

# CHEETAH Tracks



MARCH 2009

NEW BATSWANA  
VOLUNTEERS

CCB MOBILE  
VETERINARY  
CLINIC STARTS  
IN GHANZI

CCB AND MOKOLODI  
EDUCATION  
OUTREACH



DEBSWANA



THE HOWARD G. BUFFETT FOUNDATION



# Rebecca Klein

**H**ello everyone, greetings from a very green Botswana! The country has seen great rains throughout the land this year, the rivers are running and the grass is high. This is good news for the wildlife and the people, particularly in our semi-arid landscape where water is so scarce.

On this positive note I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our 2 new Batswana (Botswana locals) volunteers, joining us for several months of voluntary work and training in conservation. Amo Keitsile, joined us in February, as the Ghanzi research assistant and is supporting Lorraine Boast in our Western Kalahari research activities. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Melbourne University.

*“Two Batswana volunteers, joining us for several months of voluntary work and training in conservation.”*

Kabo Makutu, joined us in March, as our Mokolodi administration/education assistant. He is currently working on our museum section at the Mokolodi Education Centre and carrying out cheetah talks and activities for the visiting schools. Welcome to the CCB team! January saw the initiation of our Livestock Guarding Dog (LSGD) Network veterinary clinics. The first clinic took place in the Western Kalahari in the region of CCB's new Ghanzi camp and was facilitated by Dr Kyle Good. Community Outreach staff, Morulaganyi Kokole and Phale Seele, have also been busy with site visits and attending to farmer support requests.

The first 'Sharing the Land with Predators' workshop took place successfully in the Southern Ranching area of Molopo and was well supported by Alan and Ronel Pickles of Flint Farm. This is an area where cheetah populations have significantly decreased in the last 10 years due to conflict and illegal trade. Many thanks to all who made the workshop a success!

In the Education department Wabotlhe Letubo has just returned from educational outreach visits to the center and north of Botswana. This outreach took place in collaboration with Mokolodi Nature Reserve, promoting environmental concepts from predator conservation to waste management. Many thanks to Mokolodi for providing the essential funding for this recent school outreach initiative.

In the Research department, Lorraine and Amo have been working hard compiling current CCB data, analyzing cheetah scat and monitoring cheetahs on farms through the use of camera traps. This has been a very effective way of engaging farmers to be involved in the monitoring of cheetah movements in the region. Here in the office, Brian and Winnie have been doing a wonderful job upgrading the educational resources and keeping members of the public updated with

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CCB activities and initiatives. They have produced new posters and teacher training resources, such revisions continue to develop these tools to maximize their effectiveness. So rest assured, we've all been working extremely hard to raise awareness for cheetah conservation in Botswana and continue to provide effective tools to our rural communities, whose attitudes will determine the future of cheetah conservation in Botswana.

Thank you, Re a leboga!

R. Klein



*Top : Amo Keitsile, who is volunteering in CCB's Research department.*

*Middle: Kabo Makutu, also a volunteer in CCB's Marketing and Education departments*

*Bottom : CCB's LSGD mobile veterinary clinic kickstarts in Ghanzi facilitated by CCB'S Dr Kyle Good and Dr Louise Cawley who was working with Maun Animal Welfare Society.*





# Research Lorraine Boast



CCB research has seen some interesting developments. Our camera traps have captured a new male cheetah in the area. The new male cheetah (M3) is appearing in a territory that seems already occupied by another cheetah, captured by our traps last year. The territorial male (M1) has held the territory at Kanana Wilderness Reserve for over a year and first appeared in our camera traps back in March'08. We have had several photos from a play tree on Kanana Wilderness Reserve and have recently placed a camera at a second tree he is also marking. Three weeks ago Lorraine and Amo set a camera at the tree and found two cheetah marking there everyday, often more than once a day (M1 and M3). After a week of photos of both cats we are now only getting photos of M1. It appears M3, the less robust male, has left the territory.

