

# SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHEETAH CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP

6 – 7 December 2005  
Cheetah Conservation Fund  
Namibia

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CONSERVATION BREEDING SPECIALIST  
GROUP SOUTHERN AFRICA



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SOUTHERN AFRICA**



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# **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHEETAH CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**6 – 7 December 2005**

**Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia**

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**

**Under the auspices of the:**

**GLOBAL CHEETAH FORUM**

**Hosted by:**

**CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND (CCF)  
ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST (EWT)  
CONSERVATION BREEDING SPECIALIST GROUP SOUTHERN AFRICA (CBSG –  
SSC / IUCN)**

**Sponsored by:**

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CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND**

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Dickman, A., Marnewick, K., Daly, B., Good, K., Marker, L., Schumann, B., Ezequiel, F., de Jonge, M., Stein, A., Hengali, J., Eddins, S., Cilliers, D., Selebatso, M., Klein, R., Melzheimer, J., Beckhelling, A., Schulze, S., Carlisle, G. and Friedmann, Y., (editors). 2006. Southern African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) Conservation Planning Workshop. Final workshop report. Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (SSC / IUCN). Endangered Wildlife Trust.

The CBSG, SSC and IUCN encourage workshops and other fora for the consideration and analysis of issues related to conservation, and believe that reports of these meetings are most useful when broadly disseminated. The opinions and recommendations expressed in this report reflect the issues discussed and ideas expressed by the participants in the Southern African Cheetah Conservation Planning Workshop and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the CBSG, SSC, or IUCN.

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Photographs on the front cover of this report were supplied by Deon Cilliers (top), Harald Förster (both middle photographs) and Laurie Marker (bottom).

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR THIS DOCUMENT**

All participants were sent a document containing an amalgamation of all the Problem Statements and Solutions relevant to the southern African Cheetah community out of both the 2001 and 2002 Global Cheetah Action Planning workshops (Appendix 4). The italic type within this report indicates the input and updates from the participants at the workshop.

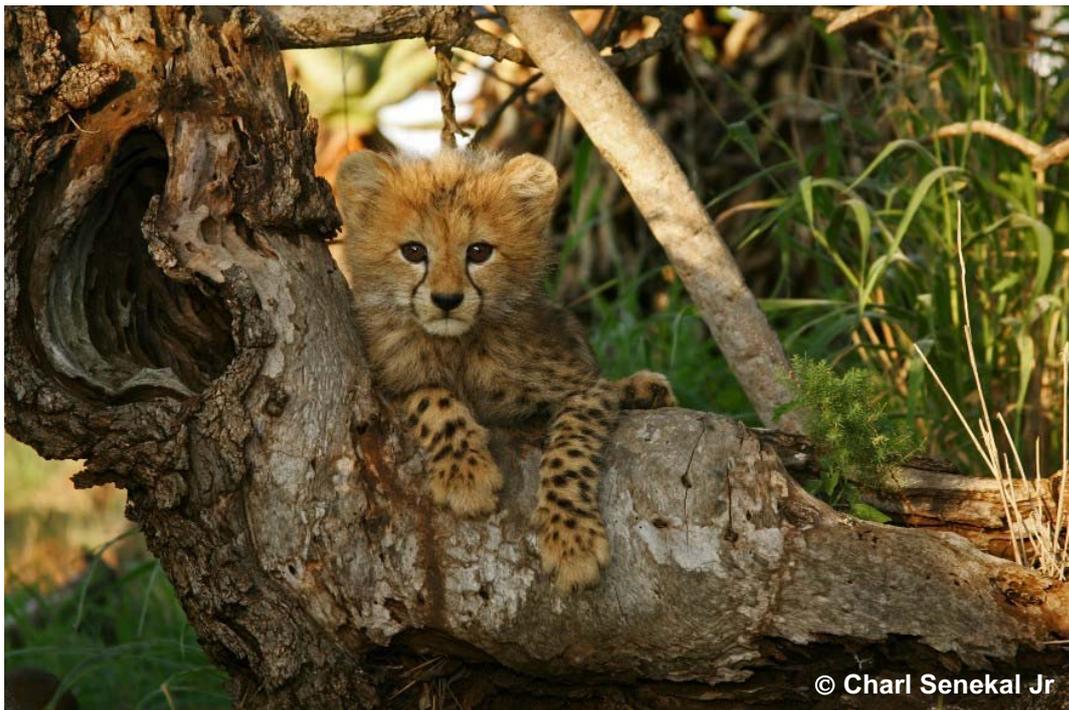
All the workshop reports referred to in this document are available from the CBSG website (<http://www.pdflibrary.ewt.org.za/>).

# **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHEETAH CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**6 – 7 December 2005**

**Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia**

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**



### **SECTION 1**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND CBSG WORKSHOP PROCESS**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The workshop convened a number of experts in the field of Cheetah conservation within southern Africa, to discuss programmes, techniques and strategies for improved collaboration and cooperation. Thirty-four participants from eight countries including South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, USA, Germany and Switzerland attended the workshop held from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2005 at the Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia.

The need to consolidate Cheetah conservation activities regionally and to plan collaborative projects to address the threats facing wild Cheetah was identified as the driving force behind this workshop. The Southern African Cheetah Conservation Planning Workshop was planned to address the following goals:

1. Develop a southern African regional Cheetah management plan;
2. Consolidate activities and projects in harmony with a plan to strengthen cooperation between all role-players (stakeholders) in Cheetah conservation in southern Africa;
3. Coordinate Cheetah monitoring and research within and between southern African countries;
4. Develop a system for the sharing and collation of information already available and a participatory basis for prioritisation and decision-making;
5. Revise tasks and report on progress made from the 1996 PHVA, the 1st Global Cheetah Action Plan Workshop in 2001, the 2nd Global Cheetah Action Plan Review Workshop in 2002 and the Global Cheetah Monitoring Workshop Report in 2004;
6. Identify the conservation actions required to achieve the best results under different circumstances.
7. To encourage pro-active conservation planning; and
8. Develop a strategy to curb the illegal trade in Cheetah between countries.

The regional workshop addressed the need for a stock-take of what has been achieved to-date, a consolidation of activities and projects and improved collaboration and cooperation between Cheetah projects across southern African countries.

This multi-stakeholder workshop represented local Cheetah conservation projects and programmes. Botswana was represented by Cheetah Conservation Botswana (CCB) and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), while Namibian organisations present included the AfriCat Foundation, Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), Large Carnivore Management Association (LCMAN), Namibian Agricultural Union (NAU), Okatumba Wildlife Research and the Waterberg Carnivore Project Namibia (WCPN). South African representatives attended from Cheetah Outreach, De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust, Cango Wildlife Ranch and the South African National Parks (SANParks), while Zimbabwe was represented by a researcher from the Marwell Trust and Germany by the Cheetah Research Project (IZW Germany).

In preparation for the workshop, a briefing document was prepared for all workshop participants, which included an amalgamation of all the problem statements and solutions relevant to the southern African Cheetah community derived from both the 2001 and 2002 Global Cheetah Action Planning workshops. The participants were asked to prepare for the workshop by reading through the relevant documentation and providing feedback at the workshop.

## **THE CBSG WORKSHOP PROCESS**

### **Workshop Design**

The workshop process comprised a series of plenary and working group sessions in which working groups worked through tasks designed to facilitate free thinking, brainstorming, discussion, debate and finally, consensus building. The workshop ran over two days and comprised three sessions, with the first session being a stock-take and consolidation of what the regional representatives had achieved to-date. The second session involved identifying gaps and prioritising what was not done, but was still considered to be important. The third session determined the way forward, based on the outputs of the first two sessions.

Three working groups were identified as follows:

- Cheetah Censusing and Monitoring.
- Cheetah Outside Protected Areas, focusing on ecological needs, land-uses, metapopulation management and translocation.
- Education and Communication focusing on human-wildlife conflict resolution.

Frequent plenary discussions between working group sessions enabled groups to present the results of their discussions to the whole group and obtain the input of all participants, which resulted in additional debate and insight from members of other working groups.

### **SESSION 1 – STOCK-TAKE AND CONSOLIDATION**

The three working groups were asked to develop responses to the following questions in their groups:

- What has been achieved / completed regarding the activities and projects proposed in previous workshop reports?
- Using the 2001 and 2002 reports as a guide develop a consolidated list of what has been achieved.
- What initiatives have been established which may still address the problems and actions?

### **SESSION 2 - GAPS AND PRIORITIES**

- Of what was not done, what is still important?
- Why were these actions not completed?
- What is missing in order to complete them?
- Reprioritise and order issues to be addressed based on needs, resources, importance and gaps addressed

Drop off any “wish list” items

### **SESSION 3 - WAY FORWARD AND PLANNING**

Consider the world 10-15 years from now. What will it look like for the environment, society, politics, economics etc? What local, national and regional changes will we see for the various sectors of society and the environment? How will we adapt to this world and how can we steer the outcomes? How do we ensure that we remain viable and relevant in the future? How will we ensure that we are addressing the most important

and relevant issues? How will we ensure that we are successful in our efforts for Cheetah conservation? How will we measure this and recognise progress?

Thinking about 10 years into the future, consider the following questions:

**Questions to answer:**

- Where to from here?
- How do we fill the gaps?
- How do we continue with the ongoing projects but improve them? Increased cooperation, collaboration, regional participation, resource sharing etc?
- What initiatives can we plan and develop to address gaps and issues?
- What is missing and what else should we be doing?
- What bigger picture issues should we be tackling that will require a shift in thinking and planning?
- How can we better use what we have (Global Cheetah Forum and other fora etc)?
- What measures should we put in place to determine not only the short-term success of our own actions but, more importantly, the long-term success of Cheetah conservation?

It was proposed that participants think outside the box but remember to plan according to the SMART principle:

**S**    **Specific**  
**M**    **Measurable**  
**A**    **Achievable**  
**R**    **Realistic**  
**T**    **Timely**



*Participants in the Southern African Cheetah Conservation Planning Workshop 2005*

# **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHEETAH CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**6 – 7 December 2005**

**Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia**

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**



### **SECTION 2 WORKING GROUP REPORTS CHEETAH CENSUSING AND MONITORING**

## Session 1 and 2

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### CHEETAH CENSUS AND MONITORING WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

1. Amy Dickman	CCF / Institute of Zoology
2. Harald Förster	Okatumba Wildlife Research
3. Christine Breitenmoser	Cat Specialist Group
4. Ann Marie Houser	Cheetah Conservation Botswana
5. Liesl Smith	Cheetah Outreach
6. Carla Conradie	AfriCat Foundation
7. Kelly Marnewick	De Wildt Wild Cheetah Project
8. Louis Smith	Cheetah Outreach
9. Fabiano Ezequiel	CCF
10. Andrew Stein	Waterberg Carnivore Project Namibia
11. Susanne Schulze	Cheetah Research Project (IZW Germany)
12. Laurie Marker	CCF
13. Arthur Bagot-Smith	Veterinarian (private), CCF Board Member

## Session 1

### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

All members of the working group gave a brief overview of monitoring activities in their region, these are summarised below.

#### NAMIBIA

##### **Harald Förster: Okatumba Wildlife Research**

Time: 2002-2005.

Study area: Four core study areas of 150-200 km<sup>2</sup> in Seeis and Willemstal, Namibia.

Methods: Radio telemetry, capture and release and spoor frequency counts.

Radio telemetry: 60 Cheetah have been collared in total and in collaboration with the Institute of Zoo and Wildlife Research, Berlin, 44 additional Cheetah were radio collared. ATS (Advanced Telemetry Systems) brand VHF collars were used giving a range of 10-20 km from the air in a fixed-wing aircraft and approximately 3-8 km from the ground. Cheetah were located three times per week for the last 3 years.

Capture and release: Approximately 200 Cheetah were captured, marked and released in total.

Spoor frequency counts: Four periods of intensive spoor count transects were undertaken. The spoor density of 6.1 spoor per 100 km transect was compared to the actual Cheetah density of 2.8 Cheetah per 100 km<sup>2</sup>. Okatumba's main research focus is on using spoor density studies for monitoring trends in the Cheetah population.

##### **Susanne Schulze: Cheetah Research Project (IZW Germany)**

Time: Project has been running for 3.5 years, 2.5 of these were in collaboration with Okatumba.

Study area: Seeis area.

Methods: Capture and release, radio telemetry and spoor frequency counts have all been done and camera trapping is planned for the future.

Radio telemetry: 53 Cheetah were collared using ATS VHF collars, which have a range on the ground of about 3.5 km. VHF collars are now being replaced with GPS (Global Positioning System) Vectronics brand collars, six of which have been fitted to-date.

Capture and release: 86 wild Cheetah were handled, including cubs. 24 of these Cheetah were females and 62 were males. Additionally, 12 female and 19 male captive Cheetah have been handled and 17 necropsies were done.

Spoor frequency counts: These counts were carried out initially but it was found that good data were not being collected, so this technique was terminated.

#### **AfriCat: Carla Conradi**

Time: Continuous for 12 years.

Study area: The whole of Namibia, but mostly in north-central Namibia.

Methods: No specific census or monitoring is done, but data are available for 553 Cheetah collected from farmers. 80% of Cheetah collected are re-released. Cheetah are all marked but not necessarily with visible marks: ear tags, marking collars and transponders are used. ATS collars were used on Leopards and their performance was satisfactory.

#### **Cheetah Conservation Fund: Laurie Marker**

Time: 14 years (1993-2005) in core study area.

Study area: The core study area is 15 000 km<sup>2</sup> around the Waterberg. The North-central area of Namibia of about 275 000 km<sup>2</sup> was surveyed.

Methods: Radio telemetry, surveys, spoor counts, capture and release and game density studies.

Radio telemetry: 55 Cheetah were radio collared of which 18 were females, 14 were coalitions and 23 were single males. ATS brand collars were used and were found to have a good lifespan, were lightweight and provided good signal. Cheetah were tracked twice a week from 1993-1996 and once a week until 2001 with a fixed-wing aircraft.

Capture and release: 676 Cheetah have been handled and 57 were recaptured. More than 155 necropsies were done. Overall CCF has conducted over 1 500 handlings.

Spoor density counts: Counts were done during game counts and 0.92 spoor / 100 km were recorded. The optimal sample distance was 1 655 km. Work is presently underway to attempt to calibrate density estimates from radio tracking (estimated at a minimum of 2.5 / 1 000 km<sup>2</sup>) with those from spoor and game counts.

Surveys: Several surveys have been conducted, which recorded among other factors, attitudes towards Cheetah and trends of Cheetah removals.

Other: Research has been conducted on Cheetah demography (biomedical and metamorphic data), reasons for Cheetah captures, game counts and genetics. Work has started on the use of camera traps to monitor Cheetah populations, with the intention of investigating the possibility of using camera traps long-term for this purpose. 40 DeerCam camera traps have been set on a 900 hectare area.

## **Namibian Carnivore Atlas**

The atlas data (collected by MET and Predator Conservation Trust – Flip Stander) were collected from information supplied by farmers and tour operators and a national estimate for Namibia Cheetah of 5 800 was obtained. However, this method was thought by the group not to be accurate for determining numbers, but rather for presence / absence information.

### **Waterberg Carnivore Project Namibia (WCPN): Andrew Stein**

Time: 2004-Present.  
Study area: North-central Namibia, Waterberg Plateau Park and surrounding farms 1 600 km<sup>2</sup>.  
Methods: Radio telemetry, GPS tracking, camera trapping and hair-snaring.

Home range use studies have been conducted on Leopards using ATS radio collars (1M and 1F leopard, 1F brown hyena). One GPS (Vectronic aerospace) collar is working well and is set for 4 fixes per day. A camera trapping survey is planned and 2 sites totalling 1 500 km<sup>2</sup> have been identified for this purpose. DeerCams camera traps are being used and appear to be working well but have not been extensively tested.

## **BOTSWANA**

### **Cheetah Conservation Botswana**

Time: 2003-2005.  
Study area: Southern Botswana, Jwaneng 20 000 hectares game reserve, not predator proofed.  
Methods: Mark recapture, radio telemetry, spoor frequencies.

Mark-recapture: 38 Cheetah were captured in 15 months, 30 of which were females.

Spoor frequencies: Spoor frequency counts are carried out on Jwaneng.

Radio telemetry: 5 Cheetah are collared, 4 with Telonics VHF collars and one with a cell collar from Telonics. The VHF reception from the ground is 0.5 - 1km and from the air 10-15 km. The Cheetah are monitored with a fixed-wing aircraft.

### **Other**

Spoor counts in western Moremi are being done by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and the NGO Caracal. Questionnaire surveys are being done in the southern Ghanzi district and an MSc study on predation and farmer's perception is also underway in this area.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **De Wildt Wild Cheetah Project: Kelly Marnewick**

Time: 2003-2005 (3 years)  
Study area: Thabazimbi district, Limpopo province  
Methods: Atlassing, range use, camera trapping

Atlassing: Over 2 million hectares of the Limpopo province have been surveyed.

Range Use: VHF collars have been replaced with cell / GPS collars from African Wildlife Tracking Systems. Collars are set for one reading per day and are working well.

Camera trapping: The study design has been improved since the Global Cheetah Monitoring Workshop and the study area has been increased to 100 000 hectares. Photographs of Cheetah have been obtained at all trapping sites. Trail Master traps were used with two cameras per trap and are working well. The traps do seem to trigger for no reason.

#### **Other**

Photographic surveys have been conducted in the Kruger National Park.

### **ZIMBABWE**

#### **Marwell Trust: Verity Bowman**

Questionnaire surveys are being done in the north and south Matabeleland. Spoor frequency counts have been done in Matusadona National Park, but further research is required to calibrate them.

#### **Other**

The use of detection dog trials is underway in East Africa to assess whether this technique can be used effectively to monitor Cheetah populations.

### **WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?**

A summary of all achievements are listed below:

#### **Spoor surveys**

These are done in most areas and some initial studies on calibration have been done in Namibia (Flip Stander, Okatumba Wildlife Research and CCF), but more work is required in this direction. CCF has analysed the data showing optimum sample distance to be 1 655 km with 0.92 spoor / 100 km recorded.

#### **Range use**

Namibia has good long-term data on range use (Marker, 2002). GPS and cell phone collars are becoming more frequently used in several studies. Reliable companies and collars have been identified, tested and used.

#### **Atlasing / Surveys**

This technique is mostly used for presence / absence data and for monitoring of attitudes and other similar types of factors. This work is continuing in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

#### **Camera Trapping**

Research on this method has been finalised and results published in South Africa. Trials are currently being conducted (September 2005) in Namibia at CCF.

#### **Mark-recapture**

Ongoing in Botswana and Namibia.

### **Disease Surveillance**

All feline viral diseases and canine distemper are tested for in most studies and in most cats that are handled.

### **Genetics**

Sampling is done in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. CCF Namibia has published data from 319 cats.

## **WHAT INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WHICH CAN ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS AND ACTIONS?**

A Global Cheetah Monitoring Workshop was held in Tanzania in 2004 and the report of this workshop is available on the CBSG website (<http://www.pdflibrary.ewt.org.za/>).

Please refer to Appendix 4: Problem Statements and Solutions, the italic type below indicates the input and updates from the working group participants.

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 3**

**THERE IS A NEED TO TEST AND ASSESS THE ACCURACY OF PRIORITY TECHNIQUES IN DIFFERENT FIELD SITUATIONS. Page 58 (2002)**

#### Solution:

Use priority techniques in identified areas with known Cheetah population sizes.

*This is being addressed and is ongoing within numerous studies. An area with a known Cheetah population needs to be identified as a test area. It is still necessary to analyse data further and continue with current projects.*

#### **ACTION STEP 2:**

Conduct censuses in target areas.

*Conducting trials of census methods, ideally in target areas with good existing estimates of Cheetah population size, to assess the accuracy of these techniques is ongoing in all countries.*

#### **ACTION STEP 3:**

Hold a workshop to disseminate results from trial censuses.

*This is still pending as such a workshop needs to be held at the correct time. Dissemination of results should not be the main point of the workshop. Researchers must write and distribute reports, publish papers and use e-mail, etc. to share information with other researchers. There is also a need to disseminate information on which techniques of population monitoring did not work. Such a workshop is not currently seen as a priority.*

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 5**

**THERE IS LITTLE INFORMATION ON CHEETAH NUMBERS IN MOST AREAS AND HABITATS WHERE THEY OCCUR. Page 60 (2002)**

#### Solution:

Conduct censuses of Cheetah in representative habitats within key range states and analyse results.

*All countries are using a combination of techniques to assess Cheetah numbers and population trends.*

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Ensure that there is sufficient capacity and trained personnel within key range states.

*It is very important that this is maintained.*

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Activate censuses of Cheetah in as many different habitats as possible.

*This is ongoing*

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Hold a workshop to disseminate results from censuses undertaken.

*To hold a workshop was not considered important at this stage.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 6**

**THERE IS CURRENTLY LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE IMPACT OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT ON CHEETAH POPULATIONS. Page 61 (2002)**

Solution:

Initiate long-term monitoring of Cheetah populations in areas identified under Problem Statement 5, Action step 3.

*Long-term monitoring of population trends has been established in all countries.*

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify key individuals, organisations or institutions able to implement monitoring plans.

*This action step was dropped as it was thought to be more applicable in a gap analysis.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 6**

**THERE IS A LACK OF TRAINED PERSONNEL IN MANY RANGE STATES. THERE IS THEREFORE A NEED FOR SPECIFIC TRAINING IN CENSUS METHODOLOGY FOR EACH SITUATION IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT CENSUS TECHNIQUES BECOME PART OF THE LONG-TERM MONITORING PLAN. Page 23 (2001)**

*All projects are training staff in census techniques based on the protocol from the Global Cheetah Monitoring Workshop 2004. However, there is a need to identify people in Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Angola as more capacity is needed in these countries regarding Cheetah monitoring techniques.*

## Session 2

### WHAT HAS NOT BEEN DONE?

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**CENSUSING IS NOT ATTRACTIVE TO DONORS AND IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE LACK OF PROGRESS TO-DATE ON THE ACTION STEPS OUTLINED AT THE LAST WORKSHOP. Page 58 (2002)**

#### Solution:

- Raise general awareness for the need for census data on wild Cheetah populations.
- Encourage census to be a component of all field projects.

*Action steps defined in the workshop report were not precise. It is important to identify the target audience and the funding slant should be adjusted accordingly.*

#### ACTION STEP 1:

Produce a leaflet outlining the importance of censusing Cheetah populations in the wild.

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Include census issues in public relations material.

*Census information should be used in public relations material for Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe.*

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 5**

**THERE IS A LACK OF COOPERATION AMONG GOVERNMENTS, LANDOWNERS AND MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP. Page 59 (2002)**

#### Solution:

Encourage frequent and regular communication within the working group and between landowners and government.

#### ACTION STEP 1:

Ensure that communication within the group occurs at least monthly.

*This action was dropped as it was not considered necessary.*

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Identify working groups or key individuals within range countries to disseminate information to stakeholders.

*This has been completed.*

#### ACTION STEP 3:

Disseminate results of workshops to responsible individuals identified in Action Step 2.

*This has been done on the CBSG website (<http://www.pdflibrary.ewf.org.za/>) but not effectively within government organisations. There is a need to spread information to all different levels of government from lower into the senior ranks.*

#### NEW ACTION STEP 4:

Improve communication with government

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 7**  
**THERE IS LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS AND**  
**THE ECOLOGY OF CHEETAH POPULATIONS IN DIFFERENT HABITATS. Page 61**  
**(2002)**

Solution:

Identify and collate all existing information and initiate in-depth demographic and ecological studies of Cheetah in habitats where there is no information available.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Collate and summarise existing demographic and ecological information on Cheetah into a report.

*The action step was not taken as it was seen as unrealistic, a huge job and not a priority.*

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Initiate relevant in-depth field studies in habitats where no information currently exists.

*The action step was not an immediate priority although areas where problems exist should be identified.*

**REPRIORITISED ISSUES:**

1. Data compilation at a regional level (status report) is needed, but this raises issues of trust and data sharing.
2. Test and assess accuracy of census techniques.
3. Ensure sufficient capacity and training – should follow once point 2 has been completed.
4. Improve communication and cooperation with government departments.
5. Establish relationships with government departments and national parks.
6. Develop contacts with other range countries: Angola, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia (De Wildt has placed Cheetah in Lusaka, so they could suggest a contact in this country).

## Session 3

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### CHEETAH CENSUS AND MONITORING WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

1. Amy Dickman	CCF / Institute of Zoology
2. Harald Forster	Okatumba Wildlife Research
3. Christine Breitenmoser	Cat Specialist Group
4. Ann Marie Houser	Cheetah Conservation Botswana
5. Liesl Smith	Cheetah Outreach
6. Carla Conradie	AfriCat Foundation
7. Kelly Marnewick	De Wildt Wild Cheetah Project
8. Louis Smith	Cheetah Outreach
9. Fabiano Ezequiel	CCF
10. Andrew Stein	Waterberg Carnivore Project Namibia (WCPN)
11. Susanne Schulze	Cheetah Research Project (IZWGermany)
12. Laurie Marker	CCF
13. Arthur Bagot Smith	Veterinarian (private), CCF Board Member

New working group participants: Gus Mills, SANParks / EWT  
Moses Selebatso, Department of Wildlife and  
National Park Botswana (DWNP)

### WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- There are various changes happening across the region, especially in terms of politics, land reform, etc.
- There is a need for data on the effect of such changes so as to determine the best way forward in terms of Cheetah conservation.
- A regional Cheetah status report should help, by addressing all issues – both for protected areas as well as livestock and wildlife ranching areas.
- This report should include all types of data, both incidentally collected and those resulting from more accurate studies.

### WHAT ARE THE GAPS?

- There is a need for more information on the viability of Cheetah populations within protected areas and for determining the value of protected areas for Cheetah conservation.
- Many parks could be important for Cheetah, e.g. Caprivi, Namib, Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR), Etosha, Khaudom (Kaudom), Zambezi Valley and the new transfrontier areas.
- There is a lack of baseline information from several range countries, e.g. Malawi, Mozambique, Angola and Zambia.
- For some countries, there is a lack of communication and cooperation between researchers and their governments and a lack of involvement in government policy.
- Areas with known Cheetah populations still need to be identified, so as to test methods / techniques for population estimation so assessing how accurate they are.

## **HOW DO WE FILL THE GAPS?**

- A regional Cheetah status report could address the lack of information regarding Cheetah in protected areas – this status report has been highlighted as a high priority.
- The group also suggested supporting new studies in protected areas. Possible suggestions are tourist photographic surveys in parks – e.g. Etosha, CKGR, Hwange, Chobe, Moremi, and possibly spoor studies on Cheetah in Khaudom (Kaudom) and other areas. There are many regional parks where Cheetah surveys would be beneficial, and the Cat Specialist Group (through Christine Breitenmoser) was suggested as a means of lobbying for more work within parks. Although there are issues (e.g. areas of Etosha are inaccessible to tourists) this would provide an indication of Cheetah presence / absence in different parks and protected areas.
- Contacts need to be made in other range countries to increase capacity and collect baseline information. The Cat Specialist Group will approach contacts in other countries and find useful people who can provide information on these countries. These people can then participate in compiling a regional Cheetah status report, attend relevant meetings, and correspond with other researchers through the Global Cheetah Forum mailing list. Possible ways of reaching new contacts, such as park rangers at manager levels, include African Parks (e.g. Zambia and Malawi). The Peace Parks Foundation is another good point for establishing baseline information in Malawi, and working with government will also be important.
- There is a need to identify areas where possible studies can be conducted that simultaneously use more than one method of Cheetah population monitoring to access whether they provide similar results. Various suggestions were made e.g. Jwaneng (spoor and captures), Kruger (tourist photos and radio-telemetry), Kalahari (spoor and photographs), CCF (spoor and radio-tracking with known density and mark-recapture), De Wildt (questionnaires, camera-trapping, etc.), and possibly AfriCat (spoor with known density).

## **HOW DO WE CONTINUE AND IMPROVE ONGOING PROJECTS?**

Continue and improve communication between existing projects. There is also a need to expand and improve communication and cooperation with government bodies, including conservation departments, agriculture, education, national parks etc.

## **WHAT INITIATIVES CAN WE PLAN AND DEVELOP TO ADDRESS GAPS AND ISSUES?**

- It would be useful to collate the large amount of data available in park reports, problem animal control reports, grey literature (in Cat Specialist Group website etc.) so providing information on Cheetah both inside and outside parks.
- A recommendation was made for formal projects to collect information on Cheetah (both in parks and elsewhere). A dedicated person could be employed to collate this information, or it could be done through existing projects, (e.g. Cheetah Conservation Botswana could collect data from government departments).
- Improving communication with government is important, but this depends on the individual situation as problems have been experienced with a lack of continuity in terms of officials. In certain instances alternative arrangements need to be made by sending the information to different levels in the departments.
- Government involvement should be ensured by informing Ministers of meetings, etc. and extending invitations.

- There is a need to become more involved in policy making fora – for instance Cheetah groups could lobby against game camps etc. Important policy issues include resettlement, game camp construction and species outside natural distribution areas, trophy hunting, and whatever else is important at national level.
- A regional Cheetah status report will help with leverage, both at national and international government level.

In Botswana, conservation bodies found there was a lack of understanding of the activities of Cheetah Conservation Botswana, so to address this they ran workshops to train government officials and ensured involvement by inviting officials to all workshops etc. This helps increase networks and communication. The Cheetah Conservation Fund has also run workshops that involve government officials, and the group suggests that this process should be repeated in other range countries.

### **WHAT BIGGER PICTURE ISSUES SHOULD WE BE TACKLING WHICH REQUIRE A SHIFT IN THINKING AND PLANNING?**

There is a need to consider longer-term situations. Over the next 10-15 years, resettlement and land reform will become a greater issue in Zimbabwe; and is happening in Namibia and will happen in South Africa. With an increase in wildlife ranches and small expansions in protected areas, the expectation is that this will not continue into the long-term, therefore there may be a move towards community conservancies etc. which will count as protected areas. The creation of large protected areas and transfrontier parks is very positive but may need active human-wildlife conflict resolution initiatives.

There is a need to increase capacity (e.g. on the Mozambique side of the new transfrontier park) and make contact with people from emerging conservancies and affirmative action farmers (Namibia), so as to increase training and awareness and build relationships.

Country-wide changes anticipated over next 10-15 years:

- Namibia – more resettlement, wildlife ranches, affirmative action farmers and an increase in conservancies.
- South Africa – national parks are safe for now, but increased redistribution of land will occur. Increased conservancy formation and dropping of fences.
- Botswana – national parks are safe, however, a court case is still pending over Bushman removals from the CKGR (this may be an obstacle). Commercial ranches are moving towards wildlife ranching and conservancies are becoming a trend.
- Zimbabwe – Ongoing land reform and political uncertainty. Lion hunting has been stopped around Hwange National Park for 2 years.

There are two major emerging problems in Namibia (and elsewhere to varying extents), namely resettlements and an increase in game camps. Experience in Zimbabwe has shown that resettlement is not all bad and there is a need to give people opportunities and to provide assistance. A suggestion was made to identify resettlement farms in advance and do repeated surveys on a yearly or six monthly basis to determine the environmental impact, this was seen as an important gap to address. Studies could also be conducted which compare Cheetah surveys on resettled and nearby commercial farms, although it can be difficult to know who to contact regarding resettlements.

Hard facts on the effect of land-use change on biodiversity are needed to influence policy-makers. There is a need for initial data compilation providing an overview of

where we are now, and the regional status report will address issues of land reform and threat.

**WHAT MEASURES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED FOR MEASURING LONG-TERM CHEETAH CONSERVATION SUCCESS AS WELL AS SHORT-TERM ACTIONS?**

There is a need to assess the impact of changes on Cheetah conservation using a combination of different techniques, such as questionnaire surveys (to measure attitudes) looking at the number of Cheetah complaints and removals and the amount of land available as 'Cheetah-friendly' e.g. lodges in South Africa and Cheetah Country Beef farmers in Namibia.

Over 1 million hectares of land has been classed as 'Cheetah-friendly' in South Africa and there was a suggestion of expanding this programme regionally. However, to assess long-term Cheetah conservation we ultimately need to look at Cheetah population trends, so there is a need to monitor repeatable indices of Cheetah populations. Overall, we need to use a combination of the different methods mentioned above and conduct surveys repeatedly.

There is a need to discuss what the definition of the 'success' of Cheetah conservation is, i.e. whether it is defined by stable or increasing population sizes or the amount of suitable habitat etc. It should be stated that habitat may be physically suitable for Cheetah e.g. on wildlife ranches, but not appropriate due to conflict with people.

# **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHEETAH CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**6 – 7 December 2005**

**Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia**

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**



### **SECTION 3 WORKING GROUP REPORTS CHEETAH OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS**

## Session 1 and 2

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This working group focused on ecological needs, land-uses, metapopulation management and translocation.

### **CHEETAH OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS**

1. Gus Mills	SANParks / EWT
2. Deon Cilliers	De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust
3. Kyle Good	Cheetah Conservation Botswana
4. Laurie Marker	CCF
5. Joerg Melzheimer	Cheetah Research Project
6. Stefan Hausmann	Okatumba Wildlife Research
7. Marianne de Jonge	CCF
8. Josephine Henghali	CCF
9. Harry Schneider-Waterberg	Namibian Agricultural Union

### **WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND WHAT HAS NOT BEEN DONE?**

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 1**

**CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND CHEETAH OCCUPYING THE SAME AREA. Page 33 (2001) Page 65 (2002)**

#### Solution:

Conflict resolution, recognising that human needs play a key role, needs to be applied to communities where people and Cheetah occupy the same area. Resolution of conflicts should be divided into short- and long-term solutions.

#### SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS

##### Short-term solution 1:

Identifying stakeholders in the range states from which sub-regional and regional Cheetah fora can be set up to address the issues of conflict within and between countries and work towards resolving conflict.

#### **ACTION STEP:**

Establish regional fora to address conflict issues. Otherwise, use existing fora within range states to help form new groups within other countries that will then be incorporated into regional fora.

- South Africa - Mozambique and Botswana
- Namibia - Central Africa and North Africa
- Zimbabwe - Zambia

#### *Fora established to-date include:*

*South Africa – National Cheetah Conservation Forum of South Africa (NCCF)*

*Namibia – Large Carnivore Management Association (LCMAN)*

*Botswana – None*

*Zimbabwe – None (Leopard and Cheetah Forum Collapsed)*

*Shashe-Limpopo Predator Research Group (SLPRG) is focussed on the research aspects in areas where South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana join up. The establishment of Cheetah conservation fora in Botswana and Zimbabwe are very important due to existing Cheetah programmes in these countries.*

### Botswana

*Fora have not been established in Botswana due to capacity and time constraints. The question is what type of forum is needed in Botswana e.g. which and how many stakeholders (Farmer associations, Game Ranching associations, Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), other NGOs, Veterinary Association and Hunting Associations). No champion has taken the lead in this respect; however political support exists. Cheetah are classed as a "problem animal issue" and this needs to change to a Cheetah conservation driven issue. Cheetah Conservation Botswana needs advice from stakeholders in Botswana on the type of forum to be established and if this is necessary for the long-term conservation of Cheetah in Botswana. Concerns are that there are inadequate Cheetah populations in protected areas in Botswana and the conservation of Cheetah outside of protected areas is seen as a low priority. It was suggested that a predator forum be established and not just a Cheetah forum.*

### Zimbabwe

*The Zimbabwe forum was established by Viv Wilson, but did not get off the ground, possibly due to the problem that people prefer working independently. Zimbabwe Parks also does not have a Predator Coordinator, but this might change as a new ecologist will be appointed by Zimbabwe Parks. It is important to revive the Zimbabwe Forum and get stakeholders participation again. There are good NGOs in Zimbabwe working on conservation aspects (e.g. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Marwell Trust, Zambezi Society, Chippingali, Painted Wild Dog Project, etc.). Suggestions include using Zimbabwe as a model in other countries in the region that might experience the same land situation in a few years. Zimbabwe's political instability has caused conservation to lose its importance. It seems as if trans-boundary initiatives e.g. conservancy formation etc., might be receiving some attention in the form of tourist generated income, which has been destroyed by the current situation. NGOs in Zimbabwe meet and discuss general conservation issues whereas issues such as Cheetah are informally discussed. NGOs are also given responsibility for certain areas.*

### Short-term solution 2:

Use these fora to identify and develop key people to act as role models and spokespersons.

*To-date only partially complete:*

*No progress has been made in Zimbabwe and Botswana. Solution 2 is not seen as a priority at this stage and will only be completed once the fora are established.*

#### **ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify these people to pass on the message.

*This is not seen as a priority at this stage and will only be completed once the fora are established.*

#### **ACTION STEP 2:**

Development of these key people.

*This is not seen as a priority at this stage and can only be completed once fora are in place.*

### Short-term solution 3:

Compile a database comprising people working with stakeholders in range states, data they have collected and conflict resolution successes and failures. Make these data available to representatives in all range states and update them regularly.

#### ACTION STEP:

Set up the database using people and information on conflict resolution.

#### *Complete*

*Namibia:* CCF has information on a database

*South Africa:* NCCF has a contact list of stakeholders in Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe; however no data have been collected and no data are available on successes and failures.

*Botswana:* has a contact list of stakeholders in Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe; however no data have been collected and no data are available on successes and failures. Information is available from Cheetah Conservation Botswana.

*Zimbabwe:* has a contact list of stakeholders in Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe however no data have been collected and no data are available on successes and failures. Information is available from Marwell Trust.

*Fora should ensure that this is done. Databases are incomplete as the initial field work is still in progress or evaluations are still needed. Individual programmes and researchers are to draft reports and send these through to Global Cheetah Forum who should collate this information into global database.*

### Short-term solution 4:

Where no immediate co-existence is possible Cheetah should be removed and relocated into parks or reserves and captive situations where they will have to be managed as metapopulations and become part of a global management plan (captive / metapopulation).

*Cheetah which are relocated into suitable areas should be managed according to a metapopulation management plan. Such a management plan should be drafted regionally in countries which require the management of such populations and then maybe later on a sub-regional basis if necessary.*

*A lack of capacity has been the main reason for this not being completed. This is seen as a priority and should be evaluated and completed according to each country's priorities.*

#### ACTION STEP 1:

List areas in each country, where Cheetah can be relocated incorporating cross-border movement.

*Ongoing - lists are compiled and kept up-to-date in South Africa and Namibia for relocation into parks and reserves. Botswana and Zimbabwe relocate Cheetah to areas approved by government and / or are released into parks. In South Africa guidelines are used by the NCCF to make recommendations to government, with reference to the relocation of problem Cheetah into reserve. Relocation of Cheetah is not yet regulated by provinces in South Africa.*

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Identify regulations pertaining to holding centres or captive facilities in each country if it is not possible to release the animals into the wild.

**CURRENT:**

Namibia: implemented and approved by Namibia

South Africa: a draft policy has been compiled and is in the process of being approved by government (currently the nine provinces have nine different policies and regulations).

Botswana: Namibian guidelines have been recommended, nothing approved.

Zimbabwe: is in the development phase, Verity Bowman to supply the documentation.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Draft a metapopulation management plan both within countries and between countries using a “stud-book” approach at both scales. When possible, all Cheetah that have been removed are recorded and if Cheetah are to be moved, this plan can help managers decide where they will be most productive.

South Africa: this has been done and monitoring is done after relocations to determine long-term impacts of metapopulation management.

Namibia: Cheetah are released into Cheetah friendly areas and some monitoring is done (indirect and direct). Extensive DNA samples are banked.

Botswana: a small DNA database is available, Cheetah are relocated into areas approved by the DWNP.

Zimbabwe: there is no metapopulation plan or studbook; however DNA samples are being stored for future inclusion in to DNA studbook. Jubatus has proposed to house a national DNA database even though one already exists in South Africa under the National Research Foundation.

**LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS:**

**Long-term solution 1:**

Cheetah that are deemed necessary to be removed or relocated into parks or reserves or captivity will be managed as metapopulations.

**ACTION STEP:**

See short-term Solution 4, Action Steps 1, 2 and 3 above

**Long-term solution 2:**

Ongoing research, to understand more about the role of Cheetah in the ecosystem outside of protected areas.

*Ongoing – Has been done in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and to a certain extent in Zimbabwe (more threat analysis data are needed where Cheetah are a problem). Most research has been done outside of protected areas and nothing has been done on a regional base pertaining to metapopulations. This was seen as a high priority and is being done by various organisations.*

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify ecosystems where research is taking place and tap into the data being collected.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Where no research is being done, identification of key ecosystems should be carried out and feasibility studies should be done.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Ecosystems should have priorities assigned in terms of the usefulness of the research into Cheetah biology for resolving conflict.

### Long-term solution 3:

Compensation to farmers for capture / damage using insurance policy compensation with community verification or specialist group verification.

*South Africa: a compensation scheme has been implemented for the relocation of Cheetah.*

*Botswana: compensation has been provided for damage caused by Cheetah since April 2005.*

*Namibia: compensation was provided but abandoned years ago. A two-year pilot scheme was implemented in a communal conservancy which was community driven i.e. the communities contributed towards the scheme. Money was paid out for damage and compensation amounts paid were determined by the community. Another incentive driven scheme is the "Cheetah Country Beef". Initiatives like this should be shared between countries.*

### **ACTION STEP:**

Assess and consolidate models (as examples: SA Eagle compensation fund – verified by field staff in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, farmers paid into a kitty and were compensated for crop loss from the kitty. This was done to encourage kudu into the area and thus allowed for hunting to raise money) in terms of their usefulness in different land-use types. Over time models will be developed that are appropriate to regions where there is presently limited knowledge.

*Namibia: is considering different models of compensation for self-insurance.*

*South Africa: investigated the implementation of models but is not possible, as these schemes base their remuneration on actual damage caused by wild animals. The process of verification is impossible in South Africa due to the extensive distances that need to be travelled versus the time needed to respond to the report. When providing compensation funds, these schemes also need a sound financial platform which requires financial contributions by ranchers in this case. The long-term viability of such a scheme is questionable and was not positively received by ranchers in South Africa.*

*This action step has not been completed and should be done as a priority. An individual is needed to review the various compensation options on a global scale (a master's student could be appropriate for this).*

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS ARE UNCOORDINATED AMONG GROUPS, REGIONS AND COUNTRIES. THIS RESULTS IN DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS. Page 67 (2002)**

### Solution:

Establish a central advisory body where new Cheetah conservation and research projects can be compared to existing projects. The body will suggest alterations and coordinate these activities and encourage communication between fora and projects.

*Currently a coordinating body has been established between Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa for areas where countries border each other and is called the Shashe-Limpopo Predator Research Group (SLPRG).*

*A central advisory body has not been established globally as the Global Cheetah Forum does not have the authority to do so. It will be useful for the Global Cheetah*

*Forum to establish a list of priority aspects which researchers should take account of, when planning Cheetah research projects.*

ACTION STEP 1: Request that the CIG (Cheetah Interest Group - now known as the Global Cheetah Forum (GCF)) take on this function.

ACTION STEP 2: Each forum will send either a copy of minutes of meetings / media releases / newsletters to other fora that are known to be in place and active.

*This does take place between South Africa and Namibia. This documentation should be sent to the Global Cheetah Forum for distribution through the list serve.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 4  
CHEETAH ARE COMPATIBLE WITH SOME LAND-USES AND NOT WITH OTHERS. Page 38 (2001) Page 69 (2002)**

Solution:

Identify land management practices that are compatible with Cheetah and those that are thought not to be, and try to obtain maximum area of the former as well as change the incompatible land-use practices where possible.

*Namibia: this has been done with conservancies*

*South Africa: this has been done with atlassing and Cheetah friendly areas*

*Botswana: problem areas have been identified*

*Zimbabwe: need to identify problem areas and conservancies*

ACTION STEP:

A basic document on sound land management is available from Birgit Förster that can be sent to authorities / Cheetah fora in all range states. This will then give these states a baseline from which to start working.

*This is an ongoing priority and work is continuing by various organisations.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 5  
THE CHEETAH HAS AN ECONOMIC, ECOLOGICAL AND INTRINSIC VALUE, AND WE NEED TO WORK TOWARDS HAVING THE PERCEIVED AND ACTUAL COSTS OUTWEIGHED BY THESE VALUES. THE VALUE AND COST OF CHEETAH IS AN INDIVIDUAL, COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ASSET. WE NEED TO RECOGNISE DIFFERENT CULTURAL UNDERSTANDINGS OF COST AND VALUE. Page 38 (2001) Page 70 (2002)**

Solution:

In order to determine if the value of a Cheetah to a person outweighs the cost, cost benefit analyses should be carried out in the following different scenarios:

- Commercial farming with the option of trophy hunting and ecotourism
- Commercial farming without the option to harvest the Cheetah
- Communal sedentary farming
- Nomadic pastoralist areas
- Hunter-gatherer areas

*South Africa: a cost benefit analysis was not done, although Cheetah are of great value to ecotourism in reserves in South Africa.*

Namibia: unknown, although steps are been put in place to get direct and indirect values of Cheetah.

Botswana: a cost benefit analysis was not done.

Zimbabwe: a cost benefit analysis was not done.

*This is a high priority solution and therefore a person needs to be identified to do this as a Masters Project.*

#### **ACTION STEP 1:**

Compile a basic document that:

- Details the problem on a regional basis.
- Promotes the direct and indirect values of Cheetah (if it pays it stays).
- Changes the perception of the cost of having Cheetah on a property.
- Promotes the concept of “predator friendly meat” and
- Involves national and international politicians to provide tax relief (or other economic incentives) for farmers with sustainable land and livestock management practices.

#### **ACTION STEP 2:**

Take document to suitable organisations and outsource this as a research project.

NEW ACTION STEP: *Rewilding of orphaned Cheetah cubs and sub-adults for relocation purposes.*

*Rewilding has been done in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe (Viv Wilson). Botswana is in the process.*

#### **REPRIORITISED ISSUES:**

##### High Priority:

1. Establish fora in Botswana and Zimbabwe.
2. Establish a Central Information Centre.
3. Develop a metapopulation management plan in each country.
4. Assess conflict models - considering different models of compensation.
5. Determine the value of Cheetah in each country by doing a cost benefit analysis.
6. Land-use related to management practices that are compatible with Cheetah.

##### Low priority:

1. GCF to prioritise research projects.
2. Distribution of newsletter.

## Session 3

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### CHEETAH OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

1. Deon Cilliers	De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust
2. Kyle Good	Cheetah Conservation Botswana
3. Laurie Marker	CCF
4. Joerg Melzheimer	Cheetah Research Project
5. Stefan Hausmann	Okatumba Wildlife Research
6. Marianne de Jonge	CCF
7. Josephine Henghali	CCF
8. Harry Schneider-Waterberg	Namibian Agricultural Union

### WHERE TO FROM HERE AND WHAT ARE THE GAPS?

Overarching issues include changing land-use and conflict issues.

#### Namibia

- Namibia is experiencing a decline in commercial farms due to a decrease in the cattle use and an increase in land reform / resettlement. Resettled farmers are moving onto government land, with a detrimental effect on wildlife.

#### South Africa

- Game ranching in South Africa is not managed using ecological principles.
- Small areas are game fenced (management issues include fragmented management practices, stocking of exotics / outside distribution range, not seen as ecological units and economic value of wildlife results in conflict with predators) and there is no incentive to drop fences.
- There is a possibility of land resettlement but most likely not in Cheetah areas.

#### Botswana

- Large protected areas
- Increasing game ranching
- Weekend farmers
- Commercial farms
- Communal farmers in the corridors

#### Zimbabwe

- Zimbabwe is experiencing a decrease in commercial farms.
- Major increase in resettlement, conservancies, protected areas and Peace Park.
- Political instability, economic constraints and instability within the country.

### HOW DO WE FILL THE GAPS AND HOW DO WE CONTINUE AND IMPROVE ONGOING PROJECTS?

#### Namibia

- Commercial farmers need to train affirmative action farmers, farmers having trouble paying loans need to be identified and assisted. The "Cheetah Country Beef" concept should be in place within the next five years.

- Communal farmers – there is a need to identify conflicting farming practices regarding Cheetah in important areas i.e. Namibian Agricultural Union, conservancy information, title deed registry and map resettled areas.

#### South Africa

- Atlassing can be used to assess attitudes and problems (Limpopo and the North West Province).

#### Botswana

- Identify who the key partners are through agricultural union and national farmers association.

#### Zimbabwe

- With all aspects, communication is of paramount importance between projects.

### **WHAT INITIATIVES CAN WE PLAN AND DEVELOP TO ADDRESS GAPS AND ISSUES?**

#### Namibia

- Use current structures (such as LCMAN and conservancies) to promote Cheetah conservation action plans.

#### South Africa

- Promote the conservancy idea, especially in wildlife ranching areas.
- Use success stories to help promote conservancies.
- Copies of Cheetah friendly status can be distributed.
- Investigate possibility of “predator friendly beef and lamb” by 2007.

#### Botswana

- Evaluate the idea of predator friendly beef in Botswana and implement if positive.

#### Zimbabwe

- Transfrontier parks are well supported by government; these include 3 parks, the Tuli, Limpopo / Kruger (Cheetah projects are not represented here) and the four corners project, the SLPRG is already involved in this.

### **WHAT BIGGER PICTURE ISSUES SHOULD WE BE TACKLING WHICH REQUIRE A SHIFT IN THINKING AND PLANNING?**

#### South Africa

- The compensation scheme needs to change to other initiatives.
- There is a need for information gathering on compensation schemes and other conflict resolution issues in 2006 by CCF / De Wildt.
- Look into the black market value of Cheetah due to unscrupulous breeders (this needs political support).
- Prioritise metapopulation management due to fragmentation of habitat of relocated Cheetah in South Africa.

#### Botswana

- Promote conservancies (with an integrated approach for wildlife and cattle).

#### Zimbabwe

- Promote conservancies that do have a Cheetah presence but not in large numbers.
- Decreased lease holds in conservancies i.e. 25 years are a problem.
- "Look east policy" (referring to donors from China for economic support). Concerns were expressed that this could increase the demand for poaching.
- Get stakeholders involved in fora.
- Run predator workshops using cooperation with Wildlife Conservation Network by 2006.

### **WHAT MEASURES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED FOR MEASURING LONG-TERM CHEETAH CONSERVATION SUCCESS AS WELL AS SHORT-TERM ACTIONS?**

#### Namibia

- Follow-up with interviews i.e. to assess whether attitudes are changing.

#### South Africa

- A stock-take of metapopulation reserves and appoint players to obtain a DNA database by using scats, hair snaring or blood (2006);
- Determine the optimum population size that is sustainable in fragmented reserves (2007); and
- Develop and implement a long-term metapopulation management plan.

#### Botswana

- Establish a regional forum to address conflict issues by 2007.

#### Zimbabwe

- Data (Cheetah counts / prey biomass) from national park game counts are available for the last 10 years.
- Circulate documents on land reform policies.
- Capacity building within national parks.
- Lobby political partners i.e. Zimbabwe / Namibia.

#### **Illegal trade was identified as a problem needing long and short-term actions:**

- Illegal export of wildlife by truck drivers to the north from as far south as Botswana (shifita bandit drivers from Somalia).
- There are black market issues in South Africa (organized trade from Namibia and Botswana).
- Animals are illegally exported from South Africa to Namibia for hunting purposes via the Northern Cape Province (This has been mentioned more than once by farmers in South Africa to Deon Cilliers).
- South Africa needs CITES quota so that regulated hunting can occur within the country and possibly in the metapopulation areas. This depends on the results from the South African Cheetah Census which is done by the De Wildt Wild Cheetah Project.
- Initiatives to decrease / limit illegal trade need to be investigated and put in place.
- There is a need for active cooperation with National and International bodies.
- In South Africa: establish a DNA database and make membership to the national studbook compulsory for breeders. A national audit on all captive breeding facilities in South Africa is required.
- Identify persons to take action and include organisations that are attending this workshop.
- Botswana looking to Namibia for conservancy guidance.

# **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHEETAH CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**6 – 7 December 2005**

**Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia**

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**



### **SECTION 3 WORKING GROUP REPORTS EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION**

## Session 1 and 2

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This working group focused on conflict resolution and human / wildlife conflict.

### **EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Verity Bowman     | Marwell Trust                          |
| 2. Rebecca Klein     | Cheetah Conservation Botswana          |
| 3. Moses Selebatso   | DWNP - Botswana                        |
| 4. Bonnie Schumann   | Cheetah Conservation Fund              |
| 5. Italy Awaseb      | Cheetah Conservation Fund              |
| 6. Meike Hötzel      | Okatumba Research Group                |
| 7. Mark Jago         | Large Carnivore Management Association |
| 8. Annie Beckhelling | Cheetah Outreach                       |
| 9. Glen Carlisle     | Cango Wildlife Ranch                   |
| 10. Bob Hartsliel    | Savannah Game Ranch                    |

### ***PROTECTION OF CHEETAH OUTSIDE OF PROTECTED AREAS***

#### **WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND GAPS?**

##### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS ARE UNCOORDINATED AMONG GROUPS, REGIONS AND COUNTRIES. THIS RESULTS IN DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS. Page 67 (2002)**

##### **Solution:**

Establish a central advisory body where new Cheetah conservation and research projects can be compared to existing projects. The body will suggest alterations and coordinate these activities and encourage communication between fora and projects.

*Research and conservation efforts are uncoordinated.*

ACTION STEP 1: Request that the CIG take on this function.

*The Cheetah List serve has been set up; however it has not been used extensively therefore this has not been achieved. The Cheetah research projects advisory body does not need to be established as the list serve exists for this purpose.*

ACTION STEP 2: Each forum will send either a copy of minutes of meetings / media releases / newsletters to other fora that are known to be in place and active.

*Large amounts of information have been exchanged between organisations; however this has not been collated and made widely available.*

##### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 3**

**THERE IS A NEED TO EDUCATE STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT CHEETAH BIOLOGY, THE ROLE THAT CHEETAH PLAY IN THE ECOSYSTEM AND WAYS TO LIVE WITH CHEETAH. BUILDING ON THAT WILL BE THE NEED TO ACCEPT CHEETAH THROUGH MARKETING INITIATIVES WITH A VIEW TO EXPANDING THE RANGE OVER WHICH CHEETAH AND HUMANS CAN COEXIST. Page 36 (2001) Page 68 (2002)**

### Solution 1:

Improve the information available to educate people living with Cheetah about the basic ecology of Cheetah and the importance of Cheetah as a species in an ecosystem, identify predators responsible for killing a stock animal (livestock or game).

#### ACTION STEP:

Investigate what education materials are available (brochures, pamphlets etc.) and what further developments of these materials are necessary.

*The Livestock Management Booklet has been distributed by CCF to South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Kenya. It has been used and distributed in Botswana and Kenya. The booklet has been translated to Ndebele and Shona in Zimbabwe and has been utilised in South Africa and distributed by De Wildt. The booklet is to be modified by each country.*

#### *Training Workshops:*

*Namibia: CCF has had farmer training workshops (both one day and one week workshops) for the past two years, having trained over 200 individuals.*

*Zimbabwe: covered 150 farmers in small one day workshops.*

*Botswana: provided two one day farmer workshops covering 120 farmers.*

*South Africa: De Wildt has provided farmer training.*

*Farmer meetings, auction and conservancy meetings have been facilitated / attended by all.*

### Solution 2:

Education material needs to be passed onto the people living with Cheetah in an active manner. This will require individuals involved in nature conservation (extension workers, agricultural people, biology students, farmers / farmers wives, sociologists and community based NGOs) to be made aware of the issues and shown how to explain them to people living on the land. Each type of person / group needs to be suited to the task of getting the information across to the various groups of people living with Cheetah.

#### ACTION STEP:

- Identify target individuals / groups of peoples who are available.
- Identify who will put education packages on conflict resolution together using available media resources – radio, TV, magazines, multiple languages.
- Decide on content of packages for each target group.

\* Video on conflict resolution could be produced –offer made by Neil Herman

*All groups have provided education material to the media (newspapers, farming magazines and newsletters). Still outstanding is the video and a web page has not been developed.*

*Education materials (video about livestock management techniques) would be useful but not a priority. CCF has footage which could be compiled into a short video. However, how much would it be able to be utilised in schools with no technology?*

### Solution 3:

Develop a marketing strategy that emphasises the:

1. Value of Cheetah (for farmers): economic, intrinsic and ecological.
2. Basic economic benefit of sound land management (includes game / livestock).
3. Benefits of conservancies.

4. Change in perception of the real economic impact of Cheetah on farming – relay success stories.
5. Benefits of tourism
6. Concept that Cheetah contribute to a healthy ungulate population.
7. Value of trophy hunting in true wilderness areas.
8. Value of marketing ethical hunting.
9. Marketing of Cheetah as a flagship species in conservation. Market steps to become a Cheetah conservation farmer.
10. Increased value of Cheetah through marketing

#### ACTION STEP:

Investigate the possibility of having an advertising company adopt the concept of telling the story of the Cheetah and how wonderful an animal it is to as many people as possible.

*The investigation into an advertising agency for marketing, has not been done. The "Cheetah Country Beef" in Namibia marketing strategy has been used to raise the profile of the Cheetah and coexistence with landowners.*

#### PROBLEM STATEMENT 6

**GLOBAL, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY AND LEGISLATION REGARDING LAND-USE AND CONSERVATION IS FRAGMENTED, INAPPROPRIATE AND UNENFORCED. THERE IS VERY LITTLE REGIONAL AND COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY AGREEMENT. Page 39 (2001) Page 71 (2002)**

#### Solution:

The working group made the following recommendations:

1. Governments in range states should be given information that will lead to the formulation of policies of sound land-use, which will lead to suitable legislation.
2. Countries that have in the past experienced fragmented policy and legislation must be encouraged to formulate new policies to include all stakeholders and take into account the status of Cheetah throughout the country.
3. Changes in policy will only come about through education and lobbying of internal and external governments.

*All countries have initiated the provision of information but it is difficult to implement policy to change legislation, this will take time but is being done.*

4. Politicians that have an influence on policy formation must be given up-to-date and accurate information regarding the status of Cheetah in their countries.
5. When drawing up new policy and legislation, international conventions must be adhered to in order to prevent conflict between stakeholder countries.

*All countries are attempting to identify key people in ministries that can affect change.*

6. Begin dialogue between range states on a regional basis with the view to formulating regional policy that will enable Cheetah to be conserved across national boundaries.

*This is being done by communications by all Cheetah groups. Transfrontier parks are being established.*

7. Without effective enforcement of new and past laws resulting from policy, no progress will be made. It is important to identify suitable law enforcement agencies within range states.

*This has not been achieved; South Africa is looking to work with Interpol.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 7  
FUNDING IS CRITICAL IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN PROTECTING  
CHEETAH OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS. Page 39 (2001) Page 71 (2002)**

Solutions:

1. Develop an overall funding strategy.

*Not complete: all groups however do individual funding. The Shashe-Limpopo Predator Research Group (SLPRG) has initiated a funding strategy which includes South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana.*

2. Identify donors / partners.

*This has been done by individual organisations; only SLPRG is initiating collaboration between Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa this is by obtaining satellite collars for trans-border movements.*

3. Identify proposals within the overall strategy.

*GCF in 2002 enabled networking to occur between in-situ groups and ex-situ groups and agreed to look at their proposals. But overall funding strategies have not been done.*

4. Endorsement from international bodies (IUCN Cat Specialist Group).

*GCF has been supported by the Cat Specialist Group but are not formally endorsed (Unofficial endorsement).*

5. Form a Cheetah Interest Group.

*This has been completed and is now known as the Global Cheetah Forum.*

6. Fundraise country-by-country.

*All fundraising is done by individual groups.*

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP**

**WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?**

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 1  
THE GENERAL LACK OF RESOURCES IN AFRICA IS AFFECTING THE  
DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI-LEVEL EDUCATION. Page 46  
(2001)**

Solution 1:

Seek and establish partnerships with developed countries to acquire resources.

**ACTION STEP:**

Acquire and circulate data on:

- a. funding organisations – *ongoing in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana*
- b. teaching materials – *ongoing in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana*
- c. capacity building – *ongoing in all groups*

Solution 2:

Utilise existing NGO networks to distribute resources and identify in-country organisations already working on eco-education and assist them in capacity building.

ACTION STEP 1:

Identify suitable NGOs already working on eco-education.

*Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia are complete and this has been initiated in Botswana.*

ACTION STEP 2:

Prepare a questionnaire for a survey for mailing to possible participants to gather data on their needs.

*This has been done by Cheetah Outreach (South Africa).*

ACTION STEP 3:

Mail follow-up, tabulate, analyse and disseminate information which may ultimately result in a workshop.

*This has been started by Cheetah Outreach (South Africa).*

Solution 3:

Facilitate teacher workshops to bring environmental issues into existing school curriculum.

ACTION STEP:

Take recent Cape Town (July 2001) Teacher Training Model developed by Cheetah Outreach (Cape Town) and the Smithsonian National Zoological Park (USA) into Namibia (venue to be decided). Listen to what the Teachers perceive their needs to be.

*A Zimbabwe workshop was planned but no funding was available. Now Cheetah Outreach has found funding for workshops in Botswana. This has partly been done on a regional basis in Namibia.*

Solution 4:

Establish, implement and share “in house” educational programmes for children using outside resources and expertise to assist development. Emphasis should be placed on field trips to enhance the learning experience.

ACTION STEP 1a:

Follow-up to ensure development of materials relevant to the country as identified in workshops.

*This has been initiated and is ongoing within all groups.*

ACTION STEP 1b:

Duplicate throughout range countries.

*This has been initiated and is ongoing within all groups.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 2  
LACK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL STAKEHOLDERS AT ALL LEVELS.  
Page 47 (2001)**

Solution:

Promote communication and cooperation between key stakeholders to ensure a strong dialogue between the following groups: government agencies; NGOs, educators and donors; researchers, captive animal facilities and field workers; commercial and subsistence farmers.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Establish a CIG (now known as the GCF), using the address list from the present workshop. Consider enhancing the permanence of this group by developing a CIG Secretariat.

*Complete*

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Establish a communication network to reach all stakeholders, via platforms, such as conferences, websites, email, newsletters, magazine articles and electronic media. Radio ownership is widespread in communities and should also be used.

*Complete*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 3  
DEFECTS IN THE CURRENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM INHIBIT THE AWARENESS  
OF AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION CAREERS FOR  
PEOPLE FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES. Page 48 (2001)**

Solution 1:

Involve Ministries of Education and Environment and Tourism in all initiatives.

**ACTION STEP:