

**CONSERVATION STRATEGY  
FOR THE  
LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF CHEETAH IN NAMIBIA**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), founded in 1990, has as its mission “to be an internationally recognised centre of excellence in research and education on cheetahs and their eco-systems, working with all stakeholders to achieve best practice in the conservation and management of the world’s cheetahs”. CCF undertakes basic research regarding cheetah and their habitat; maintains a major public education programme and creates and disseminates education materials worldwide; conducts programmes of community upliftment and predator conflict resolution; and assists in the management of captive and free-ranging cheetah throughout the world.

CCF's base of operations is in Namibia, which has the largest and one of the few sustainable populations of free-ranging cheetah in the world. The cheetah's survival depends on a total ecological system of farmland management, prey species management, and habitat stability. CCF's Namibian focus is to work with livestock farming communities in order to develop ways to reduce conflict. This is achieved by devising a conservation plan that secures habitat for the species, while still accommodating farmers' land use needs. CCF carries out scientific research programmes in areas such as cheetah population biology, cheetah ecology, cheetah health and reproduction and human impacts on the cheetah. CCF researchers develop, test, and promote alternative land management practices such as; non-lethal predator controls, relocation of problem cheetahs, and eco-tourism. Additionally, CCF conducts both Namibian and International Education Programmes to raise awareness of the cheetah's endangered status. These illustrate ways in which the species can be protected and encourages worldwide support.

## **II. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Cheetah Conservation Fund is an international organization with chapters in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Namibia. In 1991 CCF became a Namibian Voluntary Trust, with a Namibian Board of Directors comprised of leaders in the local community, business, agriculture and government. In 2001 the Board registered the Cheetah Conservation Fund as a not-for-profit company. Additionally, there is an International Science Advisory Board that assists in planning and advising on research projects. The Director is assisted in the management and operations of CCF by a small core staff, short-term volunteers, and students.

CCF's International Research and Education Centre is the base for all CCF's activities. The Centre is located near Otjiwarongo, Namibia on the farms Elandsvreugde, Osonanga, Khayam's Kopje, and Cheetah View, totalling 24,860ha. The farm base is in prime cheetah habitat and a wildlife friendly area, with neighbouring farmers who believe in conservation ethics. This ensures a large prey population, which is important for the cheetah population. CCF is an active member of the Waterberg Conservancy, which encompasses over 200,000 ha of private farmland surrounding the Waterberg Plateau Park - a national reserve dedicated to rare and endangered species. The Conservancy's farmers co-operatively manage the Conservancy's wildlife for long-term sustainability. This in turn provides habitat and prey base for the cheetah.

CCF remains an active member of the Otjiwarongo community. During the past few months CCF's staff joined the volunteer fire fighters to assist with putting out multiple veld fires.

## **III. PROGRESS DURING REPORTING PERIOD: January – December 2001**

### **A. Facility Developments at CCF's Namibian Research and Education Centre**

Two farms were acquired through the generosity of CCF-USA donors. Osonanga Reserve is a 3732ha parcel at the base of the Waterberg plateau that is contiguous with the original CCF Research and Education Centre properties (Elandsvreugde and Osonanga Farming [owned by CCF-USA Board

member Carl Hilker]). Acquisition of Osonanga Reserve (which has no farm buildings), through the support of Art and Susan Babson from the United States, gives CCF stewardship of 14738ha of land directly adjoining the Waterberg Plateau Park. This qualifies CCF to apply as a Custodian for black rhino as part of a Namibian government programme. Our Conservancy neighbours favour this custodianship: it should increase their eco-tourism income and maintain their tolerance for cheetah on their farms. Basic vegetation surveys of the property are underway.

Farm Boskop, 5076ha, was acquired through the support of Annie and Bob Graham from the United States and renamed Khayam's Kopje. It is contiguous with farm Cheetahview and has been the object of comparative ecological studies. It has a farmstead that will be renovated for staff housing. Farm Cheetah View is used as a base for Round River Conservation Studies, a US accredited conservation biology field school, where students carry out various ecological research projects for a semester. In addition, this farm supports herds of cattle, goats and sheep as well as one of CCF's livestock guarding dog-breeding areas. In 2001 an intense bushfire breached the perimeter fuel break and burned perhaps 20% of the farm. No livestock or structures were lost and the impacts of the fire will be incorporated into the habitat-monitoring programme. The oldest of the two farm houses, which serves as the dormitory building for students, has been restored and the second farm house which serves as a lecture hall and lecturer headquarters has also been renovated. An old storage building has been converted and a new generator house has been built in a more practical location. Three workers' houses, supplied with running water and generator power have been built, replacing the corrugated shacks that previously served as accommodation for farm staff. Work is currently underway on upgrading the electrical and water systems. The Cheetah View renovation project has been sponsored by a grant from Ken and Gabriel Adleman in the United States.

Since completing the major renovation of CCF's Research and Education Centre on farm Elandsvreugde in July 2000, additional developments have been undertaken on CCF properties. These include the construction of a new three hectare cheetah facility with associated holding pens in an off-public access area of the farm, and the upgrading of the abattoir and cheetah feed preparation area to include a walk-in cold room and freezer. Carl Hilker built a new rondoal near the other main living quarters of CCF permanent staff. Landscaping in and around the Centre's gardens, public braai area and outdoor picnic grounds has continued, as well as upgrading the electrical system and building a computer network within the Centre. Additionally, perimeter fences have been cleared to serve as fire breaks and basic road maintenance has been completed. CCF's Education Centre is open daily from 9am to 5pm.

## **B. Basic Research**

### **1. Population Biology**

The Fund conducts field research to gather data on distribution, behaviour, biology, demographics and the overall health of the cheetah population. Farmers participate in CCF's research through live capture of cheetah on their farms, assist in collecting biological samples and measurements, ear tagging, radio collaring, and release. They also report other cheetah/livestock interactions. CCF's Director, Laurie Marker, and Senior Research Assistant, Bonnie Schumann, work directly with farmers and cheetah issues. Other CCF staff and volunteers assist.

CCF worked on a total of 78 cheetahs, several of which were worked on multiple times. Thirty (16M.14F) of these were tagged and released back into the wild, three of which were newly radio-collared. Of the 30 cheetahs tagged and released during this year, 14 were caught on game farms and 16 were caught on livestock farms. Fourteen (7M.7F) were re-captured, having been tagged either this year (n=10) or previous years (n=4). Three were tagged originally in 1999, one of which was radio-collared and the collar had stopped transmitting after a year. This cheetah was re-collared and radio tracking was resumed. He had travelled over 30 farms during the first year of tracking. Necropsies were performed on 12 (9M.3F) cheetahs. Fourteen (5M.9F) cheetahs were reported killed but were unavailable for necropsy, although samples such as skeletons and skin were collected in

some cases. Eight (4M.4F) orphaned cheetah cubs were placed into captivity, and one adult female that is pending release was placed at the Africat Foundation. Blood was collected on four captive cheetah cubs living captive at another farm. Fifteen of the cheetahs worked on were captive residents at CCF during their annual physicals, in preparation for ten of them to be relocated to the United States. Four (2M.2F) are in holding pending release following severe foot injuries. This includes a male that was left in the full January sun resulting in burns to his feet, in addition to the pads being ripped off one of his feet. It also includes a female and her two adolescent cubs (about 14 months old) that CCF received from a game farm where they had been held for nine months in captivity following their capture in the game camp. The female's back foot was badly infected and has recovered well following intensive treatment.