M1 is still marking more frequently at the moment. We presume he is still asserting his dominance, To deter other males. We are curious as to when he will return to normal marking behaviour. In the past he visited once every 7-10 days. Cats in Ghanzi average a territory of between 600-800km<sup>2</sup>. This illustrates why removing cheetah indiscriminately is not a good idea. From collecting scat we know M1 is mainly eating kudu and duiker and not currently preying on cattle. If he had been trapped the less robust looking cheetah would have possibly taken over, which appears weaker and younger and may have been more likely to become a problem cat.

*Top : Territorial male cheetah M1 also scent marking at his usual play tree in Ghanzi in the early hours of the morning.*

*Centre : Competing new male M3, scent marking on a play tree in the occupied territory of M1.*

*Bottom : One of our trap cameras capture a caracal in the very early hours of the morning.*



## Community Kokole & Phale

CCB has now introduced a community outreach programme at the camp in Ghanzi where Phale Seele, the new Community Outreach Officer is based. 2009 started with an invitation to the Khumo ya Ngwao Festival. Activities at the festival included football tournament and music performance by different local groups to promote sports and culture. CCB distributed our educational pamphlets, to individuals who visited the CCB stall, we held a short quiz competition on CCB activities in the Ghanzi area, for a prize. Two Ghanzi community members Mr. Moagi and Mr Johannes were our winners. We continue to engage with the farming community, and in the last couple of months have visited farms in and around Ghanzi farming area. We held a small workshop for the farmers. Farmers in this area are mainly subsistence and often come across wildlife more frequently as their grazing areas are not fenced. It was pleasing to see that they were very interested in CCB support. A follow-up in the area and neighbouring lands will be conducted later in the year.

Following the visit to Molopo farms in December 2008 the commercial farmers in the area requested a workshop. CCB's community outreach division started the year by conducting a PAC workshop in February, with Alan & Ronel Pickles at Flint farm in the Molopo area. The target for the workshop was farm managers and herders, who take charge of livestock management for the farm owners. Presentations were made on the importance of predators, correct identification of livestock loss, reducing livestock loss to predators and the importance of guard dogs. At the same workshop we had invited Tsabong Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) to present on the terms and conditions of the government's compensation scheme.



*Top: Phale - CCB community Outreach officer at the kraals with herders in a farm visit near Ghanzi.*

*Center: Group photo of Phale with the farmer and his employees and their families after a small workshop on their farm.*

*Above: Group picture of CCB community Officer Phale with farm workers after a mobile workshop near Ghanzi.*



## Community Kokole & Phale



The workshop was very much appreciated by members of the farming community in Molopo farms. In their response, the attendants found the information very useful, and will return to their farms with the intention of implementing improved farming management methods, For example, improvement of the kraal fence.

Another visit was made to Barolong farms, a commercial farm area, and they also complained of livestock loss to predators, particularly jackals. We have advised the farmers on livestock guarding dogs as a first line of defence in combating the problem and will hold a workshop later this year.



*Top: Community Outreach officer conducting a workshop at Molopo farms.*

*Centre left: Tsabong DWNP officer doing a presentation at the Molopo workshop.*

## Community LSGD

CCB has initiated its first mobile veterinary clinic, providing free care for Livestock Guarding Dogs in identified farming communities. The initiative started in Ghanzi and was extremely well received by the community. The clinic provides free vaccinations and sterilization for livestock guarding dogs. Free resources are distributed during the clinics on how to minimize conflict with predators. In 2008 CCB began constructing an LSGD network of farmers through our LSGD Newsletter and we now have 3 times the number of contacts we had in 2007.



Above: Dr Sue Flynn volunteered to help with the mobile veterinary clinic.



Above: CCB volunteer Kabo at Dinonyane in the Jwaneng area helping to hold a young LSGD at a mobile veterinary clinic held by CCB.

The project also aimed at improving the general health of domestic dogs in the surrounding areas which expose the guard dogs and the local predators to disease. CCB teamed up with the Maun Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) whose mandate is to control population numbers and health of domestic dogs through sterilization clinics. Together we sterilised 24 dogs and vaccinated and de wormed close to 200 animals, whilst informing these key communities about the benefits of using guard dogs.

