

Workshop on Cheetah Conservation in Kenya



1 - 3 December 2003

venue:

Kenya Wildlife Service
Training Institute
Naivasha

Hosted by:

Cheetah Conservation Fund

Table of Contents

Agenda.....	p. 3
Welcome and Introduction	
Mary Wykstra – Welcome.....	p. 4
A. Research	
1. Cheetah Census in Kenya.....	p. 6
2. Cheetah Inside of Parks.....	p. 11
3. Cheetah Outside of Parks.....	p. 14
4. Problem Animal Issues.....	p.18
B. Education	
1. School Outreach.....	p. 21
2. Cheetah Expressions.....	p. 23
3. Great Cheetah Census and Snap-A-Cheetah.....	p. 26
C. Cheetahs in Captivity and Breeding Facilities.....	p. 28
List of attendees.....	p. 30

CHEETAH WORKSHOP IN KENYA 2003-2

Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI)
1-3 December

The aim of the second workshop is:

- To identify gaps in existing projects
- To develop links in cheetah conservation in Kenya

Agenda:

1 December - Room check-in after 4pm

2 December

7:30 Breakfast – 500/- for those not staying at KWSTI

8:30 Opening of workshop

Research:

- Census of cheetah nation wide
- Studies inside Parks/Reserves
- Studies outside Parks/Reserves

10:30 Break

11:00 **Research** continued:

- Problem animal issues (translocation, monitor...?)
- Human tolerance – where will focused efforts provide best results?
- How can we strengthen the link between cheetah and other predator research for the benefit of all stakeholders?

1:00 Lunch – 500/- for those not staying at KWSTI

2:00 **Education:**

- School outreach/teacher workshops

3:30 Break

4:00 **Education** continued

- Community outreach (Great Cheetah Census, Snap-A-Cheetah, Art Contest)

5:00 close for day

7:30 Dinner 500/- for those not staying at KWSTI

3 December 2003

7:30 Breakfast – 500/- for those not staying at KWSTI

8:30 **Cheetahs in Captivity**

- What should be done with orphan/injured cheetahs?
- Is reintroduction possible or feasible?

10:30 Break

11:00 **Cheetahs in Captivity** continued

- What would be the goal of captive breeding

1:00 Lunch – 500/- for those not staying at KWSTI

2:00 – 3:30 – **Way Forward** – Discussions and task assignments

OPENING COMMENTS
Mary Wykstra – CCF Kenya Representative

The aim of the second workshop is:

- 1) To identify gaps in existing projects
- 2) To develop links in cheetah conservation in Kenya

Cheetah behaviors and social groupings are understood to a large degree. Problems facing the cheetah are also recognized. The question asked by the CCF directors: is Kenya a valuable place to invest for the future good of cheetah conservation? Is the cheetah population sustainable? Is there enough land and are people willing to put conservation ideas into practice?

A. Areas of gaps in Kenya research include:

- 1) Cheetah Census: An understanding of cheetah populations. We know that cheetahs exist in most of the National Parks and Reserves. We know that cheetahs exist in pocketed populations outside of the reserves. But what we do not know is how many cheetahs make up these populations. Are home range sizes in Kenya any different than those in Tanzania or Namibia? Do cheetahs hold and defend territories-unlike the normal “no conflict” attitude of those in TZ or NM?
- 2) Inside of the Parks: What are the problems facing cheetah? We know that cheetahs have always had issues living in areas of large populations of other carnivores and scavengers. We know that the survival rate of cubs is 30% or less. We know that the average life of a wild cheetah is estimated at 7-10 years. Inside of Kenya Parks and Reserves are these statistics different and if so, why? More conflict with increasing numbers of predators? Tourism impacts? Conflicts outside the Parks resulting in not getting back inside?
- 3) Outside of Parks: Human Population – need I say more. The survival of cheetah outside of Parks lies in Human hands. Why should the small scale farmer tolerate predator conflict? Why should the poor not be allowed to utilize game animals when the wealthy are fighting for that right? What happens to the cheetahs as land continues to be fragmented?

B. Education is on the agenda, not just because CCF believes that it is the key to developing an increased tolerance through the understanding of the plight of cheetah and other predators, but also because it is the answer given by over 50% of the people interviewed as both short and long term solutions to the decline of cheetah numbers. This includes KWS interviews in Marsabit, Maralel, Samburu and Mara as well as CCF interviews in Nakuru, Machakos and Laikipia. Adults, teachers and students listen to information as we present it. Most, 80%, become more interested asking what they can do and how they can help. How can our education programs reach the greatest audience? How can we get people active in conservation through our programs?

C. Captive Facilities. Cheetahs make reasonably good pets because of their easy habituation and typically gentle interactions with people. This has been to their detriment throughout their history with people. How do we draw the line between pets that are for our pleasure and ones that are for the benefit of the animal? How do we set standards for housing orphans without encouraging the pet trade? What should be done with injured cheetahs that can not be released into the wild? Is it possible to set up a facility which attempts to rehabilitate cheetahs or to breed and reintroduce cheetahs? Does such a facility set a precedence for menageries – road side zoos/orphanage? Who would set the rules and who would enforce them?

Using the information presented in the first workshop and information from other papers and presentations this is an interactive discussion meaning that each participant is asked to present ideas.

There are no assigned speakers. After a brief introduction to the session each person is asked to come forward with their activities, ideas and suggestions to open up discussions on the way forward.

Any work done by CCF is in collaboration with KWS so unless otherwise stated all of the discussions below are cooperative projects. All CCF Kenya work is done with approval from the Namibian Executive Director, while some financial support is made available through them; the majority of the funds come from independent fund raising efforts. Any new proposals need to consider where the funding would be found.

Unless otherwise stated all opening statements were made by Mary. Discussion sections do not include names of people with differing opinions. The following format is used in these proceedings:

INTRODUCTION – Topic

DISCUSSIONS – Open discussions on the topic

ACTIONS

Committee: Members from this workshop interested in dealing further with this topic

Plans: Way(s) forward

CHALLENGES

Gaps: Areas of missing information or actions at this point

Methods: Methodology for moving forward

Focal Area: Region or district for majority of focus

Personnel Needs: In addition to CCFK or KWS staff

Equipment Needs: Wish list

Funding Ideas: Possible contact for local and international funding

Partners/Links: Organizations that could assist with data collection, information distribution, personnel or other aspects under this topic.

A. RESEARCH

1. CHEETAH CENSUS IN KENYA

INTRODUCTION

The census of predators is a difficult task. Estimates on predator populations are necessary in order to know the areas that pose the greatest need for conservation action. Population estimates in Kenya have been based mainly on studies within the park systems, yet it is estimated that as much as 90% of cheetahs live outside of protected parks and sanctuaries.

While cheetahs range over large tracts of land they are not known for travelling along the same path, thus track and faecal sampling is also proven to be an unreliable method of population estimates. While the most accurate means of estimating populations is through direct observations, this is not a reliable method for ranch-land cheetahs. The interview method uses information from other observers, but the right questions must be asked in the right way to determine cheetah vs. other animal sightings.

In Kenya, cheetahs are found nearly everywhere. The easiest places to sample are the Parks. Cheetahs that spend most of their time in parks become habituated and are easier to study than the shy and elusive ones who live outside of the parks. Several studies have been attempted to try to prove or contradict the issue of declining cheetah populations here – Graham and Parker, 1965; Meyers, 1975; Hamilton, 1986 and Gros, 1989-90. While these studies give conflicting results in estimating the trend, the final one found that cheetah populations had remarkable stability in Kenya. Contrary to studies in many of the other cheetah range countries, Gros' study found that cheetah populations were higher inside of the protected areas than outside.