Of the dead cheetahs CCF dealt with, four (3M.1F) were trophy shot on game farms (two were necropsied, two not). One of the male cheetah's CCF had radio-collared was shot by a game farmer. Two (1M.1F) cheetahs were accidentally run over, of which one had been ear-tagged when 14 months old in June 1998 and had been re-captured and released twice since then. Four (3M.1F) cheetahs were killed by two livestock farmers. One male cheetah was a captive animal that was euthanised due to complications following a knee ligament replacement operation in November 1997, when he and another male were gin-trapped by a game farmer. A necropsy was performed after CCF helped capture one of two starving cheetahs reported by a game farmer. The second cub was found dead in the vicinity of the trap cage but was too decomposed for necropsy. One of the cheetahs CCF was unable to necropsy (vultures had reached the carcass) was a female cheetah that had been treated for almost five months for a severely injured foot caused by a gin-trap. Following the amputation of a badly damaged toe, the foot healed well and the female was radio-collared and released with her two cubs. She died of unknown causes about three weeks later. The adolescent cubs (1M.1F) were recaptured two farms away and are in holding at CCF as they are too young and inexperienced to survive by themselves.

Two of the female cheetahs CCF was radio-tracking were shot; both had been tracked for almost two years. One had three one-year old cubs, but they were not seen and will most probably not survive. Cheetah cubs stay with their mother approximately 18 to 22 months, and losing the mother before then is usually fatal. She was shot on a game farm where, according to the farmer, she was found on a waterbuck kill. A livestock farmer experiencing smallstock losses killed the other cheetah. One of her approximately 15-month-old cubs was also shot and we do not know what happened to the other one. Unfortunately, CCF was not called in time to perform necropsies on these cheetahs, but both radio-collars were returned.

In addition a farmer reported shooting a cheetah that was tagged and released at the Neudamm Agricultural College in Windhoek in October 1999. Five (2M.3F) cheetahs were killed that were related to groups of cheetahs CCF collected. In two cases, female cheetahs broke their necks in the trap cage, while the other three were siblings that were shot and the remaining live cheetahs were collected and brought to CCF.

Eight (4M.4F) orphaned cheetah cubs went into captivity (holding at CCF). Three of them suffered from health problems presumably induced by poor trap cage conditions. They were endoscoped at a veterinary clinic in Windhoek following chronic vomiting. All three required treatment for inflamed stomach linings, including a bleeding gastric ulcer in one case. Their condition has improved greatly and they are due to be endoscoped in January to assess their health. One of these cheetahs also had a badly broken canine that, following a root canal, abscessed and required intensive treatment.

## **2. Health and Reproduction**

CCF collects biological samples to assist in evaluating the health of the cheetah population. A full biomedical collection of two sets of samples, including vital organs, lymph nodes, bone, muscle, skin and reproductive tract are taken on all necropsied animals as well as blood, skin, and morphometric

measures on live animals. Semen samples are collected from male animals. The information gathered from the sperm is used to monitor the genetics, virology and morphology of the species and to contribute to a genome resource bank. All samples are meticulously stored and serve as a reference database for future studies. Skeletons are cleaned, labelled and stored for future studies.

Collaborative research continues with Drs. Linda Munson and Karen Terio investigating faecal cortisol levels in relation to the effects of stress on captive and wild cheetahs. Faecal samples are collected from captive resident cheetahs at CCF to monitor the effect of movement between enclosures and in large versus smaller enclosures. Playtree samples are collected to assess cortisol levels in free-ranging cheetahs, as well as faecal samples from trap cages. Samples are collected on all wild cheetahs until they are released again. Dr. Munson, investigating gastritis in captive cheetahs, also collects samples on resident captive cheetahs prior to endoscopy.

CCF collaborates with other researchers and institutions from the United States, Europe, Namibia and South Africa. This collaboration has allowed experts in genetics, reproduction, veterinary medicine, pathology and conservation to work with CCF thus expanding the use of this valuable data. To date, over 480 cheetah have been sampled, several multiple times, and an extensive database has been developed, with new data continually being added. During 2001, samples on 45 cheetahs were added to this database.

CCF research collaborator and Scientific Board member Dr. Linda Munson visited from the University of California at Davis and worked on several papers including the health status of the cheetahs CCF has necropsied over the years. Having access to dead cheetahs that have been trophy hunted, hit by cars or shot by farmers enables a thorough examination and collection of all internal organs and tissues, facilitating certain studies on overall health and diseases that would otherwise not be possible.

### **3. Cheetah and Other Predator Ecology**

#### **a. Cheetah**

CCF is currently tracking four (1M.3F) cheetahs, of which two females have adolescent cubs and the third, according to her movements may have just had cubs. During the course of the year, three collared cheetahs were shot, two collars stopped transmitting, one collared cheetah was run over and the remains of two were collected (cause of death unknown). One of these (a female) had been tracked for over six years and the cause of death is unknown, as it was several weeks before we were able to meet with the farmer for permission to fetch the collar. At the time of this report, one of the collared female cheetahs is on the farm of the President of Namibia.

Several radio collars have provided us with long-term data, one of which we are still monitoring. This female cheetah has been followed since 1994 just southwest of Otavi, and covers over 2,000km<sup>2</sup> annually in her home range. We have found that over time home ranges vary and change, not remaining the same each year, so that in total she has covered an area of over 4,000km<sup>2</sup>. This female's signal came to a stand still on the President of Namibia's farm. CCF staff was given permission by the President to ground track the cheetah to determine if the cheetah was dead or alive but stationary with new cubs. Fortunately, the female was alive and presumed to have cubed due to her stationary behaviour.

The information gathered from these cheetahs is particularly valuable as we have tracked them through multiple litters, extremely dry years and the last two years of very good rainfall. This data provides us with information to calculate inter-birth intervals and estimated survival, and is currently undergoing analysis that will provide information useful for the Namibian cheetah census programme.

During the past six years of this research, over 50 cheetahs have been collared. These radio-collared animals have actually provided information on more than just the animal collared, as some of the females have cubs and many of the males are part of coalitions (male groups). Radio-collared animals are tracked weekly by fixed-wing aeroplane. Radio-telemetry is a powerful tool and is important to CCF's work with the farming community. The data collected from the tracking is used to show the farmers the actual movements of the cheetah through their land. The information collected also illustrates where cheetahs are in relation to the farmer's calving herds, indicating areas on farms that attract cheetahs and the duration of time spent in an area. Furthermore, it demonstrates to farmers that cheetahs range over large distances and that an individual animal may be seen on many farms.

#### **b. Caracal**

One caracal was tracked for the first half of 2001 and the collar stopped transmitting. During the second half of the year, the caracal was accidentally caught in a cheetah trap on a game farm. Unfortunately, the trap was not checked and the caracal died of exposure.

#### **c. Leopard**

A young male leopard was caught by one of CCF's neighbours in the Waterberg Conservancy. CCF collected samples on the leopard and was asked by the farmer to house the cat at their leopard facility until a decision is made as to where the leopard should go. The young leopard was in poor condition and was caught attempting to catch calves. He is now looking much healthier.

### **4. Ecosystem Research**

Assessment of the Namibian farmland ecosystem for long-term habitat viability for the cheetah and its prey is a part of CCF's on-going research. The farmlands support a rich prey base, as 70% of the country's game inhabits these areas. CCF assesses the farmland ecosystem and monitors the wildlife prey base available to predators in CCF's primary research area.

To assist in developing a programme for the Waterberg Conservancy's game monitoring CCF began an ongoing wildlife-monitoring programme on its farm, designed to understand game densities, movement, demographics, and habitat utilisation. The monitoring involves conducting visual road counts of game at regularly measured points throughout the farm at various times of the day, tracking and counting spoor, categorising vegetation types, densities and distribution, and soil analysis. EarthWatch volunteers assist with this research. These methods estimate the utilisation of the various sample areas within the farm, according to species identified. Analysis will provide valuable information leading to wildlife farming management decisions within the conservancy.

The Waterberg Conservancy held its annual full moon waterhole count in August. This year volunteers for the count were made up primarily of groups pre-arranged by CCF. All volunteers congregated at CCF's Research and Education Centre for orientation and meals. Fourteen volunteers from Earthwatch International joined CCF for the waterhole count and also participated in road strip counts and 12-hour waterhole counts before the 24-hour count. The Otjiwarongo District Youth Forum, the Khorixas Cultural Group, and a group of British volunteers from World Challenge also joined the count teams. For the second year, a group of young German volunteers from the Daktari farm assisted. The waterhole count provides an estimate of populations and density of various game species on the farms of the Waterberg Conservancy. The count also provides information on group sizes and population demographics, all vital to a long-term monitoring programme.

