



CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

NEWSLETTER

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Marker visits Iran for Asiatic Cheetah Workshop

IRAN



ASIATIC CHEETAH:

- There are now only fewer than 100 surviving cheetah in Iran
- The remaining Asiatic Cheetah are found on the edge of Dasht-e Kavir – a large area of desert and shrub steppe, which is the last stronghold of the Cheetah in Asia
- Main threats to the survival of the Asiatic Cheetah are habitat disturbance and degradation and illegal killing or poaching of cheetahs
- The Project “Conservation of the Asiatic Cheetah, Its Natural Habitat and Associated Biota in the I. R. Iran” has been running since September 2001 in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society(WCS), the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) and the International Union for Conservation (ICUN). The project is funded by a grant from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) GEF

BY BONNIE SCHUMANN
CCF Staff Member

What do Iranian goat herders and Namibian cattle farmers have in common? Why, cheetahs, of course!

From Otjiwarongo cattle country to the dusty plains of Iran, cattle farmers and goat herders grapple with the age-old conflict that has been raging between livestock-owning humans and meat-hungry predators.

Namibia is the undisputed cheetah capital of the world, while Iran is home to the last remaining free-ranging cheetah outside Africa, thought to number no more than 100 individuals.

Dr. Laurie Marker, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) executive director, undertook the long journey to Iran to participate in an International Workshop on the Conservation of the Asiatic Cheetah. Marker met with Iranian government officials, conservationists (from around the world), Iranian camel herders and smallstock owners to seek solution to the problems facing the Iranian farmers and the last few representatives of the Asiatic cheetah.

The last half-century has seen a rapid decline of the world’s last Asiatic cheetah, The cats are now extinct throughout the majority of their historic range, including Russia, India and the Middle East.

The final populations of the critically endangered Asiatic cheetah occur in the fragmented territories on the outer-ring of Iran’s Kavir desert.

The workshop served as an opportunity to examine past efforts, assess the current sta-



DR.LAURIE MARKER IN IRAN WITH A LOCAL IRANIAN HERDER.

tus of the species and plan long-term conservation strategies with stakeholders throughout the cheetah’s Iranian range. The merging of national and international experts with local communities laid the foundation for a week of productive meetings and dialogue regarding the future of the cheetah in Iran, Marker said.

While in Iran the fear is that there are ‘too few’ cheetah left, the hope is that there are enough dedicated people to turn the situation around. Here in Namibia, farmers often talk

SEE ‘IRAN’ on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE ...

<i>Cheetah ecology & biology</i>	<i>p 3</i>
<i>Livestock guard dogs</i>	<i>p 7</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>p 8</i>
<i>Community news</i>	<i>p 10</i>
<i>Editorials</i>	<i>p 12</i>
<i>International news</i>	<i>p 14</i>

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YOU'RE INVITED!

Reflections*

A GALA CELEBRATION OF SPEED AND ELEGANCE FOR THE CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

Join the Cheetah Conservation Fund at its annual celebration of speed and elegance. This years fund-raising dinner, ‘Reflections,’ will be held at the Windhoek Country Club on Saturday 24 July. Tickets cost n\$300 per person and include dinner, music entertainment, presentations, awards, a silent auction and special guests and performances.

We are delighted that our International Patron, His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, the President of the Republic of Namibia, will be our guest of honour for our celebration. Help support our diverse programmes and join us for the gala evening. Contact CCF to buy your tickets now!



IRAN: stakeholders meet to discuss cheetah

IRAN STORY *from page 1*

about 'too many' cheetahs. However, on a global scale the cheetah is endangered.

So, many of the planet's species are brought to the brink of extinction, teetering there while we try to 'save them' from ourselves. We need to learn to act while there are still 'too many' to ensure we do not reach the 'too few' or even 'all gone' stage.

Cheetahs face extinction in most of their range countries, having been exterminated in no fewer than 13 countries in the last 50 years. Cheetah numbers have plummeted from an estimated 100,000 to between 9,000 and 12,000 cheetahs today, that in the brief space of 100 years.

Farmers, already facing the burdens of drought, livestock disease and changing political situations, have the added burden of ensuring that Namibia's cheetah population stays afloat and even begins to flourish.

Namibia is home to an estimated 3,000 or more cheetahs, over 90 percent of which are found on commercial farmland.

In Iran, Marker spoke of the many Namibian farmers who have figured out how to live – peacefully – with predators. Namibian farmers serve as models to farmers from countries that have cheetah populations – South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Iranians have a long way to go, with very little time left for their cheetahs. Namibians, on the other hand, have come a long way. But in both cases there is a lot left to be done so that we all can live together.

Let's not wait, and be complacent with one of the world's most unique and valuable species – the cheetah.

Notes from the director



I'd like to thank you for your interest in the Cheetah Conservation Fund and share with you some of our many highlights and accomplishments in the past year.

With dull moments at CCF few and far between, our time is full with cheetahs and tasks relating to accomplishing our mission – keeping the cheetahs wild and free. However, not all cheetahs can live free, and CCF continues to responsibly care for orphaned non-releasable cheetahs. We currently have 26 cheetahs at the Centre.

Our weeks are active with basic cheetah research. In the past 14 years we have worked on over 650 cheetahs

of which over half have been released back into the wild. In 2003, 29 cheetahs were released back into the wild. All wild cheetahs that come through CCF are measured, and samples are collected from them for an assessment of overall health, disease and genetic studies. Samples have also been included on our Genome Resource Bank where we have banked over 120 cheetah sperm samples to date.

Our staff works actively with farmers and helps deal with wild and captive cheetah issues. We will also continue to be spokespeople for integrated livestock and wildlife management, thus reducing the conflicts between cheetahs and farmers. Conservancy advocacy is an important part of all our efforts, as CCF works in guiding policy that affects cheetah conservation issues and land use for conservation.

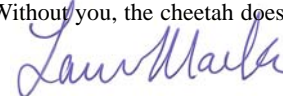
This year our programme work will look toward increased economic incentives, including the pro-active marketing of Namibia's beef as 'predator friendly.'

Education continues as one of our most important programmes and we have educated over 100,000 Namibian students. During the past year, over 2,000 students participated in our Centre-based education (overnighting at our tented camp and participating in environmental education). This year our education staff visited almost 10,000 learners at schools throughout the country. CCF is also currently working with the Namibian Ministry of Basic Education to get cheetah and predator conservation into the national curriculum.

Last year we conducted our first workshop for communal herders and a training manual has been developed and will soon be published as a book. In addition, we placed 28 Anatolian Shepherd livestock guarding dogs and currently there are over 120 dogs working on Namibian farms.

Our bush project is another highlight. We continue to do research on the biodiversity of plots, while at the same time our bush plant is nearly complete and in May we hope to be in full production of bush fuel logs - logs that help restore cheetah habitat.

We are busy, and you can imagine that all the work we are doing requires people and resources. On behalf of all the cheetahs, past and present, know you are very important to our efforts in saving the wild cheetah. Without you, the cheetah doesn't have a chance.

 Dr. Laurie Marker

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ABOUT CCF:

The Cheetah Conservation Fund, a Namibian non-profit organisation, was founded in 1990. CCF aims to save the cheetah and its habitat through multi-disciplinary research, conservation and education programmes.

Bells welcomed as new volunteers

David Bell and Jennifer Newlin Bell are new additions to the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) and will be volunteering until August. Before coming to CCF, the Bells lived in a rural village outside Opuwo in northwest Namibia and were community development volunteers through the United States Peace Corps.

David, who has a business and marketing background, is helping develop the "Cheetah Country Beef" programme and assisting with various training and conservancy efforts.