Definition of CENSUS: A count that includes details of sex, age and numbers for a population of a given species in a given area. An accurate census is virtually impossible. Thus we can only hope to gain an estimated census of cheetahs in defined areas.

Techniques identified by the Census Committee for the Global Cheetah Master Plan (July 2002):
Mark-recapture – Although reliable, it means being able to sample a population through catching (photo, or physically marking) cheetahs. This method tends to bias in that it targets males and young cheetahs, thus is not a representation of total population

Whole population marking – This is most accurate, but most difficult in labor and time. Also it is difficult to know if the whole population is marked.

Spoor identification – While still under test, this method shows promise in areas where tracks can be found. It would not work in areas where soil is hard and roads are absent.

DNA – (hair,faecal) – Not proving useful since cheetahs do not use same paths. The utilization of scent dogs is being tested, but far from ready to use as an accurate census method.

Camera trapping – Again the lack of habitual trail usage prevents this method from being viewed as accurate.

Questionnaire Data – farmers, game wardens, tourists, herders. The largest flaws in this method are positive ID of cheetah vs. other species and telling the interviewer what he/she wants to hear. This is the most common method used.

The questionnaire method has been used thus far in Kenya in both KWS and CCF studies. Recent KWS and CCF studies have focused in certain areas, but have used different questions for estimating numbers. In order to make an overall census reliable the parameters for the census need to be determined.

The ongoing questionnaires can be combined with photo ID in the Mara and the launch of “Great Cheetah Census” tourism campaign and “Snap-A-Cheetah” community campaign.

Information thus far:

BOGORIA - Gros 1990 – 3, CCF 2002 personal conversations – 5 to 10

MARA ecosystem: Gros 1990 – 34 to 42 cheetahs, KWS 2001 Ngoru - 39 to 45 cheetahs.

NAIROBI National Park – Gros 1990 – 11-12 cheetahs, Independent party – 9 cheetahs.

MACHAKOS District – CCF unfinished interviews – 20 to 25 from Sultan Hamud to Athi River.

LAIKIPIA District - Gros 1990 – 76 to 117; KWS 2002 Musyoki/Kones – 250 cheetahs; CCF unfinished interviews 2003 – 60 to 80.

NAKURU District- Gros 1990 – 35 cheetahs, CCF 2002 – 20 cheetahs

Other areas by Gros 1990 –

AMBOSELI – 5 to 8 cheetahs

MERU – 24 to 30 cheetahs

SAMBURU - Gros 1990(included Samburu Reserve, Buffalo Springs and Sahaba Complex) – 22 to 34 cheetahs

TSAVO complex - 40 cheetahs

TAITA HILLS – 7 to 11 cheetahs

Additional reports:

MARSABIT district - KWS 2002 Musyoki/Kones – up to 140 cheetahs

MANDERA district - KWS 2002 Musyoki/Kones – estimates between 20 to 500, average of 150

KAJIADO district – Rainey 2002 (AWF) – Over one year 29 cases of livestock loss reported to be cheetah.

The combination of park and private/public land census is necessary to determine the future focus of cheetah conservation in this country.

DISCUSSIONS:

The questionnaire method requires a lot of caution as Kiswahili uses one word, “chui”, to refer to many carnivores. What method could be used to assist research in determining which “chui” is being referred to? Scent dogs have been reliable in many other research projects, but require the ability of a focused area.

The Laikipia wild dog project asks local people to collect scat. Could the cheetah project train people to collect faecals or other identifying material on cheetahs?

In a cost perspective, the observation-based research has proven most successful in other Kenya predator research projects and is considered the most cost effective for both long- and short-term research. Also wildlife forums could be asked to submit photos by linking it to the “Great Cheetah Census” and “Snap-A-Cheetah” campaigns mentioned later in the workshop.

It was suggested that other researchers be contacted to request their cheetah photos as well.

Another suggestion was the production of a sticker that can be sold to make money for the Cheetah Census campaign. The sticker would combine fund raising with awareness of the photo census campaign.

There is a theory that cheetah in the Mara, Tsavo and Meru are somewhat territorial as compared to what is traditionally known about cheetah ranging over huge "home ranges". While it would be beneficial to request that other researchers log waypoints of cheetah sightings, unless they are able to ID the cheetah it would still be difficult to know if it is the same or different cheetah(s). The information would be helpful in ID of areas where cheetah(s) are most often seen, but still may not be useful in "census". The most helpful information would be obtained if specific cheetahs could be tagged or collared. In Tsavo one cheetah was collared, but disappeared after only one month. A tag-and-release program has to have a long-term goal and commitment.

In Namibia the average home range for cheetahs is 1000 sq. km+. In Serengeti the range is an average of 750 sq km. Frequent sightings reported in small areas suggest that Kenyan cheetah have much smaller home ranges. This could be due to climate, land variations or human settlement. Only through additional home range research can we get the answer to this.

To help identify individual cheetahs it was suggested that an attractant be used to lure the cheetah for trip cameras. Tests of oral (foreign scat, pheromones, urine of cheetah in heat...) and audio (female in heat, mother calling cubs, siblings calling each other) attractants can be done in captivity and tested in the field. Some testing of uses of scents has been done but there does not seem to be a reliable source to date. In some species a natural attractant can lure the target animal to a trap to enable tag and release. There seems to be no natural attractant for cheetahs. No one in this forum knows if such a method would give skewed results (i.e. would males of females come to bait equally?).

Identifying areas of prey base could be key to finding cheetah; i.e. where Thompson's gazelle are higher in number the cheetah should be there too. Prey follows a pattern predictable by rains. KWS census could help to ID the times of highest frequency of prey species in given areas to allow those areas to be targeted. Information from other research projects may be able to estimate times when sightings are more frequent.

Frequently the fact that 90% of cheetahs live outside of protected areas is quoted, but the fact is we do not really know if this is true in Kenya. These are statistics from other countries. If we are to be correct in our presented information it is time to get our own facts. A suggestion was made to make a cover for a diary with the different predators. Hand these out to people all over the country and ask them to record the dates when they see a predator.

ACTIONS:

Committee Members: Samuel Andanje, Hadley Becha, Fabieni Harris, Tamara Jones, David Kones, Benson Langalen, Mike McCartney, George Moriuki, Mordicai Ogada, Amanda Perret, Sarah Purcell, Cosmas Wambua

Plans:

1) Each workshop participant is requested to speak to researchers in their area about sending cheetah photos to the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Any photos taken since 1995 will be useful in adding to the database. Photos can be submitted in print, slide and disk format. When possible GPS or named location should be included. CCF will make a flyer and send it via email. Workshop participants should send CCF a list of researchers and their contact information to assist in the distribution of the request.

- 2) A letter will be written to each of the Wildlife Forums asking their members to submit photographs. The same flyer being used to request researcher participation can be sent to the Forums.
- 3) Develop a sightings guide, which would be easy to use for researchers and rangers in the field.
- 4) Conduct training in how to use the guides and distribute them to KWS, Private sanctuaries and researchers willing to assist in data collection.
- 5) While 100% accuracy cannot be expected in the ID of cheetah vs. leopard simple guidelines in the form of a card on cheetah and leopard differences can be made available for field workers to leave with people that they come into contact with.

CHALLENGES

Gaps: The only place where strong methodology was used to estimate cheetah numbers has been in the Mara where there is actually photo ID of individual cheetahs. The CCF interviews have produced a basic estimate for Nakuru, and other KWS projects have given a vague estimate for some of the other regions. Due to the differences in the methodology used, it is difficult to say if the estimates are accurate. It is suggested that this forum evaluates ALL areas again with the same methodology to assure estimates are based on the same collection process. Areas chosen for focus can be based on a data search in KWS records – recorded problem areas outside of parks and strong activities inside of parks can be combined to produce a more accurate estimate.