Working together with the Omiringa Conservancy, a pilot project was begun on the movement of eland on the farmlands. CCF provided two radio-collars and a receiver to conduct ground tracking, supported the veterinarian's costs, and developed the proposal to obtain the research permits. The helicopter time was donated. The Waterberg Conservancy, the Ngoragombe Conservancy, and

CANAM supported the project concept. The eland population travels between the three conservancies and this is a first step in multi-Conservancy game monitoring by the farming community.

Helmut Tjikurunda, a second year Natural Resource Management (Nature Conservation) student from Polytechnicon, conducted two research projects at CCF. The first project was a behavioural study on oryx distribution on the 1 600 ha field of CCF's farm Elandsvreugde. The second project overlapped the oryx study as an ecological study on the grass competition of the field. The survey was designed to see if there was a possible correlation between observed behaviours of the oryx and the composition of the grasses.

Other routine habitat monitoring took place including CCF's ongoing fixed-point photography.

### **C. Human Impacts on Cheetah**

Livestock loss to cheetahs is an economic and emotional issue. While farmers perceive cheetahs as having an excessive economic impact on their livestock and wild game industries, many Namibian farmers have done little, from a management perspective, to alleviate their problems in a non-lethal manner. By addressing the farmer's conflicts with predators, CCF is devising a conservation and management strategy that benefits both humans and cheetahs, thus ensuring the species' survival on livestock farms. Through direct contact with individuals, farmer association meetings, and a bi-annual Farmer's Newsletter as well as a survey form and calendar, CCF informs the community of its progress and encourages it to remain actively involved in all aspects of its programmes. During this reporting period, two newsletters were mailed to over 2,000 people in Namibia, updating them on CCF's activities and research findings.

#### **1. Livestock Guarding Dog Programme**

CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog (LSGD) programme has continued to grow with nearly 120 Anatolian Shepherd Livestock Guarding Dogs working with livestock. Livestock guarding dogs provide a method of non-lethal predator control that protects the farmer's livelihood, while also conserving the predator species. The dogs continue to be monitored by CCF in a bi-annual evaluation of adult dogs and monthly evaluation of puppies for the first six months. CCF continues to be a breeding facility for these dogs.

CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog Programme was expanded with the birth and placement of three litters of puppies during 2001. Zanta, CCF's resident working dog gave birth to 13 puppies in February. All the puppies were placed when they were between six and eight weeks old by CCF staff Bonnie Schumann, Fanuel Ekondo and Matti Nghikembua. Five of these puppies were placed with commercial farmers and eight with communal farmers. In September a litter of 11 puppies was born on Cheetahview. Two of these died as a result of the bitch lying on them, five were placed in the communal area and four in the commercial area. The puppies from these litters have all been monitored, vaccinated, and the new owners continually advised on the correct management of their puppies during this critical first year of development and training. In December, a litter of seven puppies was born on the farm of Mrs Carla Meyer, a farmer assisting with the breeding programme. One died when the bitch lay on it. CCF staff will be placing the litter early in 2002.

All dogs were successfully spayed/neutered and returned to their respective residences. With the increasing number of Anatolians in Namibia, it was decided that all dogs should be tagged if possible. To-date 10 dogs were transpondered in the communal area and this exercise will continue next year.

Six dogs were repossessed and relocated. Of these, three were communal placements and three commercial placements. Reasons for relocation included neglect by the owner, behavioural problems the owner felt they could not solve, and failure of the owner to fulfil the requirements of the LSGD agreement that is signed on receiving the dog. Assistance and advice were offered and where these failed, it was mutually agreed that CCF repossess the dogs.

During visits to the communal farmers to vaccinate the puppies and monitor their progress, one puppy was returned to CCF due to a back injury. Following medical treatment, this dog worked with CCF's herd so that his recovery could be monitored and a new placement was found. CCF brought a second dog back to CCF from one of the farms as it was not being cared for by the farmer and was living at the kitchen of an adjacent farm. Upon its return to CCF it began working with CCF's sheep herd and was working quite well. Unfortunately, this dog has not been thrifty and is currently at the veterinarians undergoing tests to understand its health problems. A third dog was brought back to CCF for chasing calves from the goatherd. This dog has been working at CCF and is scheduled for placement after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. CCF has been made aware that there is some jealousy within the communal area by farmers who do not have Anatolian Guarding Dogs and have intentionally accused the dogs of wrong-doing. Therefore, any complaints received will be followed up with proper investigation. Mr. Sammy Upora, Ministry of Environment official in Okakara and Livestock Guarding Dog project partner, has worked closely with CCF staff in making the dog programme a huge success in the Eastern Communal land.

Two commercial farms were visited, one included multiple visits, to investigate and assist with dogs having behavioural problems. The dogs were followed by CCF staff Mandy Schumann into the veld with their flocks to assess the strength of their bond with the livestock and their overall behaviour. With one dog, corrective training was implemented with the use of a dangle stick and the dog is now working well. With the second dog the bond appeared non-existent with the stock and the dog was observed actively attempting to hunt. After a few trials of corrective training attempts, it was recommended that the dog be pulled from livestock guarding, or continue only under the supervision of a herder. Subsequent to this monitoring and close supervision by the farmer, this dog has resumed its previous "good" behaviour and is again working with the herd.

CCF staff attended several of the annual agricultural shows and promoted the use of livestock guarding dogs. As a result of these shows, 52 direct enquiries for more information and potential livestock owner application forms resulted. Queries are still being received subsequent to the show visits.

## **2. Poisons and Conflict Resolution Workshops attended**

CCF staff attended a two-day workshop on the impact of and responsible use of poisons in the environment. CCF was one of the major sponsors of this workshop by supporting international travel expenses for one of the poison specialists from the Endangered Wildlife Trust of South Africa. The irresponsible use of poisons has been identified in Namibia as a serious problem and is of particular concern, as so many non-target species are being affected. A second workshop was held Otjiwarongo which CCF staff and CCF students from the Polytechnic, University of Namibia, and Round River Conservation Studies attended.

CCF's Bonnie Schumann attended a three-day workshop in Windhoek titled: "Reducing Conflicts Between Wildlife and People". The primary aim of the workshop was to bring together all stakeholders involved in community based natural resource management (Community leaders, Government Officials, NGO's and the Private Sector) in Namibia to share experiences of conflicts with wildlife and jointly explore ideas of how to minimise such conflicts and optimise benefits.



### **3. Bush Project**

CCF has been awarded a USAID grant to improve cheetah habitat through utilisation of the thickened bush that has overtaken much former cheetah farmland habitat. CCF's Dr. Bruce Brewer has been working closely with USAID on this granting process. The overall goal of the project is to enhance the long-term survival of the cheetah, and other key indigenous Namibian wildlife species, on Namibian farmlands by developing a habitat improvement programme that is both ecologically sound and economically viable. Bush encroachment reduces the hunting efficiency of cheetahs and the thorns can seriously injure the cats, including blinding due to hunting in thick bush. In addition, thick bush reduces the populations of the cheetah's natural prey species (primarily springbok) and other wild game species (oryx, eland, and red hartebeest, for example). Farmers experiencing economic hardship due to bush encroachment are less likely to tolerate livestock predation and more likely to remove cheetahs.

CCF will test and monitor methods of harvesting thickened (encroached) bush and design a scheme that is appropriate to farmland habitat and is beneficial to Namibians. In addition, CCF will develop a market for bush-based products that assures the long-term sustainability of appropriate levels of harvest. Within Namibia, a fire log product will be marketed as an affordable alternative to wood harvesting. Depending on the results of this pilot project, habitat restoration efforts could be vastly scaled up to restore cheetah habitat on an ecologically appropriate scale. The overall design of the project is a pilot study that integrates ecological studies with community-based conservation through economic development. The resulting fuel log will enhance global conservation education through conservation-oriented marketing and informational labelling, and the areas cleared will directly and indirectly benefit cheetahs, by restoring habitat and providing income for further conservation activities.