Jennifer, who has experience in journalism and design, is helping design and edit CCF publications and marketing materials, including Bushblok, CCF's new teacher's resource guide, and its Guide to Integrated Livestock and Predator Management manual.



DAVID AND JENNIFER BELL, FORMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS, ARE NOW VOLUNTEERING FOR CCF.

Marker researches the patterns of molecular genetic variation in Namibian cheetahs

Excerpts from Laurie Marker's PhD., 'Aspects of Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) Biology, Ecology and Conservation Strategies on Namibian Farmlands'

The Namibian cheetah population is the largest population of free-ranging cheetahs. The extent and phylogeographic patterns of molecular genetic diversity were addressed in a survey of 313 Namibian cheetahs from throughout their range.

Size variation among 38 polymorphic microsatellite loci was assessed between 89 unrelated cheetahs from seven regions of the country, and an additional 224 individuals were assessed to investigate questions of paternity, gene flow, geographical patterns of genetic variation, and questions relating to cheetah behavioural ecology.

Differences in microsatellite size variation showed limited regional differentiation supporting the notion of a panmictic population. Small F_{st} values were indicative of high recent gene flow between populations, and may be attenuated in Namibia due to the extensive re-



movals (killing and trapping) of cheetahs by farmers over the past 30 years.

Phylogenetic analyses revealed some population structure, with populations from the same geographic regions tending to cluster together. Measures of genetic variation were similar among all regions and were comparable to

cheetah populations in Eastern Africa.

Relatedness values (R) were calculated among unrelated individuals and among individuals in offspring and sibling groups of known individuals. Most of the previously hypothesized family groups were confirmed by paternity analyses, and 45 new potential sire/dam offspring and 7 sibling groups were identified, which provided information on cheetah social behaviour including dispersal and the success of translocation within the country through reproduction.

Radio-collared female cheetahs were more closely related to the population of cheetahs in the study area than males, an indication that males disperse from their natal home range. The long-term maintenance of current patterns of genetic variation will depend upon retaining habitat characteristics promoting natural dispersal and gene flow of cheetahs.

Recognised geneticist, Dr. O'Brien, visits Namibia

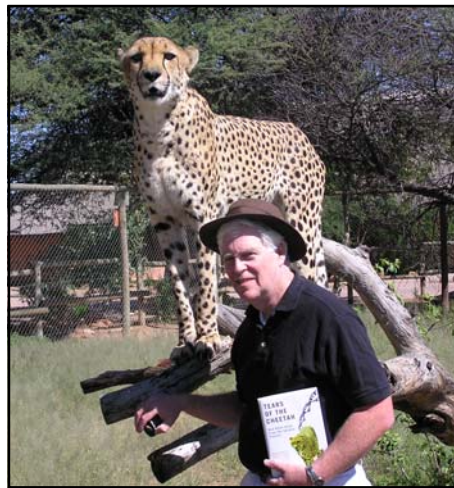
The Cheetah Conservation Fund's (CCF) Science Board member, Dr. Stephen O'Brien, visited Namibia in April. During his visit, he gave several talks in Otjiwarongo and Windhoek on HIV/AIDS.

O'Brien is the head of the Laboratory of Genetic Diversity at the National Cancer Institutes National Institute of Health, in the USA. O'Brien is internationally recognised for his research contributions in human and animal genetics, evolutionary biology, retrovirology and species conservation.

In collaboration with his students, fellows, and colleagues, he has researched areas as diverse as mapping the genome of the cat, to the discovery of CCR5-32, the first human gene showed to block infection by HIV among its carriers.

O'Brien is the author of more than 500 scientific articles that have appeared in publications such as National Geographic Magazine, Scientific American and Science.

O'Brien and Dr. Laurie Marker, executive director of CCF, have been working together on cheetah genetics since 1982 when, through their collaborative research, first dis-



covered the cheetah's limited gene makeup. Since then, O'Brien has been actively involved in CCF's international research activities.

During his visit to Namibia, O'Brien presented seminars to students and staff at the University of Namibia, to the Namibian HIV Clinicians Society and to the members of the Otjiwarongo medical community.



AT LEFT, DR. STEPHEN O'BRIEN, POSES WITH CCF'S CHEWBAAKA. O'BRIEN'S MOST RECENT LITERARY CONTRIBUTION, HIS BOOK ENTITLED "TEARS OF THE CHEETAH," EXPLORES THE MYSTERIES OF SURVIVAL AMONG THE EARTH'S MOST ENDANGERED AND BELOVED WILDLIFE.

ABOVE, FROM RIGHT, DR. LAURIE MARKER, UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA'S BIOLOGY PROFESSOR, DR. KAAYA, RAILI HASHEELA, DR. O'BRIEN, CCF'S MATTI NGHIKEMBUA, CCF BOARD MEMBER, DR. JOCK ORFORD AND POLYTECH LECTURER DAVE JOUBERT.

SPERM research notes

The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) Genome Resource Bank (GRB) underwent extensive growth during 2003. Last year Dr. Adrienne Crosier, Josephine Henghali and CCF staff conducted a total of 69 electroejaculation procedures on cheetahs. Of these, 20 were conducted on wild-caught animals.

In addition, 17 of these collections were conducted at other captive facilities in Namibia including trips to Naua Naua Game Lodge, Alogrove, Afri-Leo and Africat. At two of these facilities, Alogrove and Afri-Leo, the reproductive physiology team had the opportunity to conduct electroejaculations on five lions.

The GRB at CCF now contains 125 total sperm samples representing cheetahs, lions, leopards and one sample from a gamete rescue conducted on an aardwolf.

The result of a yearlong study based on improving the quality of cheetah sperm following cryopreservation, Crosier has been working on a manuscript entitled "Effect of Glycerol Exposure and Temperature at Glycerol Addition on Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) Sperm Cryopreservation" which is currently being prepared for submission. The investigation into the unique seminal quality of Namibian cheetahs has 205 semen samples contributing to the dataset and is the result of a 10-year retrospective study. The manuscript from this study "Effects of Age, Season and Captivity on Unique Semen and Sperm Characteristics of the Namibian Cheetah" is also being prepared for submission.

LEOPARD RESEARCH



Andrew Stein, a PhD. candidate and visiting researcher at CCF, is assisted by Bonnie Schumann, in the CCF clinic, to gather information and biomedical samples on his first captured, tagged and released leopard. The leopard was caught on a CCF farm. Stein has caught and tagged three leopards, one female pictured above, and two young males, since he began his studies.

Cheetahs undergo annual exams

It was a week of early mornings, late nights and loads of data entry for Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) staff members. Darting, doing exams and collecting samples on five cheetahs a day is no easy task.

In February, CCF began its annual health examinations on 25 of its resident cheetahs.



As part of CCF's ongoing commitment to cheetah conservation and research, the week-long exams provided CCF with additional biomedical data on the captive population, and ensured the continued health of all individuals maintained at their facilities.

Dr. Arthur Bagot-Smith conducted the exams with assistance from CCF staff members. Bagot-Smith also serves as Chairperson of the CCF Board of Directors.

Each individual cheetah was anaesthetized to receive a general health exam, including blood collecting, in addition to vaccinations for rabies and other feline viruses. Gastric biopsies were performed, in which tissue samples of the stomach lining were taken to evaluate the presence of gastritis in captive individuals over time.

In addition to the health exams, Dr. Adrienne Crosier also collected semen samples from six adult males for cryopreservation research. Her research will help determine the best methods for freezing and thawing cheetah sperm. The samples will be added to CCF's Genome Resource Bank (GRB).