A map should be produced to show areas which have been identified as holding cheetah populations to allow the determination of ground team needs in each area.

Current baseline estimates are: Magadi, Amboseli, Wajir, Maralel, Marsabit, Baragoi, Ludwar, South Horr, Garissa, Taita and along northern Kenya borders.

Methods: Combine use of data searches, interviews and ground team visual verifications with photo census campaigns (“Great Cheetah Census” and “Snap-A-Cheetah” mentioned in education session).

Area of Focus:

- Use KWS information on cheetah problems and confiscations to identify areas where the most frequent issues occur. This in turn can aid in identifying target areas for census and for long- term research.
- Use KWS and Forum information and recorded weather patterns can be used to determine the best time to census an area when sightings are a part of the study. .

Personnel needs: Over and above CCF and KWS staff currently evaluating cheetahs, East African Wildlife Society has agreed to assist in moving forward on census of Kenya as a model for use in other East African cheetah range countries and in other predator census programs.

- Students/interns to search KWS data for cheetah issues reported since 1997.
- Field assistants to conduct interviews in selected target sights.

Equipment needs:

- Cameras
- Binoculars
- GPS units
- Vehicles
- Computer (minimum one, could use a second as well)
- (Wish list) Satellite phones for each field unit – 6-10

Funding ideas:

- “Great Cheetah Census” stickers.
- Web page requests.
- Tourism Industry.
- Organizations that use cheetah logo in advertising.

Partners/Links: KWS Mara Cheetah Project, Masai Mara County Council, Mara Wildlife Conservancy (Mara Triangle), General Mara (Campfire - Mike McCarntey, Friends of Conservation – Helen Gibbons), Nakuru Park/Bagoria (KWS - Bernard Kuloba), KWS Hells Gate (Sr. Warden), Samburu (Save the Elephant – Shivani), AWF/Wild Dog Project - Benson Lengalen, KWS – David Kones), Tsavo (Wild Works – Sara, Kishushe, KWS Samuel Andanje), Laikipia (John and Fabi Harris, Amanda Perret), Meru (KWS – David Kones), East African Wildlife Society, Born Free, Laikipia Predator Project, African Wildlife Foundation, World Wildlife Fund)

2. CHEETAH INSIDE OF PARKS

INTRODUCTION

What are the problems facing cheetah? How do we identify those problems? We know that cheetahs have always had issues living in areas of large populations of other carnivores and scavengers. We know that the survival rate of cubs is 30% or less. We know that the average life of a wild cheetah is estimated at 7-10 years. Inside of Kenya Parks and Reserves are these statistics different and if so, why? Is there more than normal conflict with increasing numbers of predators? What are the Tourism impacts? Do conflicts outside the Parks result in cheetahs not getting back inside?

While we all fear that cheetah populations are decreasing inside of the parks, the Mara research does show that that population is stable if you look at Gros' work from 1990.

DISCUSSIONS:

Masai Mara: Noticeable numbers of cheetah are reported in the Mara Triangle – Conservancy area. Some of the workshop delegates believe that the estimate of 40-45 cheetah is actually lower than what really exist in the Mara Ecosystem. In the Conservancy, it is believed that roads and policies are better managed. Also lion numbers are not reported to be as high as in the Mara reserve. Recent burns have resulted in short grass plains leading to higher number of preferred cheetah prey and better hunting ground for the cheetahs. A long discussion ensued regarding the management of the Reserve – not a problem that can or should be solved in this forum.

Tsavo: Trends have not been monitored. The Taita Taveta area reports a high number of snares. The main target of the snares is Dikdik. These snares may affect the cheetah in the prey base as Dikdik have been reportedly a main prey for cheetahs in the Tsavo ecosystem. Occasionally a cheetah may be injured or killed by snares even though they are not the target. The Rukinga area has seen a decrease in cattle and have a low number of hyena and lion, so this should be a good cheetah habitat.

Samburu: Reports claim that the lion and hyena population is very high. Cheetah cubs have been seen being killed by lion and leopard. It is estimated as few as 5 –10 cheetahs in the Samburu – Buffalo Springs ecosystem. Poison is being used to kill lions, but should have minimal affect on cheetah. Snaring is also an issue in the region. Cheetah skins have been confiscated.

What are the health issues? Mange is a problem in the parks – especially documented in the Mara and cases also seen in Samburu and Tsavo. Treatment is given to reported cases in the Mara. In comparison, the Serengeti has a no treatment policy, as they believe that there is some genetic aspect to mange and disease predisposition is a natural occurrence. Should there be a treatment or non-treatment policy? This is a KWS decision.

There are currently no accurate estimates on mortality of cheetah inside or outside of the parks. While predation by lion, hyena and leopard is a threat, it is nothing new. Diseases do not seem to be a major factor in mortality either. Harassment by tour vehicles seems to have a higher impact on mortality than any other factor. This is direct in the form of cubs being run over by vehicles and indirect through stopping the cheetah from hunting and alerting other predators and scavengers of cheetah kills.

In all parks tourism has an impact on all large cats, especially during the critical time when the mother is teaching the cubs survival skills. Can order be restored to areas where off road driving rules have not been enforced? Should film crews be allowed to drive off road for their documentaries? How does the documentary industry impact the pressure on the tourism industry to seek out similar footage? It was

suggested to talk to Big Cat Diary about how to alert the tourists to the risks of off road driving and habituation (cheetahs on cars can be injured or can leave the park with the loss of human fear).

Tourism awareness campaigns are necessary to target the consumer! Friends of Conservation have launched such a campaign, now it is up to the Parks to enforce the regulations. It is only through this kind of pressure that tourism impact can be controlled. It was suggested to contact Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO) to assist in increasing awareness of the impacts of harassment on cheetahs.

What happens to small research project reports? How does one find reports on past studies of tourism impacts on cheetahs. Research should be utilized to produce recommendations, not to sit on a shelf collecting dust while we continue to speculate. We need to be able to make educated decisions on management of species as endangered as the cheetah!!

ACTIONS:

Committee Members: Samuel Andanje, Tamara Jones, David Kones, Bernard Kuloba, Sarah Purcell, Cosmas Wambua, Shivani Bhalla, Lumumba Mutiso

Plans:

- 1) Organize training seminars for researchers and KWS rangers.
 - a. In-house meetings
 - i. Research and Planning – Mulama and Bagine
 - ii. Director –
 - iii. Identify key people for training on information dispersal.
 - b. List of personnel available in each park (KWS)
 - c. Search KWS Park incident reports involving cheetahs
 - d. List of efforts needed in ID of cheetahs within the parks.

CHALLENGES:

Gaps: Currently the only formal cheetah research in the Park system is the Mara Cheetah Project. No one from KWS was present to report on progress or needs in this workshop. Other parks lack protocol, funding and materials for detailed research. The inability to determine study needs in other parks stems from the lack of information on cheetah numbers at this time. This ties the in-Park research with the need for the census as identified in the Census topic.

Information gaps inside the Parks include:

1. Cheetah numbers.
2. Dynamics of cheetah social structure.
3. Disease issues (this request is especially in the Tsavo area, Dr. Sayyid is studying the Mara already, what are goals?).
4. Impact of tourism, filmmakers and researchers.
5. Competition with other predators and scavengers.
6. Impact of livestock encroachment.
7. Impact of fencing.
8. Impact of poaching.
9. Habitat changes in areas of common usage.
10. Ecological studies – cheetah carrying capacity.

Methods:

Reports and research requests are submitted through the chain of command within KWS for both internal KWS and student-attached studies. In order to assist in developing research and funding there needs to be an open line of communication, cooperation and authority for involvement with KWS and linked projects.