Baseline surveys are underway on small mammal populations and vegetation on farms Elandsvreugde, and Cheetah View. A total of six hectares of vegetation has been demarcated for vegetation studies. The aim of this survey is to ground-truth a satellite image of vegetation. Dr. Richard Jeo, CCF's Chief Ecologist, is currently working on this data and on a vegetation map to classify the vegetation.

Several meetings took place during the year with USAID delegations as well as with the Namibian President, His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, and his Ministers of Agriculture and Environment and Tourism. This project is one of the President's highest priorities.

### **4. Large Carnivore Management Association**

CCF staff regularly attends meetings of the Large Carnivore Management Association. The Group consists of members from MET, NGO's, farmers and veterinarians concerned with carnivore conservation. Issues that have been dealt with in the last year include legislation on carnivores, captive holding, the value of live animal exhibits at agricultural shows, trophy hunting, and guidelines for animal use in the film industry.

### **5. Government Meetings**

His Excellency, Namibian President Dr. Nujoma, CCF Namibia's Patron, donated a group of 10 non-releasable cheetahs to breeding facilities in the United States in April. Cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and Tourism working under CITES guidelines allowed this export to support their *in-situ* conservation programme and to provide new genetic bloodlines for this managed captive population of cheetahs.

CCF staff met with His Excellency, the President on two other occasions during the year. One to inform him of how the transport of the cheetahs went to the US and the other was to discuss CCF's annual activities.

## **D. Community Outreach**

CCF believes that conservation programmes and efforts will not succeed if the targeted communities are not benefiting. In Namibia, the communal farmers are dependent on livestock for their daily livelihood; therefore, livestock losses through predation have a large impact on their income generation. Predators are thus considered problems. The main “problem” predators in these communal regions are the black-backed jackal, leopard, caracal lynx, wild dog, and cheetah. Livestock and predator conflicts in these regions are common because there is not enough wild game in some of the communal areas to support the predators. With this in mind, CCF is actively involved in the development of conservation programmes in the communal regions, primarily the Eastern (Hereroland) and Western (Damaraland) communal areas.

CCF Community Officer Don Muroa resigned to accept a position training community game guards in the Damaraland Region. His duties were largely taken up by Siegfried Aebib who left the Ministry of Youth and Sport to become CCF's Community and Youth Relations Officer.

### **1. Outreach Programmes**

Youth from Khorixas, Usakos, Swakopmund, Otjiwarongo, Kamanjab, Anker, Erwee, and Omaruru visited the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) during 2001. Organised programmes at the Centre were designed mainly for groups accommodated at CCF's Wilderness Camp. The Wilderness Camp can now accommodate 24 people overnight in 12 huts. All groups visiting CCF are given an in-depth presentation and are exposed to the Namibian farmland ecosystem through the Nature Trail. Team building activities are designed for various reasons, signifying the importance of team efforts in conservation. Role-play and drama were also included in the programmes. These included scenarios of livestock and predator management.

CCF's Education Centre continues to receive visits of youth, tourists, teachers, farmers, conservation and agriculture extension officers, and the public. During the year, various presentations were done for public, farmers, and youth groups and youth officials. In addition, two were at official functions: a book donation function with the Ministry of Basic Education and Culture and Sport, and the official opening of the Kunene Regional Youth Forum meeting at Wereldsend.

Siegfried Aebib and Research Assistant Fanuel Ekondo helped the communities in Okondjatu to discuss forming a conservancy in that area. Different traditional leaders and communities in the area are pooling their resources in order to manage, utilise, and benefit from their wildlife and other natural resources. During the evening, CCF presented a video to the community which was attended by close to 500 people, mainly school children and community members. Here the video was stopped at times to thoroughly explain the events shown and how they influence the day-to-day life of human beings.

Although CCF has a very active community development programme, it was identified that more information was needed to understand the needs of the local Eastern Communal lands. In order to obtain this information Ignatius Hindjou, a third year student from Polytechnic in Natural Resource Management (Agriculture), conducted a baseline survey to determine the needs and livestock management practices in the four communal sub districts of Okondjatu, Okamatapati, Okakarara and Okotjtu. Meetings with farmers enabled CCF to create awareness about the cheetah and the indispensable role predators play in the ecosystem. Most farmers felt that cheetahs deserve a chance in the wild, however lasting solutions to farmer-predator conflicts are long over-due. At the same time, farmers have shown a keen interest in the Livestock Guarding Dog programme.

CCF visited three farmers associations during the reporting period. The Dorsland Farmers Association is the biggest farmers association in Namibia with 70 members. The Epikuru farmers Association requested a talk with “The Farmer and Problem Animals” as the topic. The Dordabis Farmer Association requested a combined talk on conservancies, as well as information on cheetahs since many of the association members also belong to the Dordabis Conservancy. They were interested in

how other conservancies functioned. CCF's director and vice-chair of the Conservancy association of Namibia (CANAM), Laurie Marker, presented an overview on conservancies while Bonnie Schumann presented an overview of CCF's work. CCF staff was warmly received by the farming community, joining the farmers for a social gathering afterwards, providing a good platform for informal discussions.

CCF attended both the Okakarara and Otjinene Agriculture shows. At the Otjinene Show, CCF staff joined with the Harnas Wildlife Foundation, which brought two lions, a leopard, a cheetah and three baboons. The showgoers flocked to the Harnas and CCF stand as soon as it was announced that people could go and watch the predators. Close to one thousand people ranging from farmers to school children and parents visited the stand and asked questions about cheetahs and leopards as well as lions. This was a good opportunity for people who could not differentiate between a leopard and a cheetah. The combination of two stands proved to be very useful as both organizations are directly involved in carnivore conservation. Many farmers were interested in the Livestock Guarding Dogs programme, and requested that CCF have an Anatolian dog for the shows to come. Many people also expressed interest in visiting the Cheetah Conservation Fund. In the evening CCF presented a video show to farmers depicting CCF's approach on conserving cheetahs and working together with farmers.

During September, CCF staff crossed Namibia to attend the Windhoek, Swakopmund, Otjiwarongo, Gobabis, and Grootfontein Agricultural Shows. CCF's exhibit focused on predator friendly farming practices and CCF's public Education Centre.

CCF participated in the evaluation of the National Youth Conservation Corps project run by the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation. The evaluation will help strengthen the programme in order to encourage youth development in Namibia.

CCF helped organise the Earth Day Art Competition to celebrate world earth day with an arts theme. Various prizes were offered, including an overnight stay at CCF's Wilderness Camp trip for the 24 winning youth.

## **2. Waterberg Conservancy**

CCF remains active in the Waterberg Conservancy. In particular, CCF staff attended several meetings to discuss and develop wildlife monitoring techniques and the development of the Conservancy's Master Plan. In addition, CCF continues to promote and support eco-tourism within the Conservancy. Several international tour groups visiting CCF, including private tour groups, zoos and museums, over-night for one or two nights at Conservancy guesthouses thus providing revenue to this region in the name of the cheetah.

## **3. Conservancy Association of Namibia (CANAM)**

CCF's Director, L Marker, has stepped down as the vice-chair of CANAM, after her two-year term was completed. CANAM is an umbrella body for the promotion of conservancies in Namibia. Conservancies encourage sustainable utilisation of natural resources through co-operative management, based on sound conservation principles. During the reporting period, Marker attended two Ex-com meetings, and attended the AGM. Conservancies and their wildlife management techniques will continue to be extremely important for long-term cheetah conservation. Of concern was that CANAM's new ex-com committee has decided not to join the newly organised Large Carnivore Management Association. In November, CCF hosted a CANAM Master Plan development meeting. Representatives attended the meeting from 16 of the 23 commercial conservancies.

#### **4. Otjiwarongo Tourism Association**

CCF has been one of the key players in assisting the Otjiwarongo Tourism Association in regional marketing. During this reporting period, the Association hosted its second familiarisation (FAM) trip, which included members of the international travel writer's community and tour operators. CCF and the Waterberg Conservancy hosted a day at CCF ending with a braai in the evening. From this FAM trip, a regional video was developed and translated into four languages. His Excellency, Dr. Sam Nujoma, Namibia's President, launched the video during a media event in Windhoek. Further developments with the Association include marketing Otjiwarongo as the Cheetah Capitol of Namibia.