This year's exams also included the collection of biomedical and morphological data from five cubs that arrived at CCF at the end of October 2003. Fundamental measurements and DNA samples were obtained, and



AT TOP, AMY DICKMAN (CENTRE), WORKS WITH DRs. ADRIENNE CROSIER (RIGHT) AND ARTHUR BAGOT-SMITH (LEFT) DURING 2003 ANNUAL PHYSICALS. **ABOVE**, AUDREY PICKUP AND BAGOT-SMITH CONDUCT CHEETAH ENDOSCOPIES.

each cub received a transponder for identification purposes.

CCF remains committed to maintaining a healthy population of its orphan resident captive cheetahs and all individual cats were shown to be in great health.

International Cheetah Studbook complete

The 2002 International Cheetah Studbook was recently completed by CCF and is the 12th edition of this annual registry.

The International Cheetah Studbook is a comprehensive register of all known captive cheetahs in the world held in both zoological gardens and private facilities. The studbook, which is updated yearly, provides information about existing animals, births, deaths and transfers of cheetahs thus providing information to cooperatively manage the captive population and creating the preconditions for selecting breeding animals.

Dr. Laurie Marker, CCF's executive director, developed the first international studbook in the 1980s, which was the first step in a global master plan for cooperative

management of captive cheetahs.

Marker, along with CCF research assistant, Bonnie Schumann, and EarthWatch Volunteers, analysed data for the 2002 International Cheetah Studbook.

The 2002 International Cheetah Studbook shows that the captive cheetah population on 31 December 2002 was 1 340 (695-644-1) animals in 52 facilities in 243 countries in 8 regions. During 2002, there were 118 (71-41-6) cubs born in 15 facilities and deaths totaled 122.

The management of the world's captive population is important as a backup to the wild population. Captive cheetahs are educational ambassadors to the wild population and introduce the public to the threats facing the species. Through global cooperation cheetahs have a chance to survive.

Peggy: the story of a cheetah and her cubs

Breeding center in the USA boasts third litter of cubs born to a Namibian cheetah

BY KAREN ZIEGLER
White Oak Conservation Center

Peggy arrived at the Cheetah Conservation Fund when she was approximately six months of age. Before her rescue, she had lived in a capture cage for a month with a fractured right foreleg. Surgery was performed at the Otjiwarongo veterinary clinic to repair the fracture.

In April 2001, The Government of Namibia graciously gave 10 cheetahs as a gift to the United States of America.

Four cheetahs went to Cincinnati and six went to Florida. All cats were given to facilities in the States in hopes that the cheetahs could be used in successful breeding programmes and that the cheetahs would add much needed genetic diversity to the international cheetah population.

Peggy and five other cheetahs, all about one year of age, travelled from Namibia and arrived at White Oak Conservation Center in Florida. After her arrival, Peggy was housed alone for a few days while she became acquainted with the other cheetahs through the fence. Four days later, she was introduced to two other cheetahs from Namibia, one being the male, Zaris.

A short time later, Peggy was seen limping. A veterinary exam revealed permanent damage to the growth plates in her wrist, due to a broken leg a year earlier, which would continue to be a chronic problem.

Zaris was chosen as a potential mate for



PEGGY AND ONE OF HER CUBS. PHOTO BY KAREN ZIEGLER, WHITE OAK CONSERVATION CENTER

Peggy and the two were separated at two years of age. After their separation, on the few occasions in which they were given contact through the fence, Peggy and Zaris were seen rubbing faces. When they were reintroduced, however, Peggy became increasingly standoffish, although such behaviour is common with novice females

Once the cheetahs turned two-and-a-half-years-old, they were officially included in the White Oak breeding program (although pregnancies are unlikely at such a young age).

On 7 December 2003, a litter of four cubs were born to the Namibian pair and all the cubs were in great health.

Peggy is a great mother, keeping a constant watch on her cubs and demonstrating her

protective nature whenever the keepers come within close proximity to the cubs.

The cubs were first handled at four weeks of age, where it was revealed that Peggy had given birth to three males and one female.

These births follow the October 2002 birth of Otji at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. And in May of 2003, cubs were also born to one of the cheetahs given to the United States in 2001.

The birth of Peggy's cubs brings the total number of cheetahs born at White Oak to 70. White Oak Conservation Centre, located in Yulee Florida, has an excellent reputation for breeding cheetahs and other endangered species.

HU AND CONNY BERRY HOLD NATURAL HISTORY TRAINING COURSE



In February, Dr. Hu and Conny Berry (pictured at left) held a natural history training course for CCF staff (pictured below). The Berrys gave presentations on the Namibian flora and fauna, the Waterberg area and the CCF farmland ecosystem.

The group toured CCF's nature trails, youth camps and habitat restoration sights as course activities. The course provided CCF staff with valuable information on methods of presentation for enhancement of the visitor and student experience.





Orphaned cheetah cubs brought to CCF

The cubs were held in small cages. Their bones were brittle and breaking, due to a diet with no calcium.

Until someone called the Cheetah Conservation Fund.

During the final week of October 2003, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) received information concerning two separate cases of orphaned cheetah cubs in need of immediate attention.

In the first case, CCF received multiple e-mails from concerned tourists who had visited a farm near Okahandja. The individuals relayed that three cubs were being kept at the farm as a tourist attraction, and that all individuals were in poor condition.

After a series of negotiations with the farm owners, the three cubs were handed over to CCF on 28 October 2003. A larger male (Mr. Big) and his two sisters (Samantha and Carey) were found in a small cage where they had been held for two months prior to their rescue by CCF.

All three cubs exhibited signs of severe calcium deficiency, resulting from being fed a diet of boneless meat, maize meal, and no calcium supplements. Cheetah cubs grow at a rapid rate and require a calcium-rich diet to ensure their bones have enough strength to support their body weight.

The three cubs were born in July 2003. The details regarding what happened to their mother are unknown.

Samantha, the smallest of the siblings, was not walking when she arrived at CCF. An x-ray confirmed that Samantha had a damaged pelvis due to crumbling bones. Her bones are now healing although one surgery was required.

Carey, the larger female, underwent two surgeries to correct uneven bone growth in her radius/ulna and a broken ankle. Unfortunately the bones did not heal as hoped and she had to be euthanased in April.

Mr. Big, although having damaged wrists from the poor diet, did not require corrective surgery. His wrists have healed remarkably well with the improved diet.

The rapid improvement in bone density was due to a special diet of minced chicken (raw bone included) and calcium and vitamin supplements that were added to their diet of red meat.

Meanwhile, on 7 October 2003, CCF received a phone call from a distressed farmer near Omaruru.

The farmer said he was forced to shoot a female cheetah after she attacked and severely injured one of his farm workers. The cheetah tested positive for rabies, thus explaining this unusual behaviour. Cheetahs, not being aggressive animals, do not usually attack humans.

Approximately two weeks after this incident, three starving cheetah cubs were observed in the same area where the female was shot. The farmer contacted CCF because he was very concerned about the cubs' welfare. CCF advised the farmer on how to set a trap to try to catch the three cubs. The cubs were captured two weeks later.

When CCF collected the three cubs on

30 October 2003, they were in very poor shape, having been without a mother for almost a month and being only three to four months of age. Despite veterinary care, one female cub died as a result of a severe respiratory infection immediately after capture.

The surviving brother (Tuono) and sister (Tempesta) responded well to a healthy diet and rapidly regained the weight that had been lost. They were placed in quarantine to ensure they were not infected with rabies, and fortunately neither cub required intensive medical attention.

All four rescued cubs are doing well. They were introduced to one another in April and have quickly become friends.

