



EDUCATION

Founded in 1990, CCF is a Namibian non-profit incorporated association dedicated to the long-term survival of the cheetah and its ecosystems.

CCF VISION

To see a world in which cheetah live and flourish in co-existence with people and the environment.

CCF MISSION

To be an international centre of excellence concerning cheetah conservation, and multi-disciplinary research and education programmes; working with all stakeholders to achieve best practice in conservation and management.

CCF's activities include conducting international research, conservation and education programmes to ensure the survival of the cheetah for future generations.

EDUCATION GOAL

To raise awareness of the plight of the cheetah and society's role in its long-term survival

EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

- To conduct programmes to convince the national and international citizenry that the cheetah is a valuable resource that must be conserved, and to provide a knowledge base that will encourage and assist the farmer in conservation
- To assure that predator conservation issues are included in formal education curricula and textbooks, and to develop partnerships with institutions of higher learning to help train and influence future scientists and decision makers

If the cheetah is to survive, it is essential that the value of the world's fastest cat is recognised both within its range countries and internationally. Environmental education plays a key role in the Cheetah Conservation Fund's (CCF) programme that will empower Namibians to protect their land and wildlife in a sound manner.

The CCF believes that public education and the development of national pride in the cheetah are critical to its survival, and therefore educates 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. The CCF's Education Programme includes:

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE

In central Namibia, CCF operates the Field Research and Education Centre to conduct formal and informal education programmes. The Centre is open to the public daily, and is used as an on-site public education and student training facility for Namibians and foreign university students.

At a national level, the objective of CCF's Centre is to teach young Namibians the value of sustainable practices in environmental and conservation issues from an early age. The Centre 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. Relevant issues are presented regarding factors that affect conservation efforts at the community level. The CCF's education programme and cheetah museum displays are designed around CCF scientific research findings and provide detailed information about the cheetah: its history, physiology, importance within the ecosystem, conflict with humans and what CCF is doing to ensure the species' survival for future generations.

The CCF education team presents three-day environmental courses for school groups with overnight accommodation provided at the CCF educational campsites. All participants are exposed to CCF research and conservation efforts via presentations, and to the Namibian farmland ecosystem through the museum, nature trail and game drives. Team-building activities are designed to highlight the importance of team efforts in conservation. Role-play and drama are also included in the programmes and include scenarios of livestock and predator management. Since 2000, over 6,000 students have participated in these courses. In addition to school groups, visitors include regional youth groups, youth officials, teachers, health officials and farmers that participate in specially designed programmes at the CCF centre.



“ By educating the leaders of tomorrow, we help ensure that cheetahs remain on the earth for future generations. ”

-DR. LAURIE MARKER,
CCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





MORE EDUCATION



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As 90 percent of Namibia's wild cheetah live on farmlands and come into conflict with farmers and livestock and game farming interests, CCF conducts a specific environmental education programme for the farming community. The CCF makes presentations at individual farms, farmer's associations and agricultural shows, highlighting proven cheetah behavioural characteristics and predator-friendly livestock management techniques.

In addition to educational activities at the Centre, the CCF education team presents outreach programmes at schools and community events throughout Namibia. Since 1994, over 120,000 students have participated in a CCF outreach programme, approximately 20,000 per year.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

To support the environmental education programme, CCF produces and distributes educational materials for primary, middle school, college students and teachers, as well as a livestock and wildlife management guides, biannual farmers' newsletters and other specialised materials for agricultural presentations.



INTERNSHIPS

The CCF operates several educational partnerships where students complete internships at CCF as part of their degrees. These include Master's degree students in Conservation Biology from the University of Namibia, training programmes for undergraduate students from the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia, and United States undergraduate students from the Oregon university system and Round River Conservation Studies. In addition, international university students come to CCF to study aspects of the cheetah and its ecosystem.

TRAINING COURSES

Cheetah conservation is interconnected to social, economic, and environmental factors, which are of national concern. The next generation of African conservationists must be equipped with the best training available. The CCF hosts several education and conservation biology courses each year for wildlife professionals. Collaborative partners include the United States Agency for International Development, Smithsonian Institution, Wilderness Safaris, the Namibian Ministry of Higher Education, Miami University and the Cincinnati Zoo. Courses include natural resource management, environmental education, conservation biology and game capture.



PUBLIC AWARENESS

The CCF conducts a strategic media campaign of cheetah-related environmental issues within Namibia and internationally including TV documentaries and magazine and newspaper articles.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULA AND TEACHER SUPPORT

To train and influence a new generation of conservationists, CCF works to assure that predator conservation issues are included in formal education curricula textbooks, and develops partnerships with government departments and institutions of higher learning. The CCF has signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Government of Namibia Ministries of Basic Education, Higher Education, and Agriculture. These Ministries support CCF's programmes and distribute resource training materials.



The CCF conducts training workshops for teacher and agriculture college students. The CCF believes it is essential that tomorrow's farmers are taught new and sustainable livestock and wildlife management techniques to reduce conflict with predators. The CCF also presents to volunteer organisations with teaching programmes (such as the United States Peace Corps and Voluntary Services Overseas).

The CCF continues to work to raise awareness in communities in other cheetah range countries such as Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Iran.



CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

PO BOX 1755 PHONE +264 (0)67 306225
OTJIWARONGO FAX +264 (0)67 306247
NAMIBIA E-MAIL CHEETA@IAFRICA.COM.NA

WWW.CHEETAH.ORG

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