In October, the Otjiwarongo Tourism Forum officially launched its "Meeta Cheetah" campaign. This campaign is to encourage tourists and tour groups to visit the "Cheetah Capital of the World", Namibia, and stay overnight in the heart of cheetah country, the Otjiwarongo area. The launch took place in London at the Namibia High Commission and was attended by CCF director, Laurie Marker, and Neville Neveling, chair of the Otjiwarongo Tourism Forum. Part of the campaign includes buying a fibreglass cheetah and painting it in your choice of colours and patterns

#### **5. Namibian Professional Hunters Association and Cheetah Trophy Hunting**

CCF continues to cooperate with NAPHA members and other landowners in their role in cheetah conservation programmes that are necessary to support sustainable use of cheetahs.

#### **6. Wilderness Workshop**

In September, CCF hosted the week-long basic Wilderness Management Training course presented by Namibia's Wilderness Action Group. Course participants consisted of members of the public, private enterprise, NGO personnel, and Ministry of Environment and Tourism staff. This course includes a basic introduction to the concept of wilderness, its history, and legislation. Two members of CCF staff attended the course.

#### **7. Cheetah Conservationist of the Year**

At this year's CCF annual fundraising dinner, "A Celebration of Speed and Elegance" we chose two farmers as the Cheetah Conservationists' of the Year. Both embrace the concept of conservancies and practice conservation through collaboration and the sharing of natural resources in a neighbourly way, combining cattle farming with selective hunting and Eco-tourism. Harry Schneider-Waterberg, Chairman of the Waterberg Conservancy and the Chairman of the Conservancy Association of Namibia (CANAM), and Jorg Diekmann, Chairman of the Ovipuka Conservancy, a member of the Waterberg Conservancy, and served on the founding Ex-com of the CANAM, have both been very active supporters of Cheetah Conservation for nearly a decade. Jorg and Harry have shown, through their management practices, that predator conservation is not contrary to the needs of humans, and that we can all live together.

#### **E. Education Activities**

Public education and the development of an active grassroots constituency are integral components of the overall cheetah conservation programme. CCF is educating farmers, teachers and the public about the need and methods to conserve Namibia's rich biodiversity and the role of the cheetah and other predators in healthy ecosystems. Public education and the development of national pride in the cheetah are critical to its survival in Namibia.

CCF's Education Centre Curator, Graeme Wilson, and Education Officer, Matti Nghikembua, organise and direct education programmes. During this reporting period over 2000 students and youth group members attended a CCF programme either at the CCF Centre, at their school, or in their

community. During the past six months, CCF expanded its education department to include staff to greet daily visitors at its Education Centre.

## **1. Schools and Community Education**

Groups have visited and taken part in a standard two-day education programme with a total of 347 participants staying at one of the two education camps. At the end of 2001, CCF's education programme is fully equipped with all its required infrastructure and activities to aim at having more than 1000 participants visit and stay at CCF's camps next year.

CCF's Research and Education Centre provides on-site public education and student training to local students of all ages and foreign university students. It allows students to be exposed to CCF's integrated research programmes on the cheetah's ecology, habitat and prey base, and the demonstration of CCF's non-lethal livestock/predator management techniques. CCF's Education Centre and Wilderness Camp hosts school and community groups, exposing them to different environmental education activities including a Nature Trail, games, and other environmental awareness activities. Learners and visitors from various regions visit the Centre. In the past six months over 400 groups have visited CCF's newly developed Education Centre.

The Centre continues to receive visitors from schools, regional youth groups, youth officials, tourists, teachers, health officials, farmers, conservation and agriculture extension officials, students and the general public. The most significant participants were youth groups and schools from different regions of the country. Participants are exposed to the issues affecting the survival of the cheetah, by participating in various interactive activities and presentations. Various issues are presented regarding factors that affect conservation efforts at community level.

Organised programmes at the Centre were designed mainly for groups accommodated at the wilderness camp. All participants were exposed to CCF efforts by presentation. Participants were also exposed to the Namibian farmland ecosystem through the nature trail. Team building activities are designed for various reasons, signifying the importance of team efforts in conservation. Role-play and drama were also included in the programmes. These included scenarios of livestock and predator management. The team building obstacles in CCF's new predator playground will in the future be developed further, thus broadening the scope of the education programme.

Young Namibians from across the country participated in CCF's educational programmes and stayed at the Wilderness Camp. The Windhoek International School, the Tsumeb Boy Scouts and Tsumeb German Private School, Paresis Secondary School from Otjiwarongo, the Welwitchia Primary School from Khorixas, and Otjiwarongo Youth Forum all enjoyed this unique educational experience. The Enviromessengers also stayed at the Wilderness Camp while working on Drama presentations that deal with wildlife and human conflict resolution issues.

Environmental clubs from Paresis and Okakarara Secondary schools were involved with the Round River Conservation Programme. This included learning about the ecology and natural history of the farmland that supports the survival of the cheetah, and also helping with the field surveys conducted. The research projects conducted by the students included bird surveys, animal density and movement, and distribution and densities of tree, bush, and grass species. The visiting Okakarara Nature Club attended various lectures held by Round River Conservation Studies at CCF's Cheetah View farm. The experience gained by the learners was of a great benefit because it allowed them to be exposed to research, ecology, and natural history of the farmlands.

Members of the Seattle, Washington (USA) CCF Chapter have become special 'Friends of Rogate', after donating over 200 books to the Rogate Primary School in Otjiwarongo. In July Jason Raize, who played Simba in the Broadway musical "The Lion King," presented the books representing a wide variety of topics to the school. During his visit, Jason sang a few songs to the students who then

sang several songs back to Jason. Accompanying Jason were CCF's Matti, Siegfriedt, and Laurie. The presentation was filmed by Sue Anne Taylor, producer with Blue Hereon Productions. Jason Raize joined Taylor in Namibia as the presenter of a TV special for youth highlighting CCF's efforts.

## **2. CCF In-service Training and Field School**

Thirteen students from throughout North America completed the third and fourth course of Round River Conservation Studies field school at CCF during January to April and again from September through December. The student groups each spent three months learning conservation biology, ecology, and the natural history of Namibia under the guidance of CCF Senior Ecologist Dr. Richard Jeo. Round River Conservation Studies is linked to Utah State University and has developed partnerships in field conservation focusing on predators and monitoring of prey species. Two Namibian biology students from the University of Namibia were given scholarships to attend the Round River programme.

Two University of Namibia Bachelor of Science Agriculture students completed a six week internship and practical work experience at CCF during January and February. Both students undertook both practical and theoretical training and worked on a livestock management plan for CCF's goats and sheep. Two Polytechnic of Namibia students from Natural Resource Management participated in a six-month in-service training at CCF. Both students conducted their own projects as discussed. In addition, two students from University of Oregon's Global Graduates programme conducted three-month internships with CCF. During their time at CCF all interns participated in all aspects of CCF activities.

Students from the Ongongo Agricultural College (Agriculture and Forestry) visited CCF for a day visit. The possibility of students from this college doing internships at CCF was discussed.

During April this year the University of Namibia Conservation Biology class visited CCF. This trip was a cooperative venture between the University and the Round River Conservation Studies programme, providing Namibian and American students with the opportunity to exchange ideas on conservation. From this visit, an extended University of Namibia Conservation Biology course is being developed for 2002.

## **3. Education Workshops**

Siegfriedt Bandu Aebeb, CCF's Community Development Officer, was invited to attend the three-day venture selection weekend held at the Raleigh field base outside Windhoek. Raleigh, the British leadership volunteer programme, brings youth between ages 18 and 24, to Namibia for three months to participate in conservation and development projects. Namibian youth are recruited to participate in their programmes. During the selection weekends, all previous Namibian venturers are invited to assist by acting as facilitators, assessors, and co-ordinators. Siegfriedt was a venturer in 1997 and helped to build CCF's Wilderness Camp. Altogether, 120 youth from all over Namibia vied for the chance to join the October expedition.