PHOTOS ABOVE, FROM LEFT: MR. BIG, SHOWING THE DEFORMITY IN HIS FRONT LEGS CAUSED BY A LACK OF CALCIUM. THE LEGS HAVE SINCE STRAIGHTENED WITH THE IMPROVED DIET.

MIDDLE: MR. BIG, CAREY AND SAMANTHA IN THEIR ENCLOSURE AT CCF.

RIGHT: DR. ULF TUBBESING, FROM RHINO PARK VETERINARY CLINIC, CONDUCTED SEVERAL SURGERIES ON TWO OF THE ORPHANED CUBS. THE LEGS OF TWO CUBS WERE PINNED TO CORRECT BROKEN BONES.

Livestock Guarding dogs

Turkish Travels & Kangal friends

BY DR. LAURIE MARKER

CCF director

The Kangal is a Turkish breed of dog. It is bred true to colour with a tan coat and distinctive black muzzle. It demonstrates the generations of selective breeding of a dog to protect the livestock of the high Anatolian Plateau against wolves and bears (hence the formidable size of the dogs, males growing up to 75kg).

The nomadic herders migrate with their flocks, sleeping out or in huts along the way. The bond between the herder, dog and the flock, working against the elements and wolves and bears, shows the success that can be achieved farming with livestock in the presence of predators.

In January, I visited Turkey to meet with Kangal (Anatolian) Livestock Guarding Dog (LSGD) breeders to learn more about the use of the Turkish LSGD. Arriving in the worst blizzard in 50 years was quite an experience and I was impressed by the hardiness of these dogs and the varied conditions around the world under which they work. Due to the blizzard, a planned excursion into the Kangal area had to be cancelled. However, my hosts eagerly took me all around Istanbul to meet dog owners and their dogs.

Istanbul was covered in snow, which is not typical of the Kangal area where the dogs work. Turkey is a modern country, and a crossing of the east and west, or "old world" and "new world." My most vivid memory of the trip was the pride of the herders showing me their dogs. And the people were equally proud and excited to hear that their dogs were doing so well in Namibia.

The excursions into Istanbul gave me tremendous insight into the dog's behaviours. Dogs are kept on leads to create a more aggressive and protective dog.

In my continued discussions with the herders, I hoped to gain a perspective on nutrition. The large size of the dogs has proven to be a problem from a nutrition point of view, in Namibia. Many local Namibian mongrel breeds are raised on



A KANGAL IN TURKEY AND TURKISH KANGAL DOG BREEDERS



maize meal, but the Kangal, with its large, fast growing bones, does not do well on such a diet. The Turkish kangals are fed a diet of barley porridge, rich in protein and fat.

In the end, I walked away with a better understanding and appreciation for the breed and for the enthusiastic and passionate dog owners.

A tribute to Boots, CCF's first Anatolian Shepherd

Just over 10 years ago, in January 1994, Boots, a five year old Anatolian, and three younger dogs, arrived in Namibia from the United States as the founding stock for CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog programme. On the 2 April, 2004, Boots was euthanised at CCF due to age related health problems, she was 15 years of old.

This story reflects an overview of Boots' life and the success of 10 years of CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog programme that has helped save cheetahs and other predators, setting an example for non-lethal predator control from Namibia for other countries around the world.

When Boots arrived she was placed on our neighbour, the Schneider-Waterberg's farm with their sheep, on a trial basis. Poor Boots, having just come from a very tame goat farm in Virginia, USA, and being an adult dog already, did not adjust to her new flock of livestock or the Namibian veld. After having her radio-collared and then finding her on the road to Otjiwarongo, we soon realised that her value lay as a breeding bitch.

Due to the lack of an Anatolian breeding male, Boot's first litter was a mix breed, the male being a local guarding dog. Although this litter of mongrels worked exceptionally well, we wanted her next litter to be pure breed Anatolians. One of the pups from this first litter we

got to know very well, Katie, Jimmy Simpson's dog. Katie died of cancer last year, and even with her health problems, continued to go out with her flock right up until the end of her life.

In June, 1994, a second batch of Anatolians arrived from the States, bringing with them a couple prospective breeding dogs for Boots. From these three, over the years, our Livestock Guarding Dog numbers grew.

Flintis, Boot's first mate, was placed with Mr Coetzee and became famous for protecting his flock successfully against baboons, almost at the cost of his own life. Cheetahs became the least of his worries and showed the diligence of this breed to protect their herd.

CCF's two ambassador Anatolian's were from this first litter of Boots and Flintis. One being the runt Koya, was kept as an educational ambassador to introduce farmers and CCF visitors to the concept of Livestock Guarding Dogs.

Koya is still alive, now 9 years old. When she was only three months old, a two week old orphan cheetah arrived at CCF's Centre, Chewbaaka, who became CCF's ambassador cheetah, and Koya's life's companion.

CCF kept a second puppy from this first pure Anatolian litter, the largest female, who was named Zanta. Zanta was kept with CCF's growing demonstration goat herd and as a breeding bitch.



CHEWBAAKA AND BOOTS.

We have learned so much about Anatolian Shepherds from Boots and her two daughters. We now have nine Anatolians at CCF!

Over the years Boots produced four litters, totalling 47 puppies! From her CCF has developed its Livestock Guarding Dog programme and more than 200 dogs have been placed with farmers throughout Namibia to protect smallstock against predators and to promote the concept of non-lethal predator control.

The breed, known as Kangals (or Anatolians) was founded in the Kangal town of the Siva district in Turkey.

Who would have known that Boots would do so much to protect Namibian farmers livestock and to promote the Kangal dog heritage, promoting a partnership between two nations and showing how an old world concept (6000 yrs) can be adapted to a new nation.

The USAID sponsors two educational courses

CCF hosts Applied Environmental Education course and participates in game capture course

APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COURSE

In January, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) welcomed 24 teachers and science professionals from 8 countries, as it hosted a two-week International Applied Environmental Education course.

The course was held at the CCF research centre's conference facility in the visitors centre.

Sponsored in cooperation with The Smithsonian Institution, CCF, Environmental Education and Conservation Global (EECG) and Wilderness Safaris, the course focused on natural resource issues and applications to solving environmental problems.

"Conservation transcends borders and individual lifetimes. Education and training are the tools to sustain biodiversity for the future," said Dr. Laurie Marker, CCF director. "We were pleased to collaborate in this important international course."

The course included presentations by guest teachers from the United States of America including: Joan Haley and Dr. Rudy Rudran of the National Zoological Park's Smithsonian Institution and Ed McCrea and James Massey of EECG.

Additional components of the course included a field trip to Etosha National Park, hands-on activities, as well as a variety of individual and group projects.

Participants travelled to CCF from different regions in Namibia as well as from Nigeria, the United States of America, Peru and Nepal.

The International Applied Environmental Education course was the third in a series of six courses funded through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Topics of past courses included conservation biology and game capture. Additional courses in the series are scheduled for 2004.

EDUCATION COURSE ON GAME CAPTURE AND TRANSLOCATION

Earlier this year, the Smithsonian Institution, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Wilderness Safaris and Dr. Ulf Tubbesing of Windhoek teamed together to conduct a training course on game capture techniques.



The team of local instructors was joined by Dr. Carlos Sanchez and Dr. Rudy Rudran of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC., United States of America.

The course was held for two weeks with participants and instructors from eight countries.

Topics taught during the training course included physiology, pharmacology, ethics and legislation and hands-on practical sessions. The course was held on the Farm Okatumba and at the Harnas Lion Farm.

The game capture course is part of a six-course series sponsored by the United States Agency of International Development (USAID) and has been scheduled again for 2004.

AT TOP: PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COURSE POSE WITH CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND DIRECTOR, LAURIE MARKER, AND CHEETAH, CHEWBAKA.

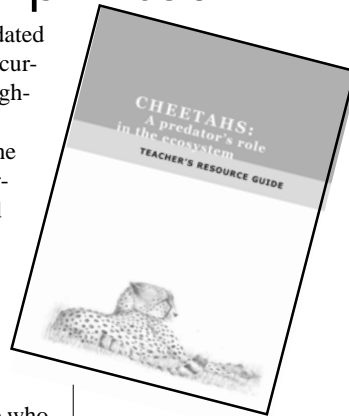
ABOVE: PARTICIPANTS IN THE APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COURSE ASSIST IN THE CLINIC FOR THE WORK-UP OF A CUB.

Updated edition of CCF's Teacher's Resource Guide to be printed

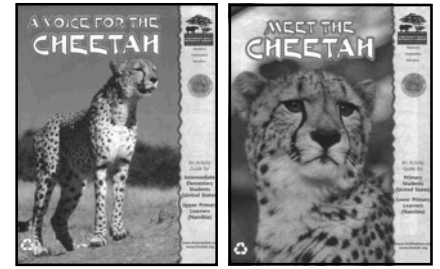
CCF is proud to announce the publication of the updated edition of its Teacher's Resource Guide. The guide is currently being printed and will be distributed to teachers throughout Namibia.

The guide, entitled "Cheetahs: a predator's role in the ecosystem," contains lessons, activities, and resource information to aid teachers in presenting environmental-based lessons in a diverse range of subjects. Throughout the lessons, students learn about cheetahs and the problems they face while learning important ecological concepts.

The guide was compiled and new lessons were added by CCF volunteer Ron Gray, a teacher from Salem, Oregon, USA. Gray said he appreciates all of those who donated their time, ideas, and lessons to creating a valuable resource for the teachers and students of Namibia.



COVER OF THE
TEACHER'S
RESOURCE GUIDE



COVERS OF NEW WORKBOOKS
RECENTLY PRINTED FOR
LEARNERS OF ALL AGES

Education staff presents to schools

The Cheetah Conservation Fund conducts school outreach programmes to schools within the cheetah's range throughout the year. CCF also provides center-based education where school or community groups can arrange to visit and stay at our research centre.

For 2004, two different regions were targeted for outreach education: Ondangwa East and Otjonzondjupa. A total of 14 schools (8 in Ondangwa East and 6 in Otjonzondjupa) were visited and a total of 1252 learners participated in the outreach presentations.

Presentations have also been conducted in Grootfontein, Tsumeb, Otavi, Kamanjab, Otjo and Otjinene.

Apart from the outreach programmes, CCF also had four different groups that visited CCF's centre for the weekend. Groups come and stay at CCF's Lightfoot Campsite. There is no

fee for groups to stay at our centre, but we do ask for a donation. Swakopmund Secondary School's Environmental club, groups of the Pioneers Boys Secondary School, Paresis School and the Polytechnic of Namibia have visited our centre this year.

CCF conducts education presentations to spread the message of conservation to local communities and the future generation of leaders. We want learners to conserve and appreciate their environment and in turn protect the cheetah and its ecosystem. We also want to give learners the opportunity to learn more about cheetahs and see live cheetahs at CCF.

When CCF conducts education programmes, education officers distribute posters, donate books, teacher's guides and activity books.

Workbooks printed for learners

Superman and Spiderman better look out. There are new justice fighters in the comic strips these days.

Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) executive director and staff members, are featured in their own comic strip, "Working Together." This exclusive strip can only be found in CCF's new Activity Guides.

Recently 15,000 copies of "Meet The Cheetah," an activity guide for lower primary students, and 28,000 copies of "Voice For Cheetah," upper primary guides, were printed in Namibia as a joint venture with the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and CCF.

The guides will be distributed to students both in the United States and Namibia. In Namibia, the guides are currently being distributed to learners at schools where CCF's education staff gives presentations.

Students in Cincinnati will also receive the guides when members of the Zoo's Cat Ambassador programme visit their schools. The guides are full of fun activities such as puzzles, mazes, word finds, colouring and more.

These activity guides are another set of tools used by CCF and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden to educate youth on the importance of the cheetah and the cheetah's ecosystem. Without the help of tomorrow's leaders, this amazing animal will not be around for future generations to enjoy.

The youth are our future. With these educational guides, we hope to ensure a future for the cheetah as well.



NATURE CLUB VISITS CCF CENTRE

During their annual weekend visit to CCF, nature club members from Paresis Secondary School in Otjiwarongo prepare for a game drive in the "Cheetah Bus" with CCF's Gephardt Nikanor. Learners enjoyed activities while learning about cheetahs and their ecosystem. If you would like to visit CCF's Education Centre, contact CCF's education staff.

A LETTER from farmers



How awful to be brought up with the idea that all predators are a farmer's enemy and should be terminated!

Unfortunately, that has been the belief for a very long time. As a result farm workers also need a paradigm shift in this regard.

As a part of our community development projects (including early childhood development and primary health care), we invited staff from the Cheetah Conservation Fund to come to our farm.

We are situated about 80km north of Okahandja (and about 185km from Otjiwarongo!) but on 21 January 2004, CCF came all the way to our farm to educate our farm workers on predator protection.

The farm workers enjoyed it immensely and learned a lot! I do believe they see many things quite differently now!

Last year after we took our son to CCF, he wore his cheetah-chain around his neck all the time and one of our farm workers told our son: "That is the thing that catches the sheep. We must kill it." But now they, too, understand that we can farm and live in peace with predators!

Have a wonderful year. Keep up the good work. God Bless!

Yours truly,

Wikus and Elaine Meyer
Okahandja area farmers



CCF'S RESEARCH ASSISTANT MANDY SCHUMANN AND STUDENTS BERTA HELONDO AND JONAS NGHISHIDI SHARE LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES WITH FARM WORKERS AT THE ERFDEEL FARM.

CCF staff members visit farms

The Cheetah Conservation Fund staff visited the Swakoptal and Otavi Mountain Conservancies to discuss CCF projects and research. CCF also did presentations at the Okahandja and Omaruru Farmer's Associations.

At the invitation of Wikus and Elaine Meyer of the farm Erfdeel, CCF addressed the farm workers and their families on the role of predators and predator identification. (See letter at left written by the Meyers.)

In addition, a number of independent farm

visits were carried out to farmers reporting problems with predators and seeking assistance.

CCF is available at all times to visit farms, farmers associations and conservancy meetings to share information on the research carried out at CCF. CCF would like to thank the above associations and conservancies for their hospitality and patience in filling out survey questionnaires!

For more information on CCF farm worker training courses, call (067)306 225.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY PUBLISHED

Otjiwarongo's new business directory, which features CCF, was published in February. Community members, at right, gathered for the launch of the publication.



Otjiwarongo to host 'cheetah arts festival' in July



In July, Otjiwarongo will host it's first ever 'Cheetah Nation Arts Festival.'

The festival, 15-17 July, will be three days of exhibitions (painting and photography), plays/dramas (in English and Afrikaans) Musicals, Herero and Damara dance diaplays, environmental education trips to the Cheetah Conservation Fund's Research and Education Centre, live band

performances and craft exhibits.

The main area of admission is free and plays and concert admission will require a fee.

Main concert on Saturday night features a popular musical stage show that has just finished a run in the West End of London called 'The Blues Brothers- a tribute.'

CCF and CANAM explore 'Cheetah Country Beef' campaign to sell Namibian beef at a premium price



CHEETAH COUNTRY BEEF
free-range predator friendly farming



Farmers and predators can live together. It is not just a dream - people are working to make it so. Many of these people are the farmers themselves. The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) wants to motivate more farmers to live with and care for the predators which are so vital to our ecosystem.

One of CCF's tools of motivation for farmers is the 'Cheetah Country Beef' campaign. Cheetah Country Beef is a concept that is being pursued with Meatco to provide a financial incentive for farmers who practice cheetah friendly livestock management. Interested farmers will be certified and monitored as cheetah or predator friendly and will be paid a premium for their beef. This beef will be marketed in the European Union (EU) to health and socially conscious consumers.

The idea is partnered by CCF and the Conservancy Association of Namibia

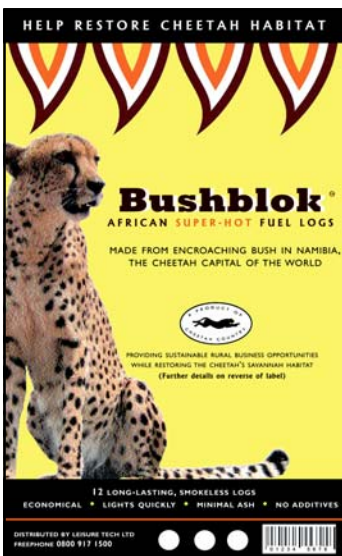
(CANAM). Meatco, Namibia's largest meat distributor, is currently meeting to adopt the Cheetah Country process into their programme plan. A final approval will be made soon.

Having farmers become partners in saving predators is vital. Namibia is home to the largest number of free-ranging cheetah, with 20 percent of the world's (less than 15,000) population. Since CCF is located in the heart of Namibia's farmland, we see a responsibility in both saving the cheetah and improving the lives and livelihood of the farmers - our neighbours.

To many, the ecological value of predators does not outweigh the economic (livestock) loss predators cause. The Cheetah Country Beef programme hopes to turn this around.

Ideally, the initial export of Cheetah Country Beef will go to smaller locations such as restaurants and butcheries in the EU. Once the beef is introduced and consumers realise there is a way to contribute to cheetah survival by simply purchasing speciality beef, the product's demand will grow. It is CCF's dream that all Namibian farmers will one day work together to save the animals and environment with which they live.

CCF bush project to produce 'Bushblok' fuel logs



Namibia has the world's largest population of cheetahs. However, 95 percent of the cheetahs live outside reserves and are forced to survive on farmlands. But these farmlands are less than desirable for the cheetah and farmers. Due to over-grazing and unpredictable droughts in the African savannah, the cheetah's homeland has been infested with undesirable bush species.

Since 70 percent of the Namibian population is involved in agriculture, this bush encroachment poses a major livelihood threat to the Namibian farmers as well as to the cheetah and other indigenous wildlife species.

The Bushblok project was born out of research conducted by the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF). Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), CCF developed a habitat improvement project that would be ecologically and economically viable. The project revealed the business op-

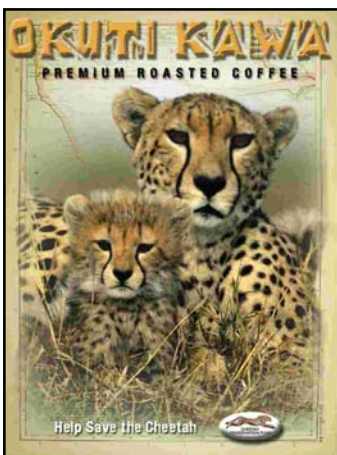
portunity of processing intruder bush and compacting it into logs for fuel and heating use.

Bushblok project objectives are to enhance the long-term survival of the cheetah by restoring savannah grasslands, to supply Namibian and international markets with compacted fuel log products, to encourage industries to use intruder bush as a raw material, to employ, train and empower historically disadvantaged Namibians, to provide business opportunities, to provide business standards for harvesting, chipping, processing and packaging, and to provide an alternative to the over-exploitation of native Namibian trees for firewood.

CCF's bush processing plant is currently producing logs and expects to ship logs soon to markets in Europe, South Africa and Namibia.

For information, contact the CCF bush office at (067) 304806.

'Coffee For The World' features CCF on new coffee label



In May, coffee drinkers can buy "Okuti Kawa" and support the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Okuti Kawa is Coffee For the World's newest addition to their conservation-themed coffee bags.

Coffee For the World is an organisation dedicated to exceptional coffee (in stunning packaging) that makes a difference for the world. Bag labels feature conservation organisations and donations from each bag sale supports the featured conservation organisation. The coffee beans come from regions throughout the world and are 100 percent premium Arabica beans, coming from farmers with environmental and socially responsible farming practices.

Coffee For the World already has bags that support projects for the Nile river, mountain gorillas, snow leopards, rhinos, tigers and now cheetahs.

CCF's bag, Okuti Kawa, features cheetah images and a poem selected from a writing contest held by CCF. 'Okuti' is an Otjiherero word meaning 'savannah' or 'wild fields' and 'Kawa' is used on every Coffee For The World bag label, as it is a common African word for 'roasted coffee.'

Bret Raymond, Coffee For the World founder, began the organization after he and his wife launched several shared-responsibility projects for rural Ugandans. One project was the first privately labelled coffee in Uganda - Jinga Java. Jinga Java was so well received that Raymond established a wholesale coffee business.

Okuti Kawa, and other bag labels that support conservation efforts around the globe, can be bought online at www.coffeefortheworld.com

Do cheetahs and conservancies mix?

Conservation is essential on many levels, not just to conservationists and environmentalists, but to all of us. First, we need to be good stewards of the gifts given to us. We have a social responsibility to our future generation to allow them to enjoy the diversity of life we enjoy today. Conservation of our land, resources and animals is extremely important when considering our future economic situation. Without conservation, our land will no longer sustain life, our resources will be depleted and animals will die out. All of these factors have extreme economic implications. Without conservation of the first two values listed, the political situation will become impossible to manage. No government can function without social and economic stability. This is why the political value of conservation is so important.

by **LAURIE
MARKER**

Our main goal as conservationists is to instill the value of conservation into the minds of all people. Conservation is the key to the future. But how do we promote and manage conservation when the human population is growing exponentially and natural resources are used for satisfying basic human needs that are essential for living?

Balancing human and wildlife needs is difficult, especially since human needs are often overestimated while wildlife needs are difficult to measure. Human needs are expected to grow, resulting in decreasing resources. Failure to meet basic human needs and to recognise stewardship of people and natural resources can alienate conservation efforts. A result of such action could lead to the loss of suitable habitat for endangered species, conflicts with human interest, accelerated rate of extinction, and over-exploitation of natural resources. Therefore, critical issues for the future include, how do we decide which human uses are compatible with conservation?; and, how do we define sustainable human needs?

One approach is to use a surrogate species to indicate the status or health of existing ecosystems. We suggest that the cheetah is an ideal species to direct and focus conservation efforts in Namibia and other parts of Africa. Cheetahs have large home ranges and were once found throughout much of sub-Saharan Africa. Through the use of this species as an umbrella species, much of the cheetah's range could be re-established while meeting the needs of people and again developing healthy ecosystems.

Most of Namibia's protected areas are found in extremely arid habitats that have very little economic value, and very few productive savannah areas are represented in the protected area network. Consequently, much of Namibia's biodiversity is found outside of protected areas. This is where farming practices, both subsistence and commercial, are taking place often resulting in conflict with natural resource management, and less diverse ecosystems.

We believe that representative biodiversity and the persistence of species and ecological processes, as well as considering the needs of local residents are important for conservation to be successful. However, developing methods to address the needs of both humans and wildlife represents a challenge. Integrating biodiversity conservation and social needs will require a systematic approach.

Conservancies have great potential for meeting the needs for people and wildlife. Conservancies join together broad units of people that develop management strategies sensitive to the farmland ecosystem as a whole and provide an alternative to managing game on an individual basis while promoting conservation through sustainable utilisation. The advantage of conservancy areas over fenced game farms is that wildlife is free-ranging and can thus migrate out of an area if climatic or environmental conditions decrease the habitat suitability for the species. Also, this form of management promotes biodiversity including cheetahs and other predators. Besides sustainable use, conservancies consider maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, enhancement of ecosystems, and ecotourism.

In Namibia, it is exciting to see that human needs are being met through the development of conservancies that support mixed wildlife including predators like cheetahs and livestock systems and promote healthy ecosystems. This balance between human and wildlife needs, although difficult to determine and measure, is critical for the survival of the cheetah, and its habitat. Today, most countries where cheetahs once were found do not have healthy ecosystems and human's needs are not being met.

Namibia has become a world leader in conservation and the conservancy movement is the driving force behind this success thanks to the dedication of many of the countries non-government organisations (NGO's) including WWF, NNF, IRDNC, RISE, CANAM and the DRFN. Working together with these NGO's, we believe that understanding how conservancy areas and cheetahs can satisfy multiple needs through a new perspective on land management, will strengthen conservation in Namibia and other developing countries.

I have had the opportunity to serve as the Chairperson for the Conservancy of Namibia (CANAM) for the past year and will continue into the next. One of the major goals for CANAM is to practice a strong collaborative conservation programme that supports education and economic issues such as wildlife management planning, problem animals, joint hunting, joint ecotourism, and animal husbandry between commercial and communal conservancies. Ultimately it is all about conservation and that is the one thing that Namibians have in common, we feel that conservation is a way of life and will support our future generations.

A 'thank you' to the people of Namibia

Thank you for letting me share in five weeks of wondrous sights, sounds and experiences of your country. Your country's beauty is beyond words. The magnificent wildlife that shares this great land with you is a treasure. I have never seen landscapes so beautiful, a sky so blue, stars so bright, and a sunrise and sunset so breathless. Thank you for the beauty.

by **BUTCH
HAFT**

I have been a zoo keeper in the United States of America for 32 years and I have cared for many of the species of animals that share this country with you. But trust me, after seeing the same animals here in their native country and habitat, I will NEVER see these same animals in the same way. Thank you for the insight.

The purpose of my visit to Namibia was to volunteer at the Cheetah Conservation Fund. From the time my visit began, I have learned so much from the people that I have met and an enormous amount from the CCF staff, the veterinarians, the farmers and the local people who work with CCF on a daily basis. Not only have I learned much, but I have also enjoyed myself twice as much. Thank you for the memories.

To those people who want cheetahs to survive for your future generations, I say the biggest THANK YOU. Thank you for your foresight, your compassion and for your actions to maintain and better the world we live in.

FAREWELL

AMY DICKMAN

Amy Dickman left CCF this year after four years as Laurie Marker's primary research assistant. Amy arrived from Oxford University's Wildcru, finally realising her dream to come to Africa to work on large carnivores.

Amy quickly became an indispensable member of the CCF team, honing her computer skills while assisting Marker on her PhD, and building friendships equally well. Amy was also the coordinator for two Round River Conservation Studies at CCF.

Marker completed her PhD in 2003 and Amy has gone on to bigger things, bigger carnivores that is! Amy will be registering for a PhD programme at Oxford later this year and hopes to be based in the Serengeti looking at large carnivore conflict on the borders of the park – including her second love, lions.

Amy's enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to carnivore conservation, and sheer perseverance in achieving her goals are an outstanding example to all who are fortunate enough to know her.

AUDREY PICKUP

Audrey Pickup spent a year as CCF's veterinary technician. Besides taking care of the clinic, record keeping, stock taking and much more, Audrey was responsible for the endoscope housed at CCF and used to survey cheetahs (both wild and captive) for the presence of gastritis, a disease prevalent in much of the world's captive cheetah population.

Audrey is now based at the White Oak Conservation Centre in Florida and has tackled a challenging new position which aims at helping NGO's around the world set up clinic's/biomedical protocols of their own.

SIEGFRIEDTH !AEBEB

Siegfriedth Bandu !Aebëb, CCF's Community Development Officer, left in December 2003 to become the National Youth Coordinator for the Ministry of Higher Education.

During his three years at CCF, Siegfriedth assisted with CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog programme in the communal areas and introduced youth groups from around the country to cheetah conservation. Siegfriedth will continue to be a part of CCF programmes through his new job.

ENGLEHARDT AWASEB: farm

CCF welcomes Englehardt Awaseb as the assistant farm manager. Since November Awaseb has been involved in the overall maintenance of CCF farm, livestock management and any other agricultural-related projects.

Awaseb grew up on a farm called 'Bergview,' where his father was the foreman for 20 years. The farm is now the CCF owned farm, 'Cheetah View,' and Awaseb said he is proud to be working back home.

Awaseb completed high school in Otjiwarongo where he was involved in conservation activities at Paresis Secondary School and went on to further study at Neudamm College of Agriculture where he completed his three year national diploma in Agriculture and specialized in a broad range of courses.



ANDREW STEIN: research

Andrew Stein is a visiting researcher at CCF planning a 3-year study, the Namibian Leopard Project, on the impacts of leopards on the ranches within the Waterberg Conservancy. Stein received a Fulbright scholarship to begin his PhD. dissertation through the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His project will investigate the impacts of leopards on Namibian ranches.

Stein has a varied background, working with captive animals and researching wildlife. He attended Connecticut College, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Zoology in 1999. After graduation he began his Masters Degree at the University of Massachusetts, where he was studying the incidental capture and distribution of sturgeon. In recent years, Stein was a research intern training dolphins and beluga whales and he also studied wildlife ecology within Maasi communities in Kenya. He has worked on various research projects including grassland birds, African wild dogs, lions and spotted hyenas. As a precursor to this current project, Stein conducted a pilot project on leopards in South Africa. (See page 8 for a photo and more information.)

Polytech students join CCF team

BERTA HELONDO

Over-grazing of native vegetation by livestock is one of the major causes of habitat loss that affects the cheetah.

Berta Helondo, a third year student at Polytechnic of Namibia, is currently conducting research to determine the grazing carrying capacity on CCF's cattle farm. A resident of Namibia's Ondjacho village, Helondo is working towards her diploma in Natural Resources and Management (Agriculture). Helondo arrived at CCF in early January and will be conducting her research at CCF until mid-June.



JONAS NGHISHIDI

Bush encroachment, or the overabundance of woody species within an ecosystem, is an ecological change that affects a variety of wildlife including the cheetah, its prey base, and even spiders.

Jonas Nghishidi, a student of Nature Conservation at Polytechnic of Namibia, will be analysing the distribution dynamics of the golden orb web spider and other spiders in the bush encroached and open savannah habitats located on CCF's research farm. Nghishidi will be conducting his research until July.



Raili, of MET, studies spoor at CCF

Raili Hasheela, an employee of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) since October 2000, arrived at CCF in January to complete her Master's research on the effectiveness of using the spoor (footprint) count method for estimating cheetah abundance. Working with CCF Director, Dr. Laurie Marker and CCF research assistant Matti Nghikembua, Hasheela is completing her Master's of Science degree in Environment and Development at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Using CCF's spoor data base Hasheela's analysis will improve methodologies used to calculate cheetah density. According to Hasheela, the spoor count method has been validated in its reliability of estimating populations of African wild dogs, leopards, and lions in Namibia.



Overview of Botswana's cheetah programme

The last year has seen Cheetah Conservation Botswana (CCB) develop from an idea into a fully operational project under the direction of Rebecca Klein.

Their first research camp was completed at Jwaneng Game Reserve, thanks to the generosity of Jwaneng Mine. The Mine requested that their resident population of cheetah in the reserve be monitored and provided one of their camps for researchers to stay in and built four transit stations for the temporary holding of cheetah to be relocated. CCB moved into camp in September and has since caught and collared two groups of cheetahs.

CCB has also been attending farmers meetings and festivals to spread the word on the plight of the cheetah and how to protect livestock to minimise conflict. They attended the first workshop organised to discuss predator problems on farmlands which was attended by predator conservationists and members of the farming community.

As for CCB community programmes, it has received a preliminary grant of \$2000 from the Global Environment Facility of UNDP. This will allow CCB to focus on communal farming areas program.

CCB has a new Web site at www.cheetahbotswana.com. Please look on the site to learn more about their activities and new volunteer programme.

Update on CCF Kenya

In August 2003, Cheetah Conservation Fund Kenya (CCFK) piggy-backed onto a Friends of Conservation tourism awareness campaign to launch brochures in the Maasai Mara introducing the 'Great Cheetah Census.' This campaign appeals to tourists and local people to submit photos of cheetah for use in CCFK's database in identifying cheetahs. Although this campaign was initially launched in the Maasai Mara it is only a fragment of the cheetah population in Kenya.

According to CCFK's Director Mary Wykstra, CCFK's mass mailing and publication of a simple cheetah sighting report survey to registered farmers, park officials and group ranch representatives will also be used to give an estimate of sighting areas.

In addition, CCFK is distributing one-time use cameras into rural communities where reports of many cheetahs are submitted. This is the Snap-a-Cheetah project, which aims to distribute 500 cameras into areas where cheetahs are reported, with the hope of receiving photos that can show positive identification of cheetah.

A third awareness campaign, Cheetah Expressions 2004, is a creative arts competition for school children.

Through these joint efforts in cheetah conservation, the aim of habitat preservation and identifying key issues facing wildlife in general can be brought forward. CCFK's network of collaborators and contacts enabled CCFK to hold two workshops to gather key people interested in research and education initiatives for the planning of cooperative data collection and dissemination of information on the plight of the cheetah.

Marker visits Tunisia to forge new partnerships

Dr. Laurie Marker just returned from a visit to Tunisia, in northern Africa, where she attended the fifth annual meeting of the Northern African or Sahal Saharan Interest Group (SSIG). This group has been bringing back the native antelope species to the region. Marker was invited to join this group to bring cheetah ecology into the process, so that cheetahs have prey. The antelope species have declined drastically in these countries, some of which still have cheetah populations which are now critically endangered. Range country biologists and wildlife officials from Ethiopia, Morocco, Senegal, and Tunisia were present at the meeting. A survey was recently completed in Niger where spoor of cheetahs were found and a survey is being planned in Algeria in 2005 that CCF will be participating. There are still cheetahs in Algeria which may be a very important area for the northern African cheetahs.



AT LEFT: DR. LAURIE MARKER IN TUNISIA WITH MEMBERS OF THE SAHAL SAHARA INTEREST GROUP.

INTERNATIONAL FILM CREW FROM 'ANIMAL PLANET' TV VISITS CCF



Photo at far left: Between July and November, CCF worked closely with producer, Steve Gooder (far right) from the UK based Granada Media, along with internationally known cameraman Gavin Thurston (far left) on a film for the Animal Planet. The film, featuring Peter Gross (second from left), spokesman for the US based insurance company Mutual of Omaha, presents the work of the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Gross, a long time friend of CCF's Executive Director, Dr. Laurie Marker, worked alongside CCF staff for two weeks while filming the TV programme. This one hour film will be aired in January 2005 and will run several times a week during the season.



Photo at left: Gross, Marker, CCF's Chewbaaka and local school children.

Thank You

Thanks to the following people, companies
& institutions for their support

Judith Walls	Cincinnati Zoo	Lynn and Ed Dolnick
Swakoptal Conservancy	Polytechnic of Namibia	Greater Metroparks Zoo
Dr JF Steyn	Philadelphia Zoo	Gabrielle and Kenneth Adelman
BEHG Schmidt von Wuehlisch	Friends of Conservation	Thomas A. Spencer
The Green Trust (SAWWF)	Dawn Clover	Leonard J. Russo
James Scoble	Kitty O'Doherty	Colleen Sorensen
LM Hobson	James Massey	Stephen Flaherty
A von Teichman	Margaret Kite	John and Kellie Lehr
International Animal Exchange	Natural Encounters Conservation Fund	Patricia C. Silber
Harry & Hannah	The Nature Conservancy	Elizabeth Wallace
Schneider-Waterberg	Mark Grunow	Chatterjee Charitable Foundation
Cheryl Chip	Sheri Berman, The Boabat Fund	Teresa A. Delaney
Reenie Brown	Joann Fecher	William and Kathy Paul
Michael Crosier	Ian Stewart	Jelle P. Boerma
Bobby Haas	Frances Derry	The Barbara Delano Foundation
Carl & Catheryn Hilker	Andrea Boyarsky-Maisel	Utah Zoological Society
Deborah Cunial	Carl and Kristin Kalnow	Susan and Art Babson
Cheetah Outreach	Gary H. Lee	Wildlife Conservation Network

SINCERE THANKS to our EarthWatch & CCF volunteers

SEPT 2003 to MAY 2004



Dorothy Albee	Else Hoojberg
Sophia Albert	Eve Horner
Mary Laura Barkley-Mau	Michael Jamieson
Annie Barnard	Sandra Kaighin
Marie Bastin	Michelle King
David Bell	Terri Lucas
Jennifer Newlin Bell	Theresa Martin
Mary Betoncourt	Marina Montanari
Dean Blanchard	Guy McDonald
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Butch Haft	Alexandra von Knorring
Karen Holloway	Jamie Weathers
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OUR SYMPATHIES

Bernardt Khajo (on right), pictured with friends, was one of CCF's dedicated conservation support staff members who recently passed away in Okakarara from Malaria. Khajo worked with CCF's Livestock Guarding Dogs, sheep and cattle. Several hundred community members gathered for the funeral in May. Khajo will be sorely missed by all CCF staff.

SUPPORT CCF

To join the Fund in its efforts, just mark the category of support and fill in your name and address in the form below. Every donor receives a sticker from CCF.

Please tick the amount donated and circle the currency. CIRCLE ONE: N\$ / US \$ / £ / DM

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HELP SAVE A WILD CHEETAH

The survival of one of the world's most unique species is in your hands. Contributions made to the Cheetah Conservation Fund will support a range of projects, including:

- Conservation Research
- Wildlife and Livestock Management
- Reproductive Research
- Conservation Education
- Research & Education Centre
- Securing the cheetah's habitat

* Help feed a cheetah prior to re-release for 1 month n\$1 000

* Buy a new set of tyres for a CCF vehicle n\$3 000

* Place a Livestock Guard Dog on a Namibian Farm n\$5 000

* Print educational material for school children n\$9 000

* Support laboratory fees for CCF's research n\$18 000



Alessandra Colzani, from Italy, assisted with cheetah research.



Butch Haft, from the USA. See page 12 for story.



Alexandra von Knorring, from Sweden, assisted with captive cheetah care.

CCF - AN INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATION

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To add your name to CCF's mailing list, or to contact CCF, post letters to PO Box 1755, Otjiwarongo, Namibia;
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