- a. Form a training committee: Mary Wykstra, Martin Mulama, Samuel Andanje, Bernard Kuloba, Mike McCartney, George Muriuki.
- b. Use existing KWS records to sort out areas of concern and where additional information is needed.
- c. Ranger training: Patrols out on regular routines could assist with cheetah data collection if given the proper training and minimal supplies (differentiation chart [cheetah vs other cats], notebook, data forms...). These rangers are typically out with GPS already and could start marking cheetah sightings.
- d. Use existing rangers to train others to avoid over-use of permanent CCF and KWS staff in training exercises.
- e. Linking incoming students and researchers under the guidance of the existing projects.

Areas of Focus: All Parks should conduct a cheetah census and generally identify the issues facing cheetahs in each area. This is necessary in order to proceed with identifying issues for further studies.

Personnel needs: Staff for at least 6 months trained to ID cheetah in each of parks and reserves - over and above CCF and KWS staff currently evaluating cheetahs.

- Possible to train students/interns if funding and transport can be made available.
- Possible to use rangers and other research staff already on projects in Parks if GPS and cameras are available.

Equipment needs:

- Cameras
- Binoculars
- GPS units
- Vehicles and fuel

Funding ideas:

- Tap existing sponsors for nation-wide funding rather than localized.
- Web page requests.
- Tourism Industry.
- Parks and Private sanctuaries for vehicle and fuel while searching their location
- African Wildlife Foundation, World Wildlife Fund, International Fund for Animal Welfare)

Partners/Links: KWS general: Martin Mulama, Mara Cheetah Project (Masai Mara), Mara Wildlife Conservancy (Mara Triangle), General Mara (Campfire - Mike McCartney, Friends of Conservation – Helen Gibbons, Mara County Council), Nakuru Park/Bagoria (Bernard Kuloba), KWS Hells Gate (Catherine Wakesa), Samburu (Save the Elephant – Shivani, KWS Sr. Warden), AWF/Wild Dog Project - Benson Lengalen, KWS – David Kones), Tsavo (Wild Works – Sara, Kishushe, KWS Samuel Andanje), Meru (KWS – David Kones), Nairobi Park (Paul Gathitu), East African Wildlife Society, Born Free, Laikipia Predator Project.

3. CHEETAH OUTSIDE OF PARKS

INTRODUCTION

The survival of cheetah outside of Parks lies in Human hands. Cheetahs will naturally avoid areas of high human activity. Even if small game animals are high in number, activity levels are a deterrent, or the unattended small stock could become a better food alternative. Human Population and Livestock numbers have a large correlation with locations of cheetah populations. There needs to be stronger linkages between CCF and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

In conducting monthly game counts we have noted that the majority of the small plains game are quite close to the area where sheep are kept, and near the dipping areas. We are theorizing that 1) the short grass is more nutritious, 2) the short grass provides a better vantage, 3) the area is more secure since predators generally try to avoid areas of high human activities. Again, in speaking with ILRI people the same notation was made in the Mara dispersal area. What exercises can be done to test the affect that this has on predator conflict?

The Laikipia Predator Project and Laikipia Wild Dog project are testing boma utilization to reduce predator conflict. Additionally they are using cameras (Critttercam) on lions who have raided livestock. They have been looking at human predator conflict in the Laikipia region for several years and have a lot of information on the larger predator species. Fumi, with ILRI also has a lot of information on the economic impact of predators.

Cheetahs are not known for raiding night bomas (it does occur on occasion, but not regularly); their threat comes in the daytime when small stock is unattended or becomes separated from the rest of the flock. What stock keeping tests could be done? Why should the small-scale farmer tolerate predator conflict?

Another hot issue is the sustainable utilization of game. Why should the poor not be allowed to utilize game animals when the wealthy are fighting for that right? What incentives could there be to the small-scale farmer that would encourage them to pool their resources to promote game species? Is human-carnivore coexistence possible for small scale farmers?

Land distribution is also a large issue. What happens to the cheetahs as land continues to be fragmented? How does this affect the movement of prey and predator between areas? CCF has been as fragmented as the cheetah populations in their efforts. Until we determine the area best suited for long term human/cheetah conflict studies we will not be able to provide solutions. Again this ties out-of-park studies with the need for census!

DISCUSSIONS:

Outside of Parks the issue is the negative contact with cheetahs. In order to truly understand the impacts the economic issues, the livelihood of the people need to be looked at. This also means looking at the drop in overall wildlife numbers and peoples perceptions. The key is to bring these factors together as this is a large gap in the information we currently has. People always talk of the “rights” we have over animals, but very few look at the *responsibilities* we need to take.

It was felt that some data collected to date may not be reliable as it is the individual perception of the issue. Also there is a great need to pass information to the people who live with the animals in a simple way. To allow a comparative analysis, methodology needs to have consistency!

On the cheetah side of things there is an issue of carrying capacity. When cubs survive to adulthood how does that affect the existing population? Cheetahs leave the parks, but there is no study evaluating where they go. There is no information currently collected on adult mortality. As land is subdivided what happens to the existing wildlife population? Are they killed, do they move...??? Again, until there is a known population to study this information cannot be collected.

Outside of the northern Mara the group ranches have been subdivided. The people have the right to settle or sell, but it is not likely that much settlement will happen soon as the pastoralists prefer not to settle in one location. This may differ from other regions of subdivisions where settlement begins quickly after subdivision. In order to understand the affects of subdivision there needs to be baseline data prior to, during and following a sub division. Environmental Impact Assessments estimate impacts, but what are the follow-ups?

The more time spent in discussing issues with the people in an area of conflict the more understanding is created - this is the information sharing that needs to occur. Often, researchers based in close proximity do not even know the other exists. How can there be an ability to find out what long and short term projects are studying what? All issues of land fragmentation affect the survival of every species in an area, so researchers should be working together to share information and conduct joint projects.

Cheetahs appear to find safe havens. In the past these areas contained a large biodiversity, as human impact occurs the biodiversity decreases and CCFK believes that the cheetah are an indicator of over-utilization.

It was questioned whether livestock fences have any affect on cheetahs. Since cheetah can move easily through cattle fences, the movement of cheetah does not seem to be affected. Issues arise when fences are used for snares and when a cheetah runs into the fence while chasing its prey. It was also questioned if the Ministry of Agriculture could be approached for estimates on livestock numbers per year in the areas where cheetah populations are estimated to be higher. Traditional stock-keeping would have a young boy watching the sheep/goats close to the manyatta, but as settlement occurs the flocks need to be taken further away just to find a place not overgrazed already. Overgrazing issues affect the prey species thus affecting the cheetah.

As long as poverty is an issue, Kenyans will continue to see the subdivision of land as an answer. Alternative income sources need to be established, creating a market for wildlife and predator friendly products, and utilizing alternative land uses (game management, hunting...) . Once again education is identified as the key to human wildlife co-existence. Additional ideas of community based livestock and crop insurance could be a solution to conflict resolution. In the interviews conducted by both CCF and KWS the highest recorded answer to the question "What would you see as solutions to conflicts with predators?" is 1) Education and 2) compensation. We can not continue to ignore the fact that people desire information and they need to see a benefit from living with wildlife. The governmental agencies have security and economic issues on their plates that are bigger than the issues of wildlife conflicts. It is up to people to find alternative ways to live with the land. People need to be self policing rather than rely on "them" for all the answers – it is in our hands! There are some very small places (Paradise Lost in Nairobi for instance) where individuals have taken the initiative to preserve land and teach people about nature. These small places can assist in providing education that has a bigger picture.

ACTIONS:

Committee Members: Samuel Andanje, Hadley Becha, Tamara Jones, David Kones, Bernard Kuloba, Benson Lengalen, Mike McCartney, George Muriuki, Mordicai Ogada, Amanda Perret, Sarah Purcell, Cosmas Wambua, John Harris, Lumumba Mutiso

Plans:

- 1) Work forward from censusing and continue interviewing in rural areas.
- 2) Approach forums on training of community rangers – interest and funding.
- 3) Collect information on land fragmentation.

CHALLENGES

Gaps: The focus to date for CCFK research has been primarily Nakuru and Machakos with some information collected in Laikipia. The vastness of other potential cheetah range areas is wide.

Information gaps outside the Parks include:

1. Cheetah numbers.
2. Dynamics of cheetah social structure.
3. Disease issues.
4. Competition with other predators and scavengers.
5. Impact of livestock overgrazing.
6. Impact of fencing.
7. Impact of poaching.
8. Habitat changes in areas of common usage.
9. Ecological studies – cheetah carrying capacity.

Methods:

- 1) Conduct interviews based on the areas targeted through the census program.
- 2) Link with other researchers - Reports and research requests are submitted through the chain of command within KWS for both internal KWS and student-attached studies. As with in-park research, developing research and funding requires an open line of communication, cooperation and authority for involvement with KWS and linked projects.
- 3) Use the training information developed for in-park to conduct community workshops on predator issues.

Areas of focus: Initial focus can remain in Forum areas until the census data is collected. Ideally with a number of targeted locations, satellite stations for cheetah data collection would be required with a central collection base and consistency in methodology monitoring.

Personnel needs: These needs will depend on the number of areas identified. A ground team of 2 people per area would be the minimum required.

Equipment needs:

- Cameras
- Binoculars
- GPS units
- Vehicles and fuel

Funding ideas:

International Fund For Animal Welfare

Born Free

World Society for Protection of Animals

Flora and Fauna International

United Nations Development Program

African Wildlife Foundation

Partners/Links: Nakuru Wildlife Forum, Machakos Wildlife Forum, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, other Wildlife Forums, Mara Wildlife Conservancy, African Wildlife Foundation, World Wildlife Fund, Flora and Fauna International, East African Wildlife Society, International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya Agriculture Research Institute, Save the Elephant, WildWorks

4. PROBLEM ANIMAL ISSUES

Our case study in Machakos goes on... A few days before this workshop more goats and sheep were killed by what appears to be the 3 cheetahs. The cheetahs were chased away and took refuge again on the Stanley property. By Sunday, two cheetahs were seen crossing the highway.

Over the last year a lot of time and resources on the part of CCF, KWS and the Kiu community has been placed in the following of these cheetahs. Two issues still face us:

1) Should problem cheetahs be trapped? If so what is the most efficient way? In Namibia the draw to play-tree marking areas is so strong that farmers had been trapping cheetahs in that way for years before CCF was in the country. Here in Kenya there is no proven method of trapping the cheetahs; be it for removal or for tag and release.

2) Once trapped, what should we do with them? Would it best serve the community to tag and release so that more accurate monitoring can be done? To learn even more from them in the location where they currently live?

Should such a repeat offender be removed and if so to where? Once a predator, specifically a cheetah, becomes a problem animal it is likely that no matter where it is moved it will continue to take livestock. If that is the case, moving such an animal is just placing the problem in someone else's back yard. SO, to where should we move them? Should it be required that the farm or park accepting the responsibility for the problem animal also accept responsibility to monitor the success of such a problem animal? How do we justify those costs or should we try to find funding to provide equipment and personnel to monitor the translocated animal?

Human tolerance - where will focused efforts provide best results? CCFK has learned a lot from the Kiu cheetahs and can learn much more. At the same time similar issues are being faced in Laikipia, Samburu and Tsavo. Even in Bagoria it is reported that cheetahs come down from the escarpment to take stock when the game move down in search of water.

CCFK is very fragmented in it's efforts and to some degree has stagnated in the work in community conflict issues. KWS has neither the resources nor the personnel trained specifically in cheetah issues. For example a lot of the areas where CCFK has visited, although it is accused that a cheetah had killed some goats, the trapping method used is the same as what is used on lions and leopards, with a carcass being placed in the trap. Cheetahs typically do not go back for their carcasses nor will they typically eat from a kill that they have not made, thus this trapping method will almost never work for catching a cheetah. Training on specific predator issues is necessary both within communities and among KWS field staff.

How can we strengthen the link between cheetah and other predator research for the benefit of all stakeholders?

DISCUSSIONS:

The first question asked is, "What defines a problem animal?" In general a problem animal is one that causes habitual problems. One opportunistic attack by a predator does not make a problem animal. It is KWS policy to remove problem animals, yet there is no set guideline for when an animal is considered to be a problem. If a ranch owner perceives an animal to be a problem they catch it and KWS takes it to one of the parks. If a community is having a problem, KWS is expected to act as fast as possible to remove the problem. Seldom is it evaluated as to the cause of the problem – i.e. is it the fault of the animal or the management of the stock or crop? In the case of cheetah, removal means that it would

likely be taken to one of the Parks and released. In the case of lion, it would either be trapped or shot depending on the area. In the case of a hyena it is usually killed. Each area has its own unwritten policy. It is the goal of KWS to protect wildlife and at the same time help communities. It was questioned if moving a problem animal would negatively affect another community? Currently the KWS does not have the resources or personnel to answer every call on predator problem, let alone to conduct follow-up evaluations on effects of ongoing problem or translocated animals.

In order to know what cheetah are eating in between the times that they are taking goats/sheep it would be necessary to use a method of tracking the animal in its current location. GPS collars are easier to use in following the daily activities of an animal, but the expense is prohibitive at this time. Ground tracking is possible as CCF has just received a donation for purchase of equipment.

Translocation is a very difficult issue. One believes they are doing the right thing by not killing the animal, but in the end there is no way to know unless a monitoring system is in place. It is not just a matter of what happens to the one individual that is translocated, but how does it affect the other animals of the same and of different species when we tamper with the existing balance?

Instead of trapping methods could it be evaluated as to how to provide better livestock management? In general larger stock keepers have better management in place and if there is a loss there is less effect on their income. It is the small-scale farmer who suffers the most when an opportunistic attack occurs and 7 out of 9 goats are taken.

Once a decision is made that the problem animal needs to be moved the issue becomes “to where?” Since we do not have a good idea of where cheetahs exist and in what numbers it is hard to say what impact a new animal has in the area. There are many suggestions for movement into managed parks and sanctuaries, but none would have the equipment to monitor the released animal. In some cases the policy of the sanctuary is that no markings or collars are allowed at all. This means sticking with the current policy of moving without knowing the results. A list of enclosed sanctuaries in Kenya would be helpful in providing contacts requesting their ability to take and monitor the release of known problem cheetahs.

There was a long discussion on where to move the specific problem animals from Kiu; the issue of better livestock management was brought back into the picture. While the use of dogs with small stock and some use of donkeys with large stock is practiced to some degree, this has not been enough in the case of a repeat problem animal. Guarding animals protect against opportunistic attacks, but are not effective if the animal is truly a problem.

Compensation into the community as a group rather than to the individual who lost the goat/sheep would give everyone a sense that we care about them and their problem. It was suggested to provide some sort of veterinary care for the community or other livestock management assistance (dip, de-worming...). It becomes more difficult when there are multiple communities involved. There were additional discussions of community-based insurance policies. Strong enough policies for action need to be in place in order to assist communities in developing their own programs.

ACTIONS:

Committee Members: Samuel Andanje, Hadley Becha, Tamara Jones, David Kones, Bernard Kuloba, Benson Lengalen, Mike McCartney, George Muriuki, Mordicai Ogada, Amanda Perret, Sarah Purcell, Cosmas Wambua, John Harris, Lumumba Mutiso

Plans:

- 1) Suggest guidelines for identifying problem animals.
- 2) Suggest guidelines for dealing with problem animals. Work with the other predator groups and KWS on when it is appropriate to tag/release, relocate or kill a problem animal.
- 3) Development of training workshops within communities and KWS.

CHALLENGES

Gaps: Since there is currently no written policy on dealing with problem cheetah this would be the best place to start. A proposed policy can be submitted to the KWS Director and advisement can be continued through this committee if necessary. Additionally the development of a problem animal identification program could assist KWS and community representatives in dealing quickly and efficiently with problem animal issues.

- Identify past Problem issues – through data collected in census study.
- Draft guideline suggestions.

Methods: Use information collected in the census to identify cheetah problem animal issues. Use guidelines in policy from other predator projects including CCF Namibia to develop the first draft.

Areas of Focus: This is a nationwide issue, thus each area should be consistent in how it deals with problem cheetah. Some areas may need some addendum depending on the specific problems encountered.

Personnel needs: Within the forum of this committee the draft can be completed. Personnel for follow-up will be determined through the draft.

Equipment needs:

Computer

Funding ideas: ?

Partnerships/Links: Nakuru Wildlife Forum, Machakos Wildlife Forum, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Mara Wildlife Conservancy, African Wildlife Foundation, World Wildlife Fund, Flora and Fauna International, other Wildlife Forums, East African Wildlife Society, International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya Agriculture Research Institute, Kenya Wildlife Working Group – liaison, Large Carnivore Conservation and Management Committee – liaison, Laikipia Predator Project, Laikipia Wild Dog Project, African Wildlife Foundation, Community driven wildlife loss and damage compensation schemes

B. EDUCATION

1. SCHOOL OUTREACH

INTRODUCTION

CCF, WSPA, FOC, WCK, KWS, Elsamere, private education projects and many others organizations conduct school education programs in their clubs, presentations and camps. All provide wonderful information and programs. Is the message reaching the target audiences? We are asking the question, but do not know the answer.

In discussions with CCF director and with some of the other NGO's, CCFK has shifted focus a bit. 2002-3 programs reached over 2000 kids. They loved it. In some of the schools they said that such a program had never been given to them before. Following the presentation they asked what more they could do. Teachers also said they learned information they had never received before.

CCFK primarily focused on standard 4-8 with a few secondary programs. Giving programs in the schools requires a lot of hard work and time in preparing and giving presentations. But CCFK does not want to stop giving the programs. We want to make sure that the most can be gained from them.

It has been suggested that we tie our school programs in with teacher workshops. Volunteers, Meera Shah and Cheryl Robinson, have been assisting with this project in making adaptations to the Namibian and South African Teacher Resource Guide. They are also looking into costs in conducting workshops aimed at teaching the teachers how to use them.

In the early part of 2004 we would like to hold a workshop or a series of workshops geared at final development of the guide and setting goals on how to use it. In this workshop we would include other teaching institutions, teachers and members of this committee.

DISCUSSIONS:

This forum agrees that broad perspective education is more important than the focus on an individual species. It was asked what benefit the schools get from participation in the program. To date CCFK gives a presentation and leaves the kids with an activity page. Some within this group feel that in order to keep ongoing activities within the school more needs to be left with them. Rural schools do not have the basic study materials let alone the ability to conduct activities that are species specific. It is true that each teacher at the end of the presentation seems more concerned with what we can leave for them than in the information that we are leaving.

It was questioned what level of adult education CCFK has conducted. The focus to date has been on the kids, and the only adult education has been through sharing information at interviews and a couple of baraza. Education to adults needs development, but is more difficult. Which has the largest impact – education from the child to the adult or from the adult to the child? There are differing opinions on this. A forum suggested for targeting adults is the talk radio interviews, how can we involve politicians?

The largest problem with adult workshops is when they treat the workshop like a holiday. There must be the right information for the teacher to take back. Elsamere has had good experiences in balancing the teacher workshops with the kids programs. Children often tell their parents and come for a return visit with them. With teacher workshops, the teacher must leave with enough excitement to carry out the program once they leave the workshop. It is often the limited resources (inability to copy materials, lack

of craft supplies...) that hinder the teacher once he/she returns to the school. Follow-up is an important aspect.

Showing films/documentaries has a huge impact on kids. Interactive activities can supplement the information from the footage. Films in Kiswahili would be helpful. There is a company making films available in Kiswahili – CCFK should develop linkages with them as well as stronger links with Wildlife Clubs of Kenya and Youth for Conservation. Additional organizations include Japanese International Co-operation Agency, Elsamere, Laurie Bergman (Traveling films), Simon Trevor (film maker) and the KWS Education Department.

The use of live animals as an education tool was discussed. There is a fine line here in both the message sent and the stress on an animal. There are some very strong impacts when a live cheetah walks into a room and purrs loudly. At the same time it must be stressed that a cheetah does not make a good pet. (More in discussion of cheetahs in captivity).

ACTIONS:

Committee Members: Hadley Becha, Bernard Kuloba, Benson Lengalen, Amanda Perret, Cosmas Wambua, Cheryle Robinson, Meera Shah

Plans:

- 1) Produce educational material any group can use – available on disk and hard copy when possible.
- 2) Complete Teacher workshop materials – involve other groups and teachers.
- 3) Develop adult education opportunities.

CHALLENGES

Gaps:

- 1) Adult education.
- 2) Teacher workshops.
- 3) Useful school materials

Methods: Working within this committee to develop the material and involving linked organizations. Network of workshops to distribute the materials.

Areas of focus: all areas where cheetah numbers exist should have education materials and workshops.

Personnel needs:

Education staff – for material development and workshops.

Equipment needs:

Computer
Printed material
Vehicle and Fuel

Funding ideas: AfricaOnline, Local Businesses with cheetah in advertising.

Partners/Links: East African Wildlife Society, Elsamere, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya and Youth for Conservation, Japanese International Co-operation Agency, Laurie Bergman (Traveling films), Simon Trevor (film maker), KWS Education Department, World Society for Protection of Animals, Save the Elephant

2. CHEETAH EXPRESIONS 2004

INTRODUCTION

This is a program under development. The idea is based on a book published several years ago by CCF in Namibia, "The Orphan Calf and the Magical Cheetah". The goal of project is to raise awareness about cheetah conservation issues through arts. The targeted arts include single dimensional arts and crafts, and poems and creative writing. The target audience would be school kids; logistics are still under discussion.

The idea is to ask schools to submit entries of artistic and written media with the theme of cheetah. Submissions would be judged and winning entries selected for a travelling show. This show would need to be within and outside of Kenya.

Leah Neelson, a volunteer from St. Lawrence University has been developing the project. Cheryle Robinson and Meera Shah have been working with us to develop things from the Kenya side. Leah introduces the proposal in this forum.

DISCUSSIONS:

How do we target the number of realistic entries? Some workshop members feel that it would be more realistic to target only the areas where CCF has been working the most. The problem with this is the need to reach the larger audience in areas where cheetah live in higher numbers. As the cheetah is seen in many areas of Kenya it would be the CCF goal to receive entries from as many areas as possible.

How many submissions do we want and should we target areas where cheetahs exist in higher numbers or the easier accessible schools that would also have better art supplies? Should we target existing conservation clubs or a new audience? One idea was to target 10 regions asking for 5 art and 5 writing submissions from each region; having a local coordinator handling logistics from each area. If we advertised in the newspaper we could get thousands of entries, therefore we need to select an area and a number of schools per area. Perhaps the Giraffe Center, FOC or the Museums could assist in making suggestions.

If we are to set up the exhibit what would be the needs for matting, framing and displaying the winning entries? Costs need to go into the logistics of this project. A display should be nice enough to draw an audience, but not extravagant.

Where would the entries be displayed in Kenya? Would the tie in with Vermont and perhaps Utah be enough or should we try to find a contact in the UK to seek interest there? What about in Namibia?

Elsamere suggests to keep it small. In their contest they sent out a letter to schools, the schools did the work and Elsamere set up a display. They held a judging day where the students did the judging. Could this contest hold their local competition this way to choose pieces for a national entry – the travelling display?

Question about judging – what is considered good? Each judge would choose what they think is good, needs to combine realistic with creative and abstract. By having several different judging areas it would increase the variety in the display.

At the initiation of the competition there should be a fact sheet with the letter that goes to schools. Also a picture of a cheetah or a drawing from the Namibia book to give the students an idea of what is being looked for. Would it work to ask them to do the research on the cheetah? This would encourage them to use encyclopaedias and other books to find their own pictures and ideas. If our flyer

has a picture of a standing cheetah would all of our submissions be of a standing cheetah? Will such a competition work if we are not giving presentations at the time of the competition?

One challenge in such a contest is making it worth the time and effort for all participants; detracting from the pressure of winning to focus on the awareness raised through participation. Schools chosen for participation should ALL receive a prize. The prize for winning pieces should be more in the form of recognition and participation in the travelling show. Could the prize for winning submissions from each group be park entry and accommodation at a park or tourist facility? What about bringing the winners to the Mara for a visit to the park? Maybe ask a local artist and a storyteller to participate in the winning event?

What about publishing a book of the winners? It may be possible in the long term to combine the kids drawings and written submission with the “Snap-A-Cheetah” campaign (next topic).

ACTIONS:

Committee Members: Bernard Kuloba, Mike McCartney, Amanda Perret, Sarah Purcell, Cosmas Wambua, Lumumba Mutiso, Meera Shah, Fabinne Harris, Leah Nelson, Cheryle Robinson

Plans:

- 1) Setting of realistic timelines – when to initiate the contest? When to set the deadline for submissions? When to display the winners?
- 2) Developing rules/guidelines for the contest. Distribute them to selected representatives in selected areas.
- 3) Contact areas for display – Sarit, Village Market, Elsamere, Museums...
- 4) Prizes for participating schools and for the winners.

CHALLENGES

Gaps:

- Who can be the coordinator in Kenya? Leah and her mother can coordinate and try to raise some funds in the US.
- What are the rules for submission, proposal to be used in seeking funding and in requesting submissions?
- What budget items need to be included?
- Time line?

Methods: Rather than advertising in newspaper or other forms of press, it should be the individual in the targeted areas who chooses the number of schools/submissions. Only 10 art and 10 written items will be taken from each of 10 targeted sights. From the 100 select art and 100 written submissions 40 will be chosen for display.

Areas: 10 target sights could be chosen from the areas where we know cheetah to exist.

Personnel needs:

Kenya, US and UK chairperson to coordinate committees and set guidelines.

Contact person in each of the targeted sights

Equipment needs:

Flyers for schools with guidelines of contest.

Prizes for participation.

Matting and framing for display.

Transport of submissions for local and international display.

Funding ideas:

Sell cards to raise money – Mary has some artwork that could be used to make blank inside cards.

- Walmart and other similar places in US.
- Ministry of Tourism and Education to help with funding and organizing.
- Calendars, Gift Cards, T-shirts...?
- Large Tour operators.
- AfricaOnline.

Partners/Links: Giraffe Center, International Fund For Animal Welfare (James Iseche), Elsamere (Margaret), Born Free (Winnie), WWF (Julie Church), Swara, World Society for Protection of Animals (Gil Richardson), KWS Education division., Deano Martins (?Fabi has connection), Eli Weiss - Wild Eyes (Sarah has connection), EAWLS (Hadley Becha), FOC (Hellen), WSPA, EAWLS (Hadley), Museums Of Kenya, Kenya Schools Association

3. GREAT CHEETAH CENSUS AND SNAP-A-CHEETAH

INTRODUCTION

GREAT CHEETAH CENSUS

Launched earlier this year as a piggyback to the FOC Safari Code of Conduct campaign. This campaign requests the submission of photos to assist with the ID of cheetah throughout Kenya. These photos can be used in digital format to identify individual cheetahs. They can also assist us in determining where cheetah populations exist.

Target: Mara region and large operators in the first printing. Wanted to see how it went over. There has been a good interest, but to date the pictures are not flowing in. FOC has an intern in the Mara checking to see that the Safari Code information is being displayed and used. Posters requesting photos for the Mara Project were also sent down to the Mara – have they been distributed to the lodges?

Missing audience where there are large numbers of cheetah in the North and East (Samburu, Maralel, Marsabit, Tsavo's, Chyulu's, Amboseli...) Looking for additional sponsors to the tune of 45,000 shillings per 1000 of each style of cards. (Africa Online has agreed to sponsor 1000 each, but in order to keep adding logos the plate needs to be changed, thus it is best to have one or two more sponsors before second print.)

SNAP-A-CHEETAH

This campaign is aimed at the rural communities. We are raising funds for the purchase of 500 disposable cameras. The cameras will be distributed in areas of presumed cheetah populations (particularly areas where people tell us "mingi sana" cheetah). The camera recipient will be told how to use the camera, not to place themselves in danger by trying to get too close to the wild animals, that they can use 8 of the 24 shots to photo family and friends, the remaining photos should be taken of their stock, wild animals in the grazing area, and particularly the predators that they see.

Again, Africa Online has offered to be a sponsor in film developing costs. Hoping that EXPO camera will give ½ off the costs as a sponsorship as well. Would like to find a sponsor for T-shirts that can be given to the camera recipient on return of the cameras. Need incentives for the return of the camera.

Also would like to give prizes for top photos of cheetah and possibly in other categories as well.

DISCUSSIONS:

How can the Great Cheetah Census cards be widely distributed? Using the assistance of this committee a large portion of Kenya is covered. CCF staff and volunteers will need to follow up on use of distributed materials.

It has been suggested that we try to get the large safari companies more involved. A list of Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO) members is needed in order to mail a letter to them – and/or use their newsletter. Can also work within Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association (KPSGA). Travel News will also be approached to run an article on the census project.

Are the brochures affective? Need follow-up to the distribution and need to receive the photos in order to know how well they are working. Are the colorful cards being taken by the tourists as souvenirs? Should we include a permanent poster with our distributed information? What about a folded A4 black and white paper like the one used in Tanzania?

For the Snap-A-Cheetah program, how are the cameras being distributed? It is suggested that the representatives from this workshop assist in the distribution and collection. If a T-shirt is given to each participant would that encourage the return of the camera? Forums and KWS outposts could be used to assist with distribution and collection of cameras. CCF will develop the guidelines for the distribution, camera use and collection. Photos could be used in link with the Cheetah Expressions to produce a book of how kids and adults view cheetahs in Kenya.

ACTIONS:

Committee Members: Bernard Kuloba, Mike McCartney, Amanda Perret, Sarah Purcell, Cosmas Wambua, Lumumba Mutiso, Meera Shah, David Kones, John Harris

Plans:

- 1) Use advertising through Wildlife Forums and travel organizations.
- 2) Disperse flyers, posters and cameras in same regions to involve tourists and local people at the same time.

CHALLENGES:

Gaps:

- 1) Not sure how well used the brochures in the Mara are. Have a list of companies where FOC distributed the information, but their focus was on their own campaign and it is possible that the cheetah brochures were lost in the shuffle. CCF needs to write a follow-up letter to areas of previous distribution.
- 2) It is possible that the brochures are taken home as souvenirs, so it has been suggested to use posters as well.
- 3) Need good incentives for participation in Snap-A-Cheetah.

Methods:

GREAT CHEETAH CENSUS: Distribution and advertising through tour operators and lodges.

SNAP-A-CHEETAH: Distribution through CCF, KWS and linked researchers.

Areas of focus:

GREAT CHEETAH CENSUS: All major tourism destinations and companies.

SNAP-A-CHEETAH: Distribution to remote areas targeted through census activities.

Personnel needs: (To some degree these can be done in conjunction with other jobs, but follow-up is necessary)

People to distribute brochures and cameras.

People to collect cameras and ensure brochures are being used.

Equipment needs:

Printing of brochures, poster and flyers

Transportation

500 one-time use cameras and film developing

Funding ideas:

Tour operators and chain hotels/lodges, AfricaOnline, Safaricom, EAWLS, KATO

Partners/Links: Travel News, KATO, KPSG, Safari Companies, Kenya Professional Tour Guides Association, Kenya Association of Tour Operators, Ecotourism Society Of Kenya

C. CHEETAHS IN CAPTIVITY AND BREEDING FACILITIES

As conservationists, we all agree that wildlife belongs in the wild, but there are circumstances where orphan or injured animals need to be taken care of. A number of facilities already house orphan cheetahs – KWS and similar orphanages. Some ranches become homes for cheetahs that are placed by KWS, or are given permission to raise orphan cheetahs. Between the orphanage staff and the other caring individuals there is a wealth of knowledge on care and raising of orphans. Additionally, valuable information is available from the Cheetah Species Survival Plan, Cheetah breeding facilities in the Netherlands, South Africa etc.

Handling and housing of young cheetahs and adult cheetahs used in education facilities varies from location to location. Some may be too strict, but others too lenient. Currently there is no written policy on who is allowed to hold cheetahs or what the requirements are. Could this group make recommendations for KWS? Should an organization or group make suggestions on such policies based on the area they are being kept? (For example the policies set in the US and South Africa are based on laws made from problems that have or could occur resulting in law suits.)

How would someone be placed on the waiting list for orphan cheetahs? What are the pre-requisites? What about registering of orphans who have been raised but are partially wild? Is reintroduction possible or feasible?

Another issue is what should be done with injured adult cheetahs that cannot survive in the wild. What should be the requirements for housing an animal that has been wild?

If we are able to practice sound conservation in the wild there should be no need for breeding in captivity. Additionally the inability of any institution thus far to raise captive cheetahs for release means that such a task would be novel here in Kenya.

What about large enclosed sanctuaries where cheetah are monitored but kept wild once they are old enough to hunt?

What about the situations where cheetah are raised being taught to hunt but are being given supplemental feedings? Would they be good candidates for an attempt at breeding and release programs?

What would be the goal of captive breeding?

DISCUSSIONS:

There are many people willing to accept placement of orphans or injured cheetah. They just need the capability of channels to follow. Cheetahs are an attractive and relatively easily habituated animal. Problems in allowing placement of one species, such as the cheetah, occur when precedence is set. What happens when the person who accepts the responsibility decides that they do not want the cheetah any more? If requirements were strict enough this should not happen – the person accepting the cheetah would know the difficulties and expenses involved.

People know of cheetahs being kept in yards. Wouldn't it be better if those people were given the channels to link with each other for the benefit of the cheetah? As far as breeding – it is VERY difficult and very expensive to develop a breeding program, so this issue would be a separate item in the policy for accepting orphan cheetahs.

Requirements should include:

- 1) Enclosure requirements, Nutritional need requirements, Veterinary care requirements.
- 2) Inspections of facility should be KWS and CCF to assure consistency – both should agree on placement. The inspection should be preliminary and intermittently to assure health and safety requirements are followed.
- 3) An MoU should ensure that the cheetah can be removed should proper care not be given to the cheetah.
- 4) Each cheetah should also be registered with the SSP.
- 5) Should there be an educational side – if tourism is a part of the facility? In this group there was disagreement on this issue. Some believe that there should be no interaction with the cheetah and public. Others feel that the cheetah can be an effective ambassador for raising both awareness and funding.

A starting point in developing a policy is to classify what is an orphan. All attempts should be made to locate the mother. Additionally it has been known where a mother will take her cubs back as much as one week after they were separated. It is possible for a mother to adopt cubs of similar age to her own. If attempts are made to get the cubs back into the wild are not successful, the cub is an orphan.

When is there an injury where it would be impossible to bring the cheetah back into the wild? A cheetah must be in good enough condition to successfully kill 50% of its attempts. Leg injuries that prevent a cheetah from running leave it unable to hunt on its own, thus survival is not likely. Injuries that affect the ability to balance, see or eat (head injuries) will also leave a cheetah without the ability to kill or consume prey. In cases of injury it needs to be determined when to interfere and when to remove the cheetah from the wild and place it in a captive enclosure. In cases of natural injury it should be the policy to let nature take its course.

Young cubs will bond with people. Beyond 3-4 months the cheetah may calm down but will not make a good education animal. At less than 16 months the cheetah cubs still rely on their mother – hence it is the policy in Namibia to not release them. Occasionally, attempts could be made with a coalition, and there is documentation of 12-month-old cubs in the Mara who remained wild after their mother was killed. Such an attempt requires VERY strong dedication, careful policy and financial commitment (personnel, supplemental feeding, housing of caretaker in the area where the cheetah will be left...). If very young cubs are to be attempted for release, it would require nearly 2 years of very dedicated and strict interactions to teach the cub more than how to hunt – it must learn to survive and avoid all contact with humans. If it is a human doing the rearing the cub has already formed the bond. There is no documented case of an orphan or captive born cheetah becoming completely wild, in all cases some form of care is continued in feeding, keeping the animal near protected areas, or having the animal being constantly followed by a caretaker.

It was questioned if a Trust could be formed where orphan cheetahs could be sent – basically it would be a facility where enclosures for cheetahs and a visitor center could be set up (like the Elephant Trust or like CCF in Namibia). This is an expensive task and would require the right location and facility management. It is possible, but not in near future. There are many people and organizations who have expressed interest in developing such a place. Although orphans will continue to come in to KWS would this be the right time to try to develop a dedicated cheetah facility???

Education material on what to do if someone suspects an orphaned cub should be developed for guidelines for rangers and public. Public should NOT pick them up, but should be directed to a dedicated control person for instructions and coordination on handling the situation.

In the case of injured cheetahs a similar set of guidelines needs to be followed. Injured cheetah that can be rehabilitated are done so through KWS. If the injury is such that the cheetah can not hunt again, it has to be either sent to a facility where it can be fed or it would need to be euthanised. Again a consistent written policy would aid in decision-making.

CHEETAH BREEDING FACILITIES

On the aspect of breeding facilities, strong goals need to be determined. While improving the gene pool may be stated as a reason for breeding in captivity, there are dedicated breeding facilities in developed countries and scientifically based studies on artificial insemination. Should a facility develop a strong enough link in the current Species Survival Plan and take an active role in understanding the issues of captive facilities this would be a MUCH latter discussion between such a facility and Kenya Wildlife Authorities. In this forum it is agreed that there would be no need for breeding facilities to be developed at this time. Without a clear path for reintroductions the idea for a breeding facility is a very slippery slope!

ACTIONS:

Committee Members: Bernard Kuloba, Amanda Perret, Cosmas Wambua, John Harris, Fabinne Harris, Samuel Andanje, Tamara Jones, Benson Lengalen, Mordicai Ogada

Plans:

- 1) Draft of policy should be submitted to KWS Director and Vet Department.
- 2) Policy must include staff training, use of cheetah in education and fundraising.

CHALLENGES

Gaps: There are policies for housing, nutrition and vet care from other countries, but no written policies in Kenya.

Methods: Use this forum to draft policy for submission to KWS

Areas: N/A

Personnel needs: none at this stage

Equipment needs: none at this stage

Funding ideas: none needed at this stage

Partners/Links: Cheetah SSP, CCF Namibia, Cheetah Outreach South Africa, KWS Orphanage