Graeme Wilson, CCF's education curator, was elected as a committee member and Namibia Environmental Education Network (NEEN's) country representative to the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) at the NEEN Annual Conference held in Windhoek. He attended the EEASA annual conference, "Environmental Education for sustainable development African perspectives" in Lesotho.

Graeme and CCF volunteer Dr. Sandy Ball attended an educational workshop in South Africa organised by Cheetah Outreach and the Smithsonian's National Zoo. The workshop brought together South African educators to develop cheetah conservation based curriculum. CCF's Teacher's Guide was handed out to the teachers as a reference.

#### **4. Staff Education**

CCF's director, Laurie Marker, is currently enrolled as a Ph.D. candidate at Oxford University in the Zoology Department's Wildlife Ecology Programme, known as WILDCRU, under the supervision of predator specialists Drs. David McDonald and Gus Mills. In April, her two supervisors spent several days at CCF to discuss her research and progress on data analysis and publications. Laurie then spent two weeks in Oxford continuing with data analysis. Four papers are nearly ready for publication. It is envisioned that she will complete her studies and final write up of her dissertation by the end of 2002.

CCF's Education Officer, Matti Nghikembua is currently enrolled in the B-Tech Nature Conservation programme at Polytechnic of Namibia. His course work has continued and he will be starting his research project on base-line studies of bush encroachment and harvesting in the next few months.

#### **F. International Programmes**

The Fund assists in international programme development and adapts model programmes developed in Namibia for use in other countries, distributing CCF materials and information throughout Africa and the rest of the world. CCF's director is a member of the core group of the IUCN's Cat Specialist Group and maintains international communications on the status of cheetah populations worldwide, including their relationship with man and threats to their survival.

##### **1. Kenya Cheetah Conservation**

CCF was asked to help assess the cheetah situation in Kenya, where populations have been reported to be declining. In March L. Marker travelled to Kenya with Mary Wykstra-Ross, a CCF research assistant, to investigate the cheetah situation, focusing on the Nakuru Forum/Conservancy area located in the central portion of the Rift Valley. The goal of this initial visit was to provide an overview of habitat, prey base, human impact, predator conflict, conservation potential and need, and existing research, to evaluate whether CCF might be able to assist with cheetah conservation efforts in Kenya.

During the trip they met with members of the Nakuru Wildlife Forum, which comprises approximately 360 000 acres and includes commercial farms, group farms, and game/national parks. Conservancy farmers report that they are seeing fewer cheetahs. The cats that have been sited on conservancy lands in the last few months are believed to be migratory, not resident, animals. As the farmers believe cheetahs have only a minimal impact on large- and small-scale livestock farming, they would like to support conservation studies on cheetahs, with the goal of using their presence to attract tourism to the area.

After leaving the forum area, the next couple of days were spent with researchers at the Mpala Research Centre in the Laikipai District in northern Kenya, where senior scientists and undergraduate students conduct studies of habitat, wildlife, and ranchers to provide a broad ecological base for wildlife conservation in Kenya. Time was spent with Drs. Laurence Frank and Rosie Woodroffe, who direct the Laikipia Predator Project. The Laikipia farmers acknowledged that cheetahs are little threat to their livestock. They have noticed a decline in cheetahs and would like to have more.

L. Marker gave a presentation at the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) headquarters in Nairobi about cheetah conservation efforts in Namibia. CCF was asked by the KWS to assist with a project in the Masai Mara, so Marker and Wykstra-Ross went to the Masai Mara with a KWS researcher. The project there will study the impact of tourism on cheetahs. Over the past few years, cheetah numbers have decreased, and this study, a cooperative project between the tourism industry and KWS, will assess the situation.

During this trip, CCF staff laid a solid base to begin work in Kenya. In collaboration with the ongoing projects, CCF will be assisting in the understanding of predator-human conflicts through additional studies in the Nakuru region. Although the number of cheetahs in the region appears to be quite low, this area could aid in better understanding the impact of human population and commercial farming

on Kenyan wildlife populations, especially the cheetah. Kenyan farmers were eager to learn how Namibian farmers minimized livestock loss from predation, as, throughout the world, Namibian farmers are considered models for coexisting peacefully with predators.

Since this initial trip, CCF has been involved with the Kenya Wildlife Service to assist in developing a poster that will be put up throughout Kenya, and in particular in the game reserves, to ask tourists to assist in cheetah conservation programmes. In December Wykstra-Ross moved to Kenya to set up CCF-Kenya operations.

## **2. South Africa Cheetah Conservation**

CCF was asked by the South African Cheetah Management Group to begin a survey with the farming communities in the North and Northwest Provinces of the country. Research Assistant Mandy Schumann spent two months based out of Hoedspruit Cheetah Centre and the DeWildt Cheetah Breeding Centre. Both facilities provided logistical support including a vehicle and phones. The purpose of the survey is to acquire baseline information on the farmer's attitudes towards cheetahs and the possibilities of cheetah conservation on their lands. Mandy was in communication with several farmers' organisations and shared information about cheetah conservation activities in Namibia.

## **3. Iranian Cheetah Conservation**

In November CCF's Director, Laurie Marker, along with CCF research advisor, Cindy Olson, were invited by the Iranian Department of Environment (DOE) to assist with the development of a cheetah conservation community based education programme. This project will be in joint association with the work of researchers at the New York Bronx Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Society (WSC) and their Science and Exploration Program Director, Dr. George Schaller, who just returned from a month's preliminary survey. As a result of this visit, Laurie and Cindy will conduct follow-up meetings with the core cheetah interest group that has developed, and assist the DOE with the next step in the research and conservation programme.

While in Iran, Laurie and Cindy were hosted by the past Indian Ambassador to Namibia. They had meetings with various researchers and DOE officials. The purpose of the mission was to identify where CCF can best assist Iran in saving its endangered cheetah population. Cheetah numbers have declined to perhaps less than 50 animals, from around 500 animals in the 1970s, due to widespread poaching of cheetahs and their prey during the early years of the 1978 revolution. Additionally, habitat degradation due to livestock grazing has pushed this important predator to the brink of extinction.

## **4. Captive Cheetah Management**

### **a. International Cheetah Studbook**

CCF's Director, Laurie Marker, is the Keeper of the International Cheetah Studbook. The Studbook is a registry of all cheetahs living in captivity and serves as a guide for regional and global captive breeding programmes. Bi-annual questionnaires are sent to all registered cheetah facilities each year. The 2000 International Cheetah Studbook is being finalised for publication in 2002.

### **b. Export of cheetahs to USA**

His Excellency, Dr. Sam Nujoma, presented 10 young cheetahs as a gift to the people of the United States in April, in recognition of U.S. support of cheetah conservation in Namibia. The gift marks the first time in nearly 30 years that the laws of both the United States and Namibia have allowed wild-caught cheetahs to be exported from Namibia to the United States.



Four of the cheetahs are housed at the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens in Ohio. The other six have gone to the White Oak Conservation Centre in Florida, which specializes in breeding rare and endangered species. All 10 cubs, orphaned when their mothers were shot, were caught on commercial farmland areas and found their way to CCF through the concern of the people who caught them or through the speedy intervention of a concerned neighbour. CCF selected these 10 cheetah for export to the United States solely because they are non-releasable animals.

The cheetahs will be part of a cooperative breeding programme in North America called the Species Survival Plan, which is managed by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). The SSP was established in 1982 and coordinates the management of all captive cheetahs at the different facilities in North America as a unit. Working with this programme, all the facilities holding cheetahs cooperate on issues concerning reproduction, genetics, diet and general husbandry of the species.

## **G. International Meetings**

### **1. Cat Specialist Core Group Meeting**

Since 1994 CCF's Director, Laurie Marker, has been one of the Vice Chairs for the IUCN Cat Specialist Group. This year the format of the Group changed with the retirement of Peter Jackson, who had been Chairman for over 20 years. In July, the new co-chairs of the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group (Cat SG), Urs Breitenmoser and Christine Breitenmoser-Würsten, invited Laurie along with 10 other recognized cat specialists, to attend a Core Cat Specialist Group meeting to discuss the organisation and identify the responsibilities of the Cat Specialist Group for the quadrennium 2001-04. The meeting took place in the Sparenmoos, a small resort in the Bernese Alps, in the centre of the study area of the Swiss lynx project. The aims of the conference were threefold: (1) to review the progress in cat conservation since the publication of *Wild Cats*, by Nowell & Jackson in 1996, (2) to identify the duties and involvements of the Cat SG, and (3) to discuss the organisation structure of the group.

The Core Group (CG) is the strategic board of the Cat SG. It is the team that identifies priorities, develops cat conservation concepts, and supervises the permanent tasks of the Cat SG (update status reports, red list, etc.). The CG will meet every year (preferably in April) in a different place of the world. These regular meetings will have two goals: (1) to push the group's common and lasting business, and (2) to meet with the Cat SG members of the region and to review the status and conservation needs of the regional cat populations.

In workshops, the participants reflected on the priorities in cat conservation and on the role of the Cat SG. Regarding the priorities, several topics emerged from the group work including funding for cat conservation, capacity building as a priority in conservation, the lack of basic knowledge to assess the status and population trends of most cat species, provide know-how back into the species' range, which is very often in countries with very limited economic power, and the complexities of trophy hunting.

### **2. International Theriological (Mammals) Congress**

In August, CCF Director Laurie Marker and CCF research assistant Amy Dickman presented a paper at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual International Mammals Congress (ITC) in South Africa entitled Predator-Human Conflict Resolution – Putting Theory into Practice. The ITC is held in different countries once every four years and brings together the world's leading mammalogists. This year over 300 scientists attended from over 40 countries. The Congress provided an opportunity to meet other researchers and share information. During a two-day session on people and predators, over 20 presentations were given on problems faced internationally with predators, and research methods being used to reduce the conflict.

### **3. Botswana Technical Predator Workshop**

In October, CCF Research Assistants Bonnie Schumann and Amy Dickman attended a workshop in Maun dealing with Botswana's predator management plan. During the workshop they presented a talk entitled Strategies for Reducing Conflicts on Namibian Farmlands. The purpose of the Workshop was to develop a research and conservation plan for Botswana's predators and was attended by many southern African and international predator researchers.

### **4. The Society of Conservation Biology Conference**

CCF's Marker and Nghikembua represented CCF at the Society for Conservation Biology conference in September in Nairobi, Kenya. This event was aimed at creating an African Section for Conservation Biology. Issues that affect conservation Biology were discussed through presentations and group discussions. CCF presented two talks during the sessions including, The role of Science in NGO's, and Environmental Education from K1 – 12 grades.

### **5. World Wilderness Conference**

CCF's Marker, Brewer, and Nghikembua represented CCF at the 7th World Wilderness conference in November in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. CCF participated in the working sessions of the Conference, and presented its paper entitled Cheetahs, Wild lands and Human Needs Working Together. Our presentation highlighted the need to strengthen conservation efforts outside of wilderness areas, in order to satisfy essential basic human needs. This effort will also benefit wide-ranging species and biodiversity on a broader scale. The CCF presentation also emphasized the importance of using umbrella/ surrogate species in order to direct specific and sustained conservation efforts. CCF suggested the use of endangered species such as the cheetah in order to direct conservation efforts.

### **6. Cheetah related work meetings**

#### **a. Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) Workshop**

In March, CCF's Director attended the AZA's Annual Felid Tag meeting in the United States. A slide presentation was given on CCF's activities to the US cat specialists.

#### **b. Cheetah Master Plan Workshop**

In August, the largest ever gathering of international cheetah specialists came together in South Africa to map out a Global Cheetah Conservation Action Plan. CCF staff members, Laurie Marker, Bonnie Schumann, and Amy Dickman, as well as Annie Beckhelling from Cheetah Outreach, together with Namibian Scientific Board members Dr. Arthur Bagot-Smith and Dr. Hu Berry joined several other CCF international board members at the workshop. This included Jack Grisham, Dr. Linda Munson and Dr. David Wildt from the US, Sean McKeown from the United Arab Emirates, Dr. Sarah Durrant from Tanzania, and Nick Lindsey from Great Britain.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Susie Ellis from the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), one of the Species Survival Commissions of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and was sponsored by the North American Cheetah Species Survival Plan (SSP) and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). The goal of the workshop was to honour and unite cheetah conservation work already carried out in the wild (in-situ) and in zoological institutions (ex-situ), and to develop a conservation action plan that would link these initiatives, enhance collaboration, and provide for the long-term survival of cheetah in the wild.

The meeting, held in South Africa, was attended by 53 delegates from 10 countries including the USA, Australia, Britain, The Netherlands, Kenya, Zimbabwe, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Tanzania and Namibia. Other Namibian organisations included the Africat Foundation and Okatumba Wildlife Trust, MET, and veterinarian Dr. Ulf Tubbesing. This meeting was a result of formal and informal discussions among field biologists and zoo managers over the past few years, and became formalised in October 2000 at the global CBSG meeting to bring together as many stakeholders as possible in cheetah conservation (both *in-situ* and *ex-situ*) in an interactive setting to facilitate the development of a comprehensive conservation action plan for this species. Working groups dealt with issues ranging from the status and threats facing cheetahs in the wild outside of protected areas, cheetah/human conflict, genetic management, international collaboration, cooperation between captive breeding programs, education, veterinary and disease issues, and public awareness, among others. The workshop will result in a series of actions and steps, including the establishment of a global Cheetah Interest Group, for enhanced collaboration and focussed conservation efforts for the cheetah.

## **H. CCF Organisational Activities**

### **1. Development and International Fundraising**

#### **a. United States**

CCF continues to receive most of its funds from the United States. Major fund raising is carried out in the second half of each year. CCF's Director was in the United States for fundraisers in March and September/October. In September, although a difficult time to be travelling due to the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attack, Laurie's 5+ weeks took her into six countries, including 19 cities and 15 states in the United States. Highlights included meeting with the Namibian Ambassador in Washington DC along with a key Congressman who had visited Namibia last year with CCF/USA President Vance Martin and David Barron. Additionally, the Marin County Humane Society gave the Humanitarian of the Year Award to Laurie. Throughout her travels Laurie met with friends and CCF supporters, many of which shared their own cheetah stories from having visited CCF themselves.

#### **b. Namibian Fundraising**

CCF's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Celebration of Speed and Elegance" took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July at the Windhoek Country Club. Over 300 guests attended the Gala evening and enjoyed the silent auction, new age slide presentation, dinner, Cheetah Conservation Farmer of the Year Award, and entertainment by Broadway musical star, Jason Raize. Mr. Tangani Erkana, Ministry of Environments Permanent Secretary, served as Master of Ceremonies and brought the crowd to life.

The evening was entitled '2001 A Cheetah Odyssey' to reflect CCF's futuristic and long-term Research and Education Programmes. The themed environmental evening had home-made paper invitations and menus made from Kudu droppings. Lien Malan and Manda Wilson created the table decorations that included cheetah candleholders and rocks brought in from the Okorusu Mine. Local artists and businesses donated over 60 auction items including paintings, sculptures, jewellery, fashion items, and recreational 'Get-Aways' at exclusive tourist venues. Artist Susan Mitchinson donated an original oil painting and allowed it to be used as the logo for the evening.

Special guest Jason Raize ended the evening with several songs. Jason Raize is internationally known for his role as "Simba" in the Broadway musical "The Lion King". He is currently serving as a United Nations Special Ambassador for the Environment. The fun evening brought in over N\$30,000 in contributions for CCF.

### **c. South Africa Cheetah OutReach**

Cheetah OutReach has continued to support the efforts of CCF through their educational outreach programmes and direct financial support. CCF is now reciprocating by raising funds to begin a major renovation project at Cheetah Outreach in 2002 at the Spier Wine Estate. In October, CCF's director and general manager visited Cheetah OutReach to meet with staff and provide assistance.

### **d. UK Fundraising**

Due to the great interest in CCF's work, a UK chapter of CCF has been firmly established. A board meeting was held in June to review CCF activities for 2001. CCF t-shirts and mugs have been commissioned by Alan Lester, one of CCF's UK board members. These are currently being sold in his Oxford retail store. In addition, Peter Wells, Chairman of the Anatolian Shepherd Association of UK, presented CCF with plaque for using Anatolian Shepherds as working dogs in Namibia. His organisation has supported CCF's efforts through the media and local awareness. The Oxford Times published an article about CCF's dog programme. CCF/UK has a new 4-colour brochure which was donated by a printer in the UK through assistance from CCF supporter Cathryn Brogran. The brochure will be distributed by CCF/UK during specified activities.

## **2. Media and Public Relations**

CCF has maintained a high profile in the media through numerous broadcasts on television and in the print media. CCF's Director was recognised by the Rotary Club of Windhoek and presented with one of Rotaries highest honours, the Paul Harris Fellowship Award and was recognized in the local paper. In March, all local Namibian newspapers ran articles about CCF highlighting the transport of the 10 cheetahs to the United States. USA today newspaper ran an article about CCF's work supported by the Cincinnati Zoo, and a UK newspaper also ran an article on Livestock Guarding Dogs. The United States television programme Good Morning America ran a national programme featuring Laurie Marker and CCF Board member Cathryn Hilker from the Cincinnati Zoo, along with their Anatolian Shepherd and cheetah cub, highlighting CCF's efforts and the announcing the donation of cheetahs to America from Namibia.

Journalists filmed CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog programme as part of a BBC-TV special on working dogs. Over the course of this past year a Discovery Channel documentary has been filmed at CCF by Panthera Productions. It included footage of Anatolian puppies being born, their growth and development, placement at farms, and all other aspects of CCF's programmes. A film crew from South Africa worked with the Otjiwarongo Tourism Association for a regional tourism video, which featured CCF (this was aired in 2001 and will be aired more in 2002). A US film crew from the popular news show 20/20 filmed a piece at CCF. This programme is due to air sometime in 2002.

In November a German film crew spent one week with CCF to film a documentary that will be shown on stations internationally as well as for the World Summit, which will be held in South Africa in 2002. Another German film crew was here and filmed footage to add to a documentary they had previously filmed at CCF in order to make it into a children's programme. A United States children's programme called "In the Wild with Jason Raize" was filmed at CCF and aired at the end of the year. Another United States children's TV programme was filmed at CCF and was aired during the year.

In the middle part of the year, a Cincinnati TV-5 crew filmed a documentary about Namibia, highlighting CCF and Cincinnati's involvement with our programmes. Jonathan Scott, famous wildlife photographer, and his wife Angela visited CCF twice during the year. They took photographs and information for an eventual publication featuring CCF's work.

### **3. Visitors to CCF**

During the past year, CCF had several of its major donors visit. These included the Board of Directors of the South African Green Trust, who have committed to another three years of funding of CCF's programmes. CCF also hosted groups from Conservation International, the African Wildlife Foundation, the Cincinnati Zoo, Directors from the Mawell Zoo and Paignton Zoo in the UK, a group of Zoo Directors and Zoo Veterinarians from Sweden, and a FAM trip of American Zoo Directors brought by Park East Tour Company.

During the past year many of CCF's board of directors and science advisors visited CCF. These include CCF USA board members Annie Graham and her family, Carl Hilker and his son, Bill and Pat Miller, Vance Martin, and UK board member Peter Stewart, and science advisors Jack Grisham, Sean McKeon, Drs. Steve O'Brien, David Wildt, Linda Munson, David McDonald Gus Mills, and other long-time research collaborators Drs. Susie Ellis and Melody Roelke, and past CCF master student Heiko Thies. In addition, as three key members of the Zimbabwe Cheetah Management Group spent several days in training at CCF.

### **4. Volunteer Programme**

Volunteers are the backbone of CCF's programmes. CCF continues to work with EarthWatch volunteers, with 62 EarthWatch volunteers helping at CCF in 2001. This year we have increased Earthwatch volunteer participation to four volunteers for a two-week period every month instead of every other month, with an additional group of 14 EarthWatch volunteers in August to assist with the 24-hour waterhole count. Two groups from the British youth development organisation, Raleigh International, each spent three weeks at CCF. The groups, composed of 12 volunteers each, undertook the layout and building of new cheetah quarantine holding pens. CCF continues to work with student volunteers from the University of Oregon Global Graduates programme (two students in 2001), Round River Conservation Studies from Utah (two programmes including 13 students total), the University of Namibia (3 students total), and Polytechnic of Namibia (3 students total). In addition, at least 10 other CCF volunteers assisted during the year.

### **5. CCF Staffing**

CCF's permanent staff includes:

Laurie Marker – Executive Director  
Dr. Bruce Brewer – General Manager  
Dr. Richard Jeo - Senior Ecologist  
Siegfriedt Aebeb - Community and Youth Relations Officer  
Edgar Dedig - Farms Manager  
Heike Dedig - Administrative Assistant  
Amy Dickman - Senior Research Assistant  
Fanuel Ekondo - Research Assistant  
Dennis Muesee - Visitor Centre Assistant  
Matti Nghikembua – Research Assistant & Education Officer  
Gephardt Nikanor - Education Assistant  
Bonnie Schumann – Senior Research Assistant  
Mandy Schumann - Research Assistant  
Graeme Wilson – Education Curator  
Mary Wykstra-Ross -Senior Research Assistant - Kenya

CCF also supports fifteen Namibian farm and domestic workers.

#### **IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES: January –December 2002**

During the next year CCF will:

- Continue work with farmers in cheetah related issues and reducing conflict.
- Continue with a tag-and-release programme and biological sampling of cheetahs.
- Continue radio-tracking programme, with emphasis on female cheetah.
- Continue work with the Large Carnivore Management Association.
- Continue work with the Cheetah Interest Group (CIG).
- Work with Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Tourism and Trade and Industry on bush encroachment related research and bush industry development.
- Continue work with the Waterberg Conservancy and communal conservancies in wildlife, habitat monitoring, eco-tourism activities and promoting the concept of conservancies in Namibia through CANAM..
- Continue to expand the Livestock Guarding Dog Programme through breeding and placement of dogs.
- Continue to expand CCF's community development programme with emphasis on youth groups.
- Continue to conduct educational assembly programmes in schools throughout Namibia and assist teachers in the use of CCF's Teacher's Resource Guide through teacher training workshops.
- Follow-up with schools that have been involved in CCF outreach programmes.
- Host another semester of the Field College on Cheetah View in cooperation with Round River Conservation Studies.
- Work with University of Namibia in developing a certification programme for Conservation Biology courses.
- Continue with student research projects in co-operation with Namibia's Polytechnic and the University of Namibia
- Collaborate with the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo in reproductive physiology studies on male cheetahs at CCF's Centre.
- Collaborate with University of Davis and Namibian veterinarians on stress related disease research.
- Continue as a field station for EarthWatch and work with EarthWatch volunteers.
- Continue work with Raleigh International volunteers.

- Continue work with CCF's Namibian fundraising committee to recruit partnerships with local businesses.
- Assist with the development of CCF UK.
- Lead the Inception Mission for the developing the Iranian Cheetah Recovery Programme through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Assist Iran and Kenya with developing cheetah programmes in their countries.
- Assist Zimbabwe and South Africa with their cheetah programmes.
- Host a workshop for farmers from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya, Botswana and Namibia.
- Publish research papers on CCF's research.
- Continue to host national and international journalists.
- Develop a marketing strategy for the promotion of CCF's new Education Centre to enhance eco-tourism to the region.
- Develop a strategy for Rhino Conservation on CCF and Waterberg Conservancy properties.
- Travel to the United States and the United Kingdom for fundraising and lectures.