The annual competition for the Best Livestock Guarding Dog in Botswana, helped significantly in promoting the programme. We are gathering much data on their use and we continue to encourage farmers in the programme.

## Education Wabotlhe Letubo

We started the year with a number of presentations at primary schools around the area. Among these were at Mokhomma, Samane, Lefhoko, Sese, Acacia and Teemane primary schools in Jwaneng and surrounding villages. We also visited Jwaneng Technical College. The teachers were pleased with our programme and would like to include our education material in the environmental education classes. We discussed a possibility of a workshop in their area or inviting them to one in a nearby district, and plans to use the Environmental Club at the college for practical work, including the construction of a predator play ground. once again we took part in the World Wetlands Day commemoration in Mopipi. We are pleased to inform our readers that the CCB stall received 1st position in the NGO category.

From the Wetlands Day commemoration, CCB joined Mokolodi Nature Reserve in their education outreach programme. The outreach was designed for primary schools and was based on wildlife conservation and waste management. Schools in the Central and Ngamiland district were visited.



Top: group picture after a predator talk of CCB education coordinator Wabotlhe, the pupils of Std 5 and their class teacher at Qabo Primary school.

Above: John Mackenzie Primary school pupils posing for a picture after CCB'S predator talk.



In the north we visited John Mackenzie and Clifton Primary Schools in Francistown. The school heads, teachers and pupils were all excited about the cheetah talks and in almost all the schools we visited, most had very little knowledge about the cheetah. Further visits will be done in the other districts throughout Botswana.



*Top: CCB stall at the commemoration of World Wetlands Day held in Mopipi.*

*Right: Clifton primary school pupil excited about the predator talks during the Mokolodi Outreach programme.*

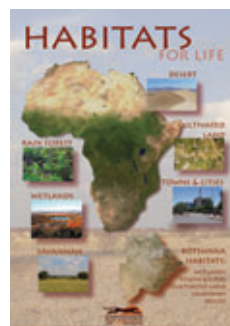


*Bottom: John Mackenzie primary schools holding out CCB resources after the predator talk in Francistown on the Mokolodi Outreach programme.*



## RESOURCES NEW POSTERS

With support from our local printing house and international donors. We were able to print posters for our educational programme. The posters are distributed with our other resources at our teacher training workshops and school visits as educational tools for the environmental education classes and school library. We will also use them for our Community Outreach programme initiatives like the mobile workshops and LSGD farm visits.







## CCB Opportunities

*International Research Students & Administration Volunteers*

This year, CCB is offering opportunities to MSc and PhD students who may be interested in conducting research into the cheetah population of Botswana. Field research placements open to MSc and PhD candidates only. Candidates should have a good academic record, hold a BSc or MSc degree, have a particular interest in cheetah related research and be able to obtain enough financial support to conduct and adequately complete the field research component of their studies in Botswana.

Also this year, CCB is offering limited, short term volunteering opportunities to non-residents of Botswana. We are currently only inviting applications from individuals who possess administration skills, with qualifications and/or proven experience, to assist in the daily project operation side of CCB. Placements are office based, will be for a period only of 1-2 months and

successful applicants will be based here at our main office situated within Mokolodi Nature Reserve. Monthly volunteering fees do apply and this is an ideal opportunity for those with skills often overlooked for placements with wildlife conservation projects in Africa.

For full details and application forms for both these opportunities, visit the Volunteering page of our web site at [www.cheetahbotswana.com](http://www.cheetahbotswana.com)



International volunteer and long time friend of the project, Marty Varon visited CCB in March from California in the US.



The CCB kitchen and gardens at Mokolodi Nature Reserve.



CCB Ghanzi Camp at PAN's Tiisa Ranch.



# Thank You to...

As ever, it is the constant interest, encouragement and support of all our donors here and around the world who's contributions fuel our efforts here on the ground. Special thanks to everyone who continues to support us in these growing times for CCB and most recently to:

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