

THE FAST TRACK

Newsletter of the Global Cheetah Forum



NEWSLETTER 3 OCTOBER 2003

cbsginfo@wol.co.za / cbsgsa@wol.co.za / fax: + 27 (0) 11 486 1506

The Global Cheetah Forum was born out of the 2001 and 2002 Global Cheetah Action Plan workshops at which 66 participants from 14 countries met to unite the work being carried out worldwide to conserve cheetah. The results included the publication of a Global Cheetah Action Plan and the formation of the GCF. The GCF supports and fosters the development of progressive, collaborative conservation partnerships and facilitates effective communication and information flow between cheetah conservationists worldwide.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT:

As the year draws to an end, I am sure we are all reflecting over 2003 and considering what a busy year it was, how it quickly it has gone and how there are simply not enough hours in the day to achieve everything we ever want to do! It seems never to change and every year we remark on similar things, but, from the report-backs we have received, it has in fact been a very productive year for cheetah people globally. Great strides have been made by members of the various working groups formed at the last Cheetah Action Plan workshop, and the participating institutions seem to be going as strongly as ever.

The GCF secretariat has also grown and welcomes Brenda Daly, the new Administrative Manager of CBSG Southern Africa. Brenda has a background in both Information Technology and conservation which will bolster the capacity of the secretariat enormously. In this light, one of the first projects she is tackling is the global database of cheetah organisations and conservationists as well as planning for the 2004 Cheetah Census Technology Development workshop, but read on for more details of this one.

Many grateful thanks to **thank the Wassennar Breeding Centre, the AZA Cheetah SSP and Diana Reuter Twining for their generous support** of the GCF. Also, many thanks to the GCF members, for their regular feedback and news, the interesting interactive discussions and their undying commitment to Cheetah conservation!

Enjoy this edition of The Fast Track and please feel free to contact any of the contributing

organisations or the secretariat for more information on any of these projects.

Keep your news flowing and happy reading.

Many best wishes

Yolan Friedmann and Brenda Daly
CBSG Southern Africa
Endangered Wildlife Trust

ZIMBABWE TRUST CHEETAH PROJECT (ZIMBABWE)



"Contributing to cheetah conservation outside of the National Parks estate"

Title: *Investigation into the effects of changes in land use on the status and distribution of cheetahs in Zimbabwe*

The Marwell Zimbabwe Trust Cheetah Project has been fully operational since July 2002 and is attempting to determine the effects of the current changes in land use in Zimbabwe on the presence and behaviour of cheetah. Many commercial farming areas are being rapidly converted to small-scale livestock farms and the Project is gathering information from the old and new owners about the behaviour of cheetah to make comparisons.

This aspect of the Project is being carried out with help from three students, two from the Bindura University of Science and Technology (Figure 3), and one from the Midlands University. Godwin Vhurumuku and Newton Sibanda (Bindura) are studying Wildlife and Rangeland Management and Mlupfeki Dube (Midlands) is studying Wildlife and Livestock Management. Both institutions require the students to be attached to a wildlife conservation organisation for a year to gain experience. Godwin and Newton have been with the Project since August 2002 and Mlupfeki started in January 2003. All three students are with the project courtesy of the money donated to the Project by the Columbus Zoo Conservation Fund specifically for students.

Godwin and Newton carried out a preliminary survey of Rural District Councils to obtain information about what areas cheetah are seen in and where they cause problems. From this initial survey, it appears that most cheetah are present in newly resettled areas (previously commercial farms) and areas close to National Parks. They visited a total of 21 Rural District Councils and spoke to their conservation officers, and only 7 councils reported having cheetah in their areas, 4 of these areas the cheetah were only seen near the boundaries of protected areas. The remaining three districts reported having cheetah on newly resettled properties, where they were often perceived as problem animals.

However, most of the conservation officers interviewed expressed a wish to see more wildlife in their districts and asked our two students if they were in a position to provide information about the principles of sustainable use of wildlife in a communal context. In a resettlement area visited by Netty Purchase, the Project co-ordinator, the spokesman for the area explained how the new farmers (as they are now being called) had divided the property into a wildlife area and a cattle grazing area, each land use taking up about 50% of the total area. The wildlife area is run as a hunting concession and the new farmers earn about US\$ 400 a year from the hunter. It does not seem much but when the average wage in Zimbabwe is about US\$60 a year, wildlife is a profitable form of land use. This resettled area has shown that the new farmers can be wildlife friendly, including to predators as well.

To get a better idea of what is happening in these newly resettled areas, the 3 students have taken on the following projects:

1. Factors affecting the survival of a healthy cheetah population in Zaka, a small scale farming area of Zimbabwe (Godwin)

2. The effects of changes in land use on the status and distribution of cheetahs in Mvuma district of Zimbabwe (Newton)
3. Comparison of livestock management techniques in relation to the threat of predation in Bulililamangwe district (Mlupfeki)

The students will also use the opportunity to educate people in the areas they will be visiting about the importance of predators to Zimbabwe and how they act as indicator species for a healthy environment. They will also be teaching people on the ground how to tell the difference between cheetah and leopards to help with monitoring in the future. Many of the Rural District Councils that provided information to the project indicated that they were in great need of educational material and people to help teach the new farmers, especially as regards wildlife matters. Hopefully, the MZT cheetah project will be able to contribute significantly to the understanding of the role of wildlife in the newly resettled areas.

NEWS FROM THE DE WILDT CHEETAH AND WILDLIFE TRUST (SOUTH AFRICA)



NEWS ABOUT ANIMALS AT DE WILDT

We have 44 cheetah cubs, of which 4 are kings. It is a bumper year for De Wildt and driving down 'Lover's Lane' is a real treat. Once the cubs are old enough not to be stressed by the tour bus, visitors to the Centre will have an opportunity to see them. We wrote last time about the female we had assumed not to be pregnant – who unexpectedly gave birth to a king and two normal cubs under a tree. The story continues to intrigue! The mother became ill and a decision was made not to stress the cubs by removing them from their familiar environment so the mother was taken to the hospital enclosure and the cubs, who were already eating, were left in their newly built birthing hut. Althea Guinsberg, our Nature Conservationist and Janel Kruger, trainee Nature Conservationist became surrogate moms and mimicked the sound of the cheetah mother to call them for food. Initially they were extremely reluctant to venture out of their huts but Althea and Janel persevered with food and soon the cubs were responding enthusiastically. They now allow grooming and also play roughly with our two conservationists.

Nearly 900 school children visited the Reach for the Wild Educational Programme in May. The

groups varied in age from pre-schoolers to high school pupils. A special educational "touch programme" is being developed in association with Cheetah Outreach to will involve De Wildt's Cheetah Ambassador Byron. The programme allows visitors the opportunity of meeting Byron, looking at his physical features, such as his dew claw, his rudder-like tail, his broad nostrils and hearing him purr. Photographs will be permitted where appropriate. We hope that in this way people will have a life changing encounter with a cheetah and that this in turn will create numerous ambassadors who will actively campaign against the persecution of the cheetah.

The touch programme allows visitors to meet Byron and to take a close look at his physical features, such as his dew claw, his rudder-like tail, his broad nostrils and to hear him purr. We hope that in this way people will have a life changing encounter with a cheetah and that this in turn will create numerous ambassadors who will actively campaign against the persecution of the cheetah.

For more information, please contact Vanessa Bouwer on cheetah@dewildt.org.za

NATIONAL CHEETAH MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (SOUTH AFRICA)



WILD CHEETAH PROJECT

The National Cheetah Management Programme provides a forum for all role-players to discuss and develop a management strategy for free-roaming cheetah in South Africa.

Many readers will remember the cheetah that was chased up a tree, and bound with ropes whom we fondly called Bangles. This cheetah bonded with another wild cheetah Cody and was recently released onto a reserve in the Limpopo Province. Another 3 cheetah captured in the Limpopo Province have been released on a reserve called Amakhala in the Eastern Cape. This is a special release because one of the cheetahs is a cub and will therefore be one of the first cubs to be rehabilitated and released back into the wild through this programme.

Kelly Wilson, field researcher for the Wild Cheetah Project, spent a week in the North West Province, determining what the situation with free-roaming cheetah is in this remote and isolated part of the country. Cheetah may not be indiscriminately shot

in this area but illegal trade thrives. Deon and Kelly will soon be placing remote triggered cameras, donated by the Miami Metro Zoo with help from Ron Magill, on play trees in the Thabazimbi area. Free-roaming cheetah in this Province will also be collared to determine the size of the areas in which they are moving. The collars were made possible through John and Kay Pohlman and other individual donors in the USA.

FADING SPOTS – THE SA CHEETAH CENSUS

On 24 April two 10 month old cheetah cubs were saved from a very uncertain future when Field Researcher Kelly Wilson was informed of their plight. After a 17 hour journey the male and female cubs were brought to De Wildt for a thorough veterinary check. A release destination is yet to be found. Through the research being done at Jubatus we have found that youngsters at this age will be able to hunt as they would have learnt the basics from their mother.

At an NCMP meeting in April, the thorny issue of compensation to farmers who have suffered losses from so-called 'problem' cheetah was raised and debated at length. Representation from the farming community was strong and they argued that they could sell these cheetah on the black market for more than R50 000. Some farmers argued that the R10 000 offered was not incentive enough to stop them shooting cheetah. It was therefore decided to raise the compensation offered to farmers to R25 000 per cheetah. Members at the meeting verbalized misgivings about this decision and, in electronic discussions thereafter, the response to the issue was overwhelming. Most role-players feel that the compensation should not be raised from R10 000 and that the issue should be re-debated.

The result was a dedicated compensation meeting held in July 2003. The outcomes of this meeting included the formation of working groups to collect information on and assess different compensation schemes and alternatives, to draft guidelines for captive breeding and to investigate sustainable hunting of cheetah. The report is available from Deon Cilliers: + 27 (0) 12 546 0403, ncmp@dewildt.org.za

Collaring and Release

The National Cheetah Management Programme made history recently by capturing, collaring and releasing two male cheetah on a private game ranch (Silent Valley Nature Reserve) in the Limpopo Province. The cheetah were captured at a scent marking spot identified by Kelly Wilson and the owner of the farm. The cages were set using only the scent marking post (concrete block)

as "bait". The coalition of males were captured on 18/09/2003 and collared and released on the 19th on the same farm. These males will be tracked with De Wildt's microlight to determine the home range size of cheetahs in intensive game farming areas. This info will be utilised in the "Fading Spots" aimed at determining the numbers of cheetah that occur on private farmlands in South Africa. This is an excellent example of the good working relationship developed between the De Wildt Wild Cheetah Project and the farming community. A further 4 cheetah are to be collared and released in this area as part of the study.

For more info, contact Kelly Wilson on wcmp@dewildt.org.za

GLOBAL CAPTIVE CHEETAH BREEDING WORKSHOP (USA)

The North American Cheetah SSP (Species Survival Plan) held a Global Captive Cheetah Breeding conference in Dallas, Texas earlier in 2003. The meeting was held at Fossil Rim Wildlife Centre in Glen Rose, Texas where captive breeders from facilities in the USA, Africa and Holland convened. This meeting concentrated on the Cheetah SSP and how to improve captive cheetah programmes. The US cheetah population has declined in recent years and efforts are being made to rectify the situation. Laurie Bingaman of ISIS was there to present facts and figures.

From Fossil Rim the group moved to Dallas where the US Felid TAG (Taxon Advisory Group) was held. This conference covered all felids in the US and many interesting presentations were given.

Thanks to Alan Strachan from De Wildt for this Reportback, to the Cheetah SSP and Jack Grisham for convening this meeting and to Kelley Snodgrass and all at Fossil Rim for their Texan hospitality.

For more info contact Jack Grisham GrishamJ@nzp.si.edu

LARGE CARNIVORE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA REPORT (NAMIBIA)

Namibia, as a relatively newly independent country with only 1.8 million people, can be rightly proud of many things, not least the democratic way in which it approaches lawmaking. When the Ministry of Environment and Tourism decided to rewrite the legislation pertaining to the wildlife production and utilisation in support of biodiversity conservation and economic development, it was the vision of Dr Flip Stander, the Ministry's carnivore coordinator, to organise a forum at

which all stakeholders could have their say. The Large Carnivore Management Forum of Namibia became the evolutionary predecessor of what is now called the Large Carnivore Management Association of Namibia (LCMAN).

The objective of the LCMAN is to "promote and co-ordinate conservation and management in Namibia". This includes, among others, applied research and long-term monitoring of large carnivore densities, distribution, conflict and utilisation, sharing information, developing conflict resolution programmes between large carnivores and farmers, facilitating good communication between parties and appropriate environmental education. The large carnivores in question are lions, leopards, cheetah, hyaena and wild dogs. The LCMAN has met 4 times during the 2003. We currently have 14 paid up members (including government departments and NGOs), and several other interested parties have attended meetings.

Perhaps most important for the LCMAN is the fact that organisations and individuals working with carnivores come together to share experiences and exchange ideas. Namibia has the largest population (20%) of free-ranging cheetah in the world, so it is hardly surprising that we have numerous bodies tackling the challenge of cheetah conservation from all angles. The Cheetah Conservation Fund, Africat and Okatumba together with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism are all researching various aspects of cheetah ecology and biology. One of the most productive aspects of each meeting is each organisation's presentation of their activities since the previous meeting. This has served to enhance cooperation as well as stimulate essential discussion.

The LCMAN's input to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in the drafting the new legislation continues. LCMAN remains confident that when the new legislation is finally enacted it will be such that Namibia can be proud of it and the rest of Africa look up to it. New guidelines for keeping captive carnivores are now complete and the Ministry is in the process of retraining their staff so that inspections of all facilities can commence in the near future.

The issue of breeding cheetah in captivity in Namibia is challenging and at times controversial. After much discussion within the Association, the Cheetah Conservation Fund put together a comprehensive "Guidelines for Captive Cheetah Breeding Centres in Namibia". This was submitted to the Ministry to guide them in deciding whether or not an establishment should breed cheetah.

LCMAN has also tackled issues as varied as "Discrimination in the issue of permits for the trophy hunting of Spotted Hyaenas (*Crocuta*

crocuta) in Namibia” presented by Lise Hanssen, and the use of carnivores in filming ably led by Marlice van Vuuren of Harnas. Attempting to find ways to mitigate carnivore/livestock conflict, particularly with the explosive growth of game farming, is always high on the agenda, and the need for population numbers and trends remains an ever-demanding challenge. But it is not all plain-sailing. With poor rains, a volatile economic situation and a degree of political sensitivity, farmers naturally have other priorities which they consider more important than carnivore conservation. LCMAN members recognise that their work is cut out for the future. However the progress made thus far is considerable, and LCMAN will keep the Cheetah Global Forum abreast of its activities in the future.

For more information please contact Bonnie Schuman on cheeta@iafrica.com.na

LINKING IN SITU / EX SITU CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHEETAH SSP

In 2001, an ad hoc SSP Committee formed with the following members:

- Steve Bircher, St. Louis Zoo, SSP Management Group
- Mary Jo Stearns, Fossil Rim, SSP Secretary
- John Dinon, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, SSP Management Group
- Kelley Snodgrass, Fossil Rim, SSP Management Group
- Dusty Lombardi, Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, SSP Vice Chair
- Jack Grisham, SSP Chair

Responsibilities:

- Fundraising
- Soliciting proposals
- Review proposals
- Prioritise proposals

Global Cheetah Conservation Action Plan Meeting: August, 2001

- Proposals were solicited from all researchers, NGO's & educators that attended
- 11 Proposals received & sent to members of the Linking committee

Felid TAG April, 2002

- Linking committee reviewed proposals & placed in order of priority for funding
- Of the 11, one was fully funded and three were partially funded

Global Cheetah Conservation Action Plan Meeting: July 2002

- One proposal was withdrawn do to political problems
- 3 New proposals were added, total of 13 exist
- Letters were sent to Directors & Institutional Representatives of the Cheetah SSP
- Contained a list of facilities & projects that they supported and a list of current proposals

The following is a brief summary of the proposals:

Kenya

1. Project title: Status of cheetahs in Masai Mara National Reserve

Principal Investigator: Martin Mulama
Budget: \$9,000; \$5,000 from Columbus Zoo, needs \$4,000

2. Project title: Cheetah Conservation Fund Study of cheetah on farmland in Makuru Wildlife Conservancy

Principal Investigator: Laurie Marker
Budget: \$226,000 currently not funded

Namibia

1. Project title: Cheetah Conservation Fund: Endocrine Lab

Principal Investigator: Laurie Marker
Budget: \$122,000, fully funded by Cincinnati Zoo

CCF

The following institutions have given funding to CCF in addition to the Cincinnati Zoo: Columbus, Binder Park, Disney, Dr. Linda Munson, National Zoo (USA), OKC, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Tulsa, Utah's Hogle Zoo, White Oak Conservation Centre and Wildlife Safari.

2. Project title: Cheetah Conservation Fund Institutional capacity building for Namibian conservation

Principal Investigator: Laurie Marker
Budget: \$58,500 per year currently not funded

South Africa

1. Project title: Cheetah Forum Secretariat
Principal Investigator: Yolán Friedman, CBSG Southern Africa / EWT

Budget: \$8,000 per year; \$3,500 funded by Diana Twining; Steering Committee Member of the newly formed Cheetah Global Forum. Additional funding by Cheetah SSP and Wassenaar Wildlife Breeding Centre.

2. Project title: Cheetah Education & Capacity Building

Principal Investigator: Anne Beckhelling; Cheetah Outreach Trust
Budget: \$72,250 per year, partially funded by Fossil Rim

3. Project title: De Wildt Cheetah & Wildlife Trust Education Outreach Programme
Principal Investigator: Vanessa Bouwer
Budget: \$64,000 currently not funded

4. Project title: Fading Spots, South African National Cheetah Population Census
De Wildt Cheetah & Wildlife Trust
Principal Investigator: Deon Cilliers
Budget: Partially funded by Columbus Zoo, Binder Park and Cleveland Zoo \$228,850

Zimbabwe

1. Project title: Conservation of cheetahs outside of protected areas in Zimbabwe
Principal Investigator: Netty Purchase – Marwell Preservation Trust
Budget: \$15,000; \$5,000 funded by The Columbus Zoo, and funding from Tulsa Zoo. Still need \$10,000

2. Project title: Matabeleland Cheetah & Leopard Survey
Principal Investigator: Viv Wilson, Chipangali Wildlife Trust
Budget: \$24,000; \$17,000 funded by Columbus Zoo, Oregon Zoo and Oklahoma City Zoo, need \$7,000

Tanzania

1. Project title: Censusing Cheetahs: Designing & evaluating methodologies
Principal Investigator: Sarah Durant, Zoological Society of London
Budget: \$12,500 per year; partially funded by the Bronx Zoo

Botswana

1. Project title: Status of the Cheetah in Botswana
Principal Investigator: Rebecca Klein
Budget: \$75,000; Partially funded by Toledo Zoo

Iran

1. Project title: Field Training for Iranian Cheetah Conservationists
Principal Investigator: Laurie Marker, CCF
Budget: \$25,300; Partially funded by the Bronx Zoo

New Proposals for 2003

Project title: Determinants of cheetah distribution in Botswana
Principal investigator: Bruce Davidson
Budget: \$10,000 a year
Currently not funded

Project title: Cheetah Censusing Technique Development Workshop
Principal investigator: Sarah Durant and Yolán Friedmann
Budget: \$23,700; under review for funding

There are 55 institutions in the Cheetah SSP. 34 of which are actively involved in Situ / Ex Situ Conservation.

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

ALBUQUERQUE BIOLOGICAL PARK
BALTIMORE ZOO
BINDER PARK ZOO
BIRMINGHAM ZOO
BROOKFIELD ZOO
BUSCH ENTERTAINMENT CORP.
CAPE MAY COUNTY PARK ZOO
CALDWELL ZOO
CINCINNATI ZOO
CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO
COLUMBUS ZOO & AQUARIUM
DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM
FORT WORTH ZOO
FOSSIL RIM
LINCOLN PARK ZOO
MEMPHIS ZOO
MESKER PARK ZOO & BOTANIC GARDEN
MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO
NASHVILLE ZOO
AT GRASSMERE
SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK
OAKHILL **CENTRE** FOR RARE & ENDANGERED SPECIES
OKLAHOMA CITY ZOO
OREGON ZOO
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA
PHOENIX ZOO
SAINT LOUIS ZOO
SAN DIEGO ZOO
THE TOLEDO ZOO
TULSA ZOO
UTAH'S HOGLE ZOO
WHITE OAK CONSERVATION CENTRE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (BRONX ZOO)
WILDLIFE SAFARI
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

SPECIAL THANKS TO: CHEETAH SSP

Cheetah SSP *In Situ* Conservation Projects:

1. Sponsored 2 global workshops
2. Sponsored website
3. Sponsored FIV workshop
4. Sponsored the assessment of free ranging cheetah's in Namibia
5. Sponsored semen collection in Namibia
6. Sponsored PHVA (1996)

Current Cheetah SSP *Ex Situ* Conservation Projects:

1. Coordinating a global captive master plan meeting
2. Coordinating keeper training workshop
3. Producing video to capture management & breeding techniques

Presented by Dusty Lombardi, Vice Chair,
Cheetah SSP DLombardi@colszoo.org

PROGRESS REPORT FROM MATOBO NATIONAL PARK (ZIMBABWE)

Fuel n' money

The problem of getting fuel in Zimbabwe for our survey vehicles continues, and as a result it is often necessary to travel all the way to Botswana to purchase fuel. This involves using a great deal of fuel to get to and from Botswana just to purchase the fuel that we require for our field work. Furthermore, to purchase fuel in Botswana we need Botswana Pula which cannot be obtained at any Zimbabwean banks. We therefore have to purchase Black Market Pula in Bulawayo!

On the other hand fuel is available on the Black Market in Bulawayo at Z\$1800 per litre (the official price is Z\$200) so we have to pay over 9 times the value of the fuel to get it on the Black Market. But there is yet another problem. To purchase fuel on the Black Market you have to have cash. No-one will sell fuel unless you have cash. But cash is not available in Zimbabwe because the country has run out of money. It is therefore necessary to stand for hours in bank queues to get cash and often nothing is available. When cash *is* available you are only allowed Z\$2000 or occasionally Z\$5000 (about US\$1). A drum (200 litres/44 gallons) of fuel on the black market costs Z\$340 000.00 - so where does one get the money to buy fuel? It is therefore under these circumstances we are trying to do field work.

However, in spite of the fact that we cannot get cash or fuel, our Carnivore project in the Matopos and Hwange National Park is proceeding wonderfully. I spent 7 days in the Matopos in August 2003 and during that period was lucky enough to find all our radio-collared animals. Because of the shortage of fuel we only had enough diesel for one vehicle for one week. Nevertheless we still achieved a great deal in 7 days, as shown below:

Radio-collared Cheetah

During my previous visit to the Matopos in July we came across cheetah tracks in the Game Park section of the Matobo National Park. On one occasion there was evidence of an adult cheetah with very small tracks with it. It appeared to be a female with at least one cub. We didn't find the radio-collared animal and I suspected that they had moved onto the farms north of the Matobo National Park. On Saturday, a visitor to the Matobo National Park called in at my camp and reported that he had seen three cheetah near

Pomongwe Cave. I raced to the area and half an hour later I spotted them. They were still in the same area and one of the cheetah had a radio-collar. It was the male we released well over a year ago which was still with the same animal released with it. On this occasion the two animals were with a wild cheetah. Judging from the behaviour of our animals (both males) which were aggressive to each other and were continually fighting, the stranger that they were now with appeared to be a female in oestrus and both males were trying to mate with her. This was exceedingly good news and again I was delighted that our radio-collared cheetah and his partner had managed to survive for such a long time in the wild. This clearly proved that as with our radio-collared cheetah in the Hwange National Park, those in the Matopos are hunting on their own and indeed thriving in the wild.

Vivian Wilson, Chipangali Wildlife Trust
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
E.Mail : duiker@ecoweb.co.zw

CHEETAH OUTREACH: EDUCATION PROJECT UPDATE (SOUTH AFRICA)

In the July Annie Beckhelling (Cheetah Outreach), Anne van Dyk, Vanessa Bouwer and Marilyn Dean (De Wildt Wildlife Centre), Madeleine Croucamp (Free State farm owner), Pyke Chari, (Action – Zimbabwe - liasing and facilitating cheetah friendly education resources into Zimbabwe schools in partnership with Marwell) and Jennifer Buff (Smithsonian Institute, USA) met at De Wildt Wildlife Centre, South Africa, to discuss future plans for environmental education (EE) strategies in South Africa and Zimbabwe. The purpose of the meeting was to plan individual goals, identify priorities and action steps, share information and investigate the advantage and feasibility of building a South African working group for the purposes of implementing EE, focusing on the cheetah, within the participants home countries.

Currently Cheetah Outreach has completed the curriculum-linked Natural Science Teacher's Guide for the integration of EE into the classroom, using the cheetah as a learning tool. This resource, with its accompanying 6 posters, is being used as an exemplar by the Western Cape Education Department for the Revised National Curriculum Statements (to be implemented 2005) and will be delivered at no cost to each Primary School within the Western Cape Province. Cheetah Outreach has undertaken to workshop this resource with each of these schools and will be investigating the feasibility of simultaneously in 2004 building a Foundation Phase resource.

Copies of this resource and posters are available to any of the GCF members by request - don't forget to give a mailing address. Please also contact us for copies of the report.

Thanks to everyone who supported this initiative. Annie Beckhelling, Founder / Director: Cheetah Outreach www.cheetah.co.za

In Closing

Thank-you to all those who support and further the interests of cheetah worldwide. I look forward to receiving your updates for the next edition. Please keep 'em coming so that we are sure to include you!

Yolan Friedmann
Brenda Daly
Conservation Breeding Specialist Group South Africa, Endangered Wildlife Trust

GCF secretariat: cbsgsa@wol.co.za / cbsginfo@wol.co.za + 27 (0) 11 486 1102 / fax: + 27 (0) 11 486 1506

NEWS FLASH!!!!!!

News just in is that the American Zoo Association's Conservation Endowment Fund will sponsor, to a large degree, the Cheetah Census Technique Development workshop, highlighted as a critical need by the Census Group in both the 2001 and 2001 GCAP workshops. The workshop planning is in its early days and more information will be given when it is available. It will, in all likelihood however, be held in April 2004 in the Serengeti. Many grateful thanks for the CEF, Jack Grisham and Dusty Lombardi for their help and support in getting the resources together for this vital workshop, the outcomes of which will make an enormous impact on our ability to conserve wild cheetah for years to come.

The GCF secretariat is currently held by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) Southern Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa. The features in this newsletter represent the various GCF members and their projects and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the GCF secretariat or the editor of this newsletter.



**CONSERVATION BREEDING
SPECIALIST GROUP**
SOUTHERN AFRICA



Species Survival Commission of the IUCN – World Conservation Union



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