Chewbaaka's mouth in July.

Chewbaaka visits dentist

On 22 July, one of CCF's most important resident cheetahs, Chewbaaka, made a visit to Otjiwarongo dentist, Dr. Dennis Profitt, for an infected gum.

Following anaesthesia at the Otjiwarongo Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Jago transported the cheetah to Dr. Profitt's dental office, where digital x-rays were taken showing a problem under the gumline.

Chewbaaka was given a root canal four years prior and a remnant of the root was left, which was found to be causing the acute infection.

The root was extracted and

Chewbaaka's mouth stitched. The next day, the swelling was down and Chewbaaka was back to his old self.

Chewbaaka, CCF's 10-year-old ambassador cheetah, has had several visits to the dentist over the years, owing to a malformation of his teeth resulting in what is known as Focal Palatine Erosion (FPE).

FPE results when the lower molar wears an erosion in the upper palate of the cheetah's mouth, and is one of the physiological problems that CCF has studied over the years in its work with wild cheetahs in Namibia.

Scholar focuses on female cheetahs

Research examines link between social groups and physical changes

Jessica MacManus, one of two Fulbright scholars currently researching at CCF, is at the end of her year-long study on cheetah behaviour and endocrinology. MacManus has been studying the effects of density on stress levels and the estrus cycle of captive female cheetahs in order to provide information to assist in developing more effective captive-breeding enclosures and programs.

From September 2004 to July 2005, 572 hours of cheetah behavior were observed. From this data, cheetahs were grouped into three categories: socially bonded, social, and peripheral individuals. Using both high-density and low-density enclosures it was discovered that the peripheral group didn't occur in low-density situations.

Adult female free-ranging cheetahs would never live in proximity to one another. However, we found that in a



Jessica MacManus has spent the past year at CCF, studying captive female cheetah reproductive behaviour and linking it with reproductive hormone levels using endocrinology.

captive situation some cheetahs do form social bonds and social groups. Of the five individuals in these social groups,

all were raised together since they were cubs and two are sisters. Factors such as rearing companions and relatedness

may affect adult sociality. Manipulating these factors could lead to more successful captive breeding techniques. However, whether or not these cats are cycling together can only be determined with endocrine data obtained from fecal samples.

During the study period, 947 fecal samples were collected from captive cheetahs; and 28 fecal samples were taken from wild cheetahs. Hormones were extracted from all fecal samples in CCF's endocrinology lab. To complete her study, MacManus has been invited to the Smithsonian Institute's Center for Research and Conservation to perform enzyme-linked immunoassays in order to measure the hormone levels in each sample. Comparing hormone profiles to behavioural data will give us an understanding of how social dynamics may lead to physiological changes.

Waterberg Carnivore Project is underway

The Waterberg Carnivore Project Namibia (WCPN) was started in February 2004 by lead researcher Andrew Stein, in collaboration with CCF.

Stein, a PhD candidate and Fulbright scholar stationed at CCF, is doing extensive research on leopards and brown hyaenas in the Waterberg area. The project is a response to the desires of local researchers and farmers to address issues of large carnivore conflict and interaction between the co-occurring large carnivore species.

Leopards, brown hyaenas, and cheetahs are the largest of the remaining predators on the farmlands of central Namibia

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and, while cheetahs have been studied extensively, the ecology of leopards and brown hyaenas is relatively unknown. The conservation of both species is dependent on understanding their ecology on farmlands and buffer zones surrounding protected areas.

Three animals (two leopards and one hyaena) have been radio-tracked at least three times per week over the last nine months in order to establish home ranges and movements. The male leopard has the largest home range of

the three animals, estimated at 116 km². The female leopard's range is 47 km², within the range of the male, and the brown hyaena's range is 24 km². As part of the routine tracking, nocturnal studies were conducted, showing large distances moved at night.

In addition, fecal analysis has been conducted on hyaena scats. The brown hyaena fecal analysis showed some interesting results that did not match the results from den-site remains. Overall, the dry season samples have shown in

diet analysis the presence of kudu (50%), warthog (20%), and plant material (7.4%) in scat.

The prey remains from the den-site showed a very different diet selection. The remains of warthogs were the most numerous. Kudu, jackal, leopard, hartebeest, oryx, duiker, steenbok, eland, bat-eared fox, African wildcat, honey badger, armadillo, and domestic stock remains were also present.

Stein's upcoming projects will include the use of hair snares and camera traps within and surrounding the Waterberg plateau to establish population estimates for the region.

Guard dog plan expanded

Tyger, one of our resident working Kangal Anatolian shepherd females, recently gave birth to a litter of handsome mongrel puppies. The objective of this litter was to downsize the Kangal breed for working in the Eastern Communal areas. This is part of a programme aimed at assisting the Eastern Communal Conservancies interested in developing their own livestock guarding dog programmes. Combining the hardiness of local mongrels with the guarding talent of Kangal Anatolians will hopefully produce a dog more suited to the working conditions in this area.

Placement and monitoring for this litter will be in collaboration with the Eastern Communal Conservancies.

Kangal puppy will enhance bloodline


An Anatolian puppy has just arrived from South Africa to augment CCF's breeding programme. CCF periodically imports new males to enhance the Anatolian blood lines in Namibia and maintains a register of all the Anatolians in this country.


















A big thanks to Cheetah Outreach in SA for helping to arrange the transport and selection of the puppy.

The puppy is getting to know his new herd and as the goats recently kidded, has lots of new friends of the same size. Our herder, Armaas, has named the new puppy Amos.


animalCARE

Raising & Training a Livestock Guarding Dog



<p>Careful selection and care will produce a successful livestock guarding dog.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 8px;">Feed a working dog with pellets and water twice a day. Add milk, porridge / milk / bones occasionally.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>	<p>Without proper diet and care your dog will not be able to work. A dog with deformed bones cannot walk far.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Mistle pap alone does not have enough nutrients to keep your working dog healthy.</p>  </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>
<p>Bonding with livestock and a herder is important for the development of your livestock guarding dog.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 8px;">A puppy should spend all of its time with the livestock.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 8px;">A dog will work best if it works with a herder.</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 8px;">Shelter and fresh water should always be available.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 8px;">Use a flume if your puppy plays with livestock.</p> </div> </div>	<p>Routine veterinary care is an important part of maintaining the health of your livestock guarding dog.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 8px;">All dogs need regular veterinary care.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 8px;">Vaccinations prevent diseases that can kill dogs.</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 8px;">Remove ticks daily. They can make your dog sick.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 8px;">Failure to treat wounds can lead to infection.</p> </div> </div>

For more information about raising and training livestock guarding dogs contact CCF at: P.O. Box 1755 Otjiwarongo, Namibia (tel: 067-306225)



Students create dog care poster

Students from Worcester Polytech (WPI) in the USA visited Namibia to participate in different programmes. Four of the students, Melissa Coonrad, Matthew Field, David Gibson and Jessica Tatem, were hosted by CCF, and chose aspects of the Livestock Guarding Dog programme (LSGD) as their topic. Working with LSGD Coordinator Mandy Schumann, the students developed extension materials for livestock guarding dog owners. A poster and instructional video called "Raising and Training a Livestock Guarding Dog" were developed as tools to raise awareness and convey information to new owners. Once funding is secured, these extension tools will be produced for future livestock guarding dog owners.

Education workshop is a success

Environmental training tackles many subjects, from media to tourism

The second Applied Environmental Education Workshop was held at CCF in April in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, Wilderness Safaris, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and the Ministry of National Youth Services and Sports and Culture (MNYSSC). The course was attended by 21 participants from MET, Polytechnic of Namibia, The National Museum, communal conservancy members, Wilderness Safaris, MNYSSC and CCF environmental education staff.

The workshop focused on training Namibian co-instructors to conduct this kind of



Environmental Education Workshop participants gather for a group photo at CCF in April.

workshop, while at the same time teaching applied environmental education skills to participants. A broad range of

subjects were tackled, including social marketing aspects, program planning tactics, media as education tools,

fundraising and writing of project proposals, how to integrate environmental education into school curriculum, how to utilise volunteers' services and how eco-, cultural and nature tourism could complement each other to directly benefit local communities.

Edward McCrea and James Massey, from Environmental Education and Conservation Global (EECG), and Professor Debora Simmons from Northern Illinois State University, joined forces with Laimi Erckie and Hiskia Tyapa from MET and Siegfriedt Bandu !Aibeb and Alma Otto from MNYSSC to present the course.

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predators, including the use of Livestock Guarding Dogs. In addition, basic administrative and wildlife management skills were taught, as well as the importance of members' participation to the success of their conservancies. Small business venture development was also covered.

CCF's Bonnie Schumann, course coordinator, stated "courses like these provide practical, hands-on skills in agriculture and conservation management, both of which support Namibia's economy." Course events include team-building activities, lectures on vet care, predator importance and identification, management techniques and more. Practical field activities were also held, where participants investigate mock kill sites to determine which predator killed livestock.

CCF's "Integrated Livestock and Predator Management: A Farmer's Guide" was used as a basis for these continuing workshops.

Wildlife conflict resulting from livestock loss and crop damage is one of the greatest threats facing the survival of species such as cheetahs, lions, wildlife dogs and elephants throughout much of Africa today. Namibian farmers have demonstrated a willingness to adopt farming practices that accommodate the existence of predators on farmlands. Approximately 75 percent of Namibia's wildlife and 95 percent of the country's cheetahs share farmland with farmers. The survival of much of Namibia's wildlife, including the cheetah, wild dog, vultures and other predators, therefore lies in the hands of farmers.



CCF's Farm Manager Johan Britz (centre right) talks to course participants about cattle management.

The February course was sponsored in collaboration with the Wild Dog Project and the Namibian Development Trust. The July course was sponsored by CCF, the Smithsonian Institution, Namibia Wilderness Safaris, and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

A variety of other lectures joined the course each week, each bringing their area of

expertise to the participants. Lecturers were Dr. Arthur Bagot-Smith, Colin Nott, Selma Nangulah, Johan Britz, Karin le Roux, Laly Lichtenfeld, Andrew Stein, Robin Lyons, Michael Mumbalu, Josephine Henghali, and Gebhardt Nikanor and Engelhardt Awaseb, Maxie Louise, Tommy Hall, Tammy Hoth and Betsy Fox.



Dr. Laurie Marker (left) with CANAM Executive Committee member Barbara Rogel (centre) and FENATA Director Jacqueline Asheeke at the CANAM Annual General Meeting.

canamAGM

CCF's Executive Director, Dr. Laurie Marker, was elected as the Chairperson for Conservancies Association of Namibia (CANAM) for the third year running at the Annual General Meeting in May. CCF is an active partner in the CANAM. The CANAM AGM was opened by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr. Leon Jooste, who highlighted some of the issues surrounding community-based natural resource management in the form of conservancies. Ms. Jacqueline Asheeke, CEO of Federation of Namibian Tourism Associates (FENATA) followed with a lively talk on the direction FENATA is taking and plans to improve the tourism industry in Namibia.

The CANAM AGM was preceded by a day-long workshop, during which Cheetah Country Beef was highlighted during the morning session. Questions and concerns, as well as suggestions regarding Cheetah Country Beef, were discussed. CCF has been spearheading the Cheetah Country Beef initiative with good progress over the past several months.

During the afternoon session, a consultant, Mr. Brian Jones, reported back on his recommendations to CANAM to promote collaboration between communal conservancies and freehold (commercial) conservancies. CCF has been instrumental in guiding this collaboration and consultancy.

Earth Expeditions at CCF

Gebhardt Nikanor of CCF shows teachers from the United States how farmers can determine which animal killed their livestock. The 45 teachers were at CCF during August as part of an Earth Expeditions graduate course.



studentPROFILES

CCF provided six months of in-service training to four Polytechnic of Namibia students during the period January - June 2005.

AMON ANDREAS, a second-year Nature Conservation student, completed an ecology project, "Re-

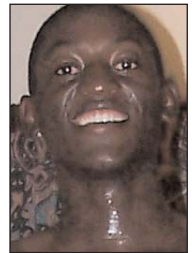


source partitioning of the leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and the brown hyaena (*Hyaena brunnea*)," under the supervision of Andrew Stein, a Ph.D student from the University of Massachusetts, USA. The aim of the study was to determine the spatial distribution and level of interaction between these species.

PAULUS AMAAMBO, a third-year BTECH Agriculture Management student, conducted a systematic rangeland condition evaluation study on farm Elandsvregude. This study was imperative towards CCF objectives to save the ecosystem for the cheetah (*acinonyx jubatus*) and restore bush-encroached habitat.



LUKAS SHIMOSHILI, a third-year BTECH Agriculture Management student, conducted an assessment study of the grazing carrying capacity on farm Bellebeno. The aim of the project was to determine the available grazeable carrying capacity to support the number of large stock units (LSU), with an average weight of 450 kg, in order to prevent overgrazing of the veld.



GEORGINAH SANTA-MBWA, a Hospitality and Tourism Management student, spent four months at CCF, assisting with CCF's Education and Eco-tourism programme while acquiring the skills that would enable her to pursue a career as a tour consultant.



In April, 25 Nature conservation students and three lecturers visited CCF from the Polytechnic of Namibia for a day.

CCF education team makes visits to schools

The CCF education team visited 25 schools around the country, sharing the cheetah conservation message with over 3,493 learners of all ages. Six Namibian schools brought their learners on field trips to CCF's Research and Environmental Education Centre, totaling 173 learners. Students and instructors from the Dragon School of

England, and North Carolina State University, also spent time at CCF learning about cheetah conservation efforts in Namibia. In addition, four youth groups, totaling 102 people, visited CCF, lending a hand with clearing bush and grass in CCF's quarantine pens for wild cheetah, while learning about cheetah conservation.

Farmers guide in Afrikaans available

Hot off the "Capital Press" comes "Geïntegreerde Vee en RoofdierBestuur: 'n Gids vir die Boer." The publication of the English version of this book, titled "Integrated Livestock and Predator Management," was announced in the last newsletter.

Compiled by Mandy Schumann, this book tackles a wide variety of topics in a precise and easy-to-read manner

and is a must for all farmers. The good news is that the book is available to farmers free of charge from CCF. CCF will attend the Otjiwarongo, Grootfontein and Windhoek Shows, so farmers, please come collect your free copy.

The Afrikaans version was translated by Christine "The Wordsmith" Stoman of Otjiwarongo.

A farmer in eastern communal lands reads an Afrikaans copy of "Integrated Livestock and Predator Management," a book CCF published to help farmers effectively manage their livestock in areas with predators. This book has been used as a teaching guide for courses taught at CCF.



Staff shares projects with farmers

CCF staff were invited to visit the Swakoptal, Ngarangombe and Seeis Conservancy AGM's, and the Steinhausen Farmers Association, to share information on CCF projects. CCF also presented a talk titled: "The value of conservancies and game" at a farmers' day hosted on the farm Gaus, north of Kombat. This extremely informative programme, focusing on the topic "Finances and the Farmer," was presented by the Joint Agricultural Forum of the Grootfontein/Tsmed/Otavi area for emerging farmers. CCF staff also met with the emerging African Wild Dog Conservancy to help develop a livestock guarding dog programme for the conservancy. CCF Community Development Officer Michael Mumbalu travelled to Caprivi to attend the quarterly planning workshop for the Okavango and Caprivi conservancies.

CCF staff members Mandy Schumann and Josephine Henghali attended the Gobabis Cattle Country Meat and Cattle Festival, where they manned a CCF exhibit. Free books, newsletters and



CCF staff attends a farmers meeting in Kombat and discusses the value of conservancies and game. CCF staff welcomes the opportunity to visit farmers and discuss important issues with them.

other literature produced by CCF for farmers were handed out on the show grounds.

A very special word of thanks goes to Channel 7 radio station, for allowing CCF airtime to share information with farmers.

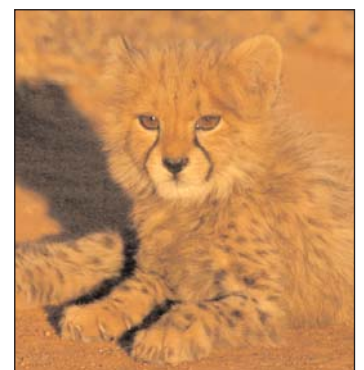
New cub gets care at CCF

CCF recently acquired a new cheetah cub. At the beginning of July, CCF was notified that a veterinarian in Windhoek had acquired a six-week-old cheetah. The cub had been found with its siblings on a farm near Omitara.

A farm worker saw the

cheetah family, chased after the cubs and managed to catch this one. He kicked it repeatedly and then took it to a neighbor, who called CCF. The cub, suffering from trauma to the head, then spent three days in convulsions resulting in neurological damage.

After a short assessment, CCF promptly requested diagnosis and treatment from our own veterinarian, Dr. Arthur Bagot-Smith. The female cub, under careful observation and full-time monitoring by CCF staff and volunteers, has been improving daily.



Bushblok plant officially open

In March, the acting Minister of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development; the Governor of Otjizondjupa; the Mayor of Otjiwarongo; members of the Diplomatic Corps; CCF Board members; and other cheetah friends gathered in Otjiwarongo to officially open the CCF Bushblok plant in Otjiwarongo.

CCF Bush currently has two contractors supplying bush to the plant. Run initially as a pilot research project, the next phase of development is to reach the full production capacity of the plant. Currently, eight tons of logs are produced per day. While the end product is slow to start burning, once lit, the blocks provide a smoke-free fire that will outlast any regular wood fire.

In 2001, through USAID, the U.S. Government granted CCF US\$1 million to find a habitat improvement programme that would be ecologically and economically viable. Research identified a business opportunity to restore the Namibian savannah by processing encroaching bush into compacted logs for use as a cooking fuel or for home heating. The CCF Bush (PTY) Ltd. was established to pilot the manufacture of Bushblok products.

The key objective of the partnership between CCF and



At CCF Bush, selectively harvested invasive bush is chipped, milled and compressed to produce an eco-fuel log called Bushblok. By removing the bush and improving the bush-grass balance, cheetah habitat is restored, and the production potential of the land is increased. Jobs are also created in the process.

USAID is to create a commercial product utilizing encroaching bush as a raw material.

Giving value to harvested bush will give farmers an economic incentive for habitat improvement.

Distributors in Namibia, South Africa and the UK have agreed to wholesale the Bushblok packs.

For more information, call (067) 304 806.



Dr. Arthur Bagot-Smith (CCF Namibian Chairman), Dr. Laurie Marker (CCF Executive Director), Hon. Paul Smit (Acting Minister of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development), Dr. Bruce Brewer (CCF General Manager), and Gary Newton (Mission Director, USAID) at the Bushblok factory opening.

Cheetah Country Beef update

The Cheetah Country Beef initiative is moving along nicely. CCF Director Dr. Laurie Marker visited Allied Meats staff in the UK in May to discuss brand development and marketing options for Cheetah Country Beef.

CCF staff and representatives from CANAM attended the MEATCO Procurement Officers meeting on 30 March to discuss the Cheetah Country Beef project, a collaboration among CCF, CANAM, MEATCO and cattle

producers. Issues and concerns raised by the procurement officers were discussed, and CANAM explained the producers' role in this innovative new project.

Cheetah Country Beef was also discussed in-depth during the CANAM AGM. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Thomas Peltzer at ombu@iway.na, Tel: (062) 503 998 or Dr. Laurie Marker at: cheeta@iafrica.com.na; Tel: (067) 306 225.



Dr. Laurie Marker (second from left) visits with representatives of Allied Meats in UK.

ccfALGERIA

Cheetahs take the spotlight

CCF Director Dr. Laurie Marker has been busy the last few months, carrying the message of cheetah conservation around the world.

In Algeria, Dr. Marker and a determined team of scientists from several agencies set off into the desert to carry out a wildlife reconnaissance survey of the Ahaggar National Park. Focusing simultaneously on the distribution and relative abundance of cheetah and their prey base, the team explored rarely-visited areas to the north and east of the Ahaggar massif within Parc National de l'Ahaggar. The trip also provided training for the Algerian team members in field censusing methodologies and equipment use.

The team discovered good evidence that the Ahaggar continues to support an internationally important population of cheetahs. No estimates of population size can be made on present data, but the survey demonstrated an area of occupancy of at least 10,000km². Information from other parts of Algeria suggest that cheetahs are



Dr Laurie Marker (left) with Algerian biologists Farid and Amina Belbachir find scats of cheetah in trees during a survey in Ahaggar National Park.

found over a much wider area. Although the gazelle prey base was encountered at only moderate rates, compared to more southerly dorcas populations, they are consistently distributed; in conjunction with barbary sheep, hares, and feral donkeys, they are likely to provide an adequate prey base without a need to include livestock in their diet. Local people mentioned that they considered cheetah a nuisance to camels, but not so much to small stock, which are protected by herding and guard dogs.

During the survey, 68 scat samples, most likely from cheetah, were collected and brought back to Namibia. Here volun-

teers have carefully washed the samples and used the remaining hair to identify whether cheetah hairs are present, thus confirming that it is indeed cheetah scat. The next step will be to have the confirmed samples analysed for genetic material in order to evaluate the Algerian cheetahs at a genetic level. This will be done at the Zoological Society of London.

The remaining hair can also, at a later stage, be identified to establish the prey base of cheetahs in Algeria, as each hair can be identified to species level. This technique has been used here in Namibia to document cheetah prey selection.

ccfBOTSWANA

Home ranges tracked with satellite collars

Cheetah Conservation Botswana Programme Director Rebecca Klein reports that the new Global Satellite Monitoring (GSM) collar is working. CCF Botswana has recently placed a GSM collar on one of their cheetahs. The new technology works via the cell phone network, sending a location five times a day to the satellite and coming through via email or text messages to the cell phone.

Combined with the regular radio-telemetric collars they are already using, the data from this collar will help to gather vital information on Botswana chee-

tah home range movements.

In addition, Cheetah Conservation Botswana education programmes received a nice boost when Debswana at Jwaneng mine donated 12,000 pula to print educational books. These will be distributed throughout Botswana.

CCF staff member Bonnie Schumann travelled to Botswana in February to join Cheetah Conservation Botswana at a farmers workshop entitled "Sharing the land with predators," hosted by CCB. Latest research results on the ecology and behaviour of

predators such as cheetahs, leopards and hyaenas were presented to the farmers by CCB, together with guest speakers working on brown hyaena and leopard research projects based in Botswana. The integrated approach to human/predator conflict, based on a CCF publication developed in Namibia, "Integrated Livestock and Predator Management: a Farmers guide," was presented throughout the workshop.

Botswana farmers shared their experiences and solutions to predator problems with the group. The meeting was well-

attended, with 40 of the 55 participants being local farmers. The reception to the information presented was very positive. All agreed that there was a critical need for more such workshops to exchange information and develop solutions to predator conflict in Botswana.

The event was generously sponsored by Debswana at Jwaneng Mine. The workshop has gone a long way towards developing positive relationships with the farming community.

For more information, contact Rebecca at: info@cheetah-botswana.com

Cheetah research moves ahead

Phase One of the nationwide cheetah census project, in collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), East African Wildlife Society (EAWS) and Cheetah Conservation Fund Kenya (CCFK) was completed in March 2005. Data analysis shows higher-than-expected cheetah numbers in the Kajiado district from Nairobi to Amboseli and Tsavo West National Parks, and the Lake Magadi region, with increasing conflict of cheetah killing goats and sheep.

First radio-collared cheetah

A farmer caught a female cheetah and one of her five sub-adult cubs (approximately 14 months old) in a trap cage. Both were fitted with radio collars by KWS vets and CCFK. The cheetah family was seen by CCFK staff several days after the release, when one of the cubs was seen leaping over a metre into the air to catch a vervet monkey off the end of a branch. Another sighting was of the group high on a very steep and rocky slope, where two cubs had killed rabbits.

After a couple of weeks the cub's collar went silent and an exhaustive search revealed that two cheetahs had been



Above: Some of the world's top wildlife specialists joined over 40 participants to discuss Kenyan predator conservation under the direction of Dr. Laurie Marker, internationally known cheetah expert, Mary Wykstra of CCFK, and Dr. Sam Andanje of KWS. Topics of the workshop included census techniques, research collaboration inside and outside of protected areas, community development, and education objectives. **Below:** Mary Wykstra and a KWS ranger collect 29 snares.

killed by snares which were set by poachers for game meat. Major John Ritter of the US Embassy, assisted by assembling a group of volunteers who were accompanied by CCF and KWS rangers, participated in a de-snare exercise. Honorable Mark Bellamy, US Ambassador to Kenya, joined the team that collected 29 snares in the area. Sadly, the carcass of one of the cheetah cubs was also recovered by the de-snare team.

Prior to radio-collaring the cheetahs, CCF staff were uncertain as to how the cheetahs were moving within this community and on what prey they were surviving. These ini-



tial findings are critical in developing an understanding of the cheetah's ability to adapt to land fragmentation. The snaring of the cubs, although unfortunate, has brought heightened

awareness from KWS as to the crucial role this region plays in Kenya's wildlife dispersal and the conflict issues this community faces with wildlife as a result of decreased prey base. Sincere thanks to the Kiu community for their support in cheetah sighting reports and their interest in the conservation of the cheetah for future generations.

Living in harmony

A total of 466 art and creative writing entries were received from 31 schools, in a competition to gauge awareness of cheetah in Kenya.

Eighty pieces were selected for a traveling exhibit in the United States, England, and Kenya.

CCF visits origin of Kangal dogs

Dr. Laurie Marker presented a paper at the Second International Conference on the Kangal Shepherd Dogs, which was held in Kangal town, the native area for the Anatolian sheep dogs. Dr. Marker also visited local villages, observing the dogs in their natural environment. Farming is giving way to agriculture in many areas of Turkey, and the dogs are now used less, so the Turks are pleased to know that their breed is useful in protecting cheetahs in Namibia.



CCF meets new ambassadors

Right: During her visit to the United States, Dr. Laurie Marker (left) and CCF USA Director Lynda Gearheart meet Namibia's new ambassador to the US, Hopelong Ipinge.

Far right: New US ambassador to Namibia, Joyce Barr, and US State Department officials meet CCF's newest Anatolian puppies.



comings&GOINGS

CCF says farewell to: DR. ADRIENNE

CROSIER, Reproductive Physiologist, who was based at CCF for over three years as part of a collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, has returned to the National Zoo in Washington DC. Dr. Crossier's research focused on cheetah reproduction and developing best practice techniques in cheetah sperm cryopreservation.

MANDY SCHUMANN, who worked with CCF for four years as a Research Assistant, heading up the

LSGD programme and carrying out farmer extension, has left CCF to take a position with the new Jubatus Reserve in South Africa as their Research and Conservation Coordinator.

CCF Bushblok project manager **JAMES YOUNG'S** year-long contract ended and he returned to the UK, where he will be taking up new challenges in conservation.

Volunteers **JEN NEWLIN BELL**, who worked on graphics and design, and **DAVE BELL**, who worked on the Cheetah

Country Beef initiative, are now on an African trek.

JESSICA MACMANUS returned to the United States to finish her Master's degree and complete her research at the Smithsonian Institution.

New additions to CCF staff include:

MICHAEL MUMBALU, who has joined CCF as a Community Development Officer. Mumbalu has worked in many parts of Namibia and brings with him valuable experience in community development.

LORRAINE BOWDEN

has joined CCF from the UK to assist in administrative tasks, volunteer coordination and the education programme.

ED JENKINS has joined the CCF team from the California Wolf Center, bringing with him experience in carnivore conflict and conservation of a slightly different predator which faces many of the same issues as the cheetah.

TRIX MALAN, from Otjiwarongo, has joined CCF staff as Public Relations Officer and CCF Gala Dinner organizer.

mediaNEWS BRIEFS

Daily Telegraph puts focus on cheetahs

The Daily Telegraph, in its Saturday Supplement, featured cheetah conservation efforts in Namibia. The Daily Telegraph has a circulation of 1 million copies and won the 2005 Newspaper Awards for National Newspaper of the year, once again highlighting the contribution cheetahs make

in drawing attention to Namibia in the international media arena. The strength of this "cheetah draw card" to boost tourism must not be underestimated, and Namibians should continue to make every effort to ensure that Namibia lives up to its reputation as the "Cheetah Capital of the World," a title no other country can challenge.

Animal Planet features CCF

Namibia's cheetahs have featured prominently on international television, with a superb production by Granada Films for Animal Planet, called "A Race Against Time". The programme, broadcast around the world in prime time, highlights cheetah conservation efforts in Namibia.

Namibia highlighted in new TV series

Kate Humble and Ben Fogle visited Namibia to produce a brand new series for UK television called Wild in Africa. This series was shown every weeknight in April. CCF's research featured prominently in the series.

Thanks to the following donors

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a sincere THANKS TO CCF VOLUNTEERS JAN-AUG 2005

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Kids donate to CCF



Cameron Rycott (age 7) and Lochlan Rycott (age 5) hand over a check for US\$370 to CCF staffers Lorraine Bowden and Italy //Awaseb. The brothers saw CCF featured on several BBC television programmes and decided to raise some money to help the cheetahs.

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PO Box 1755, Otjiwarongo, Namibia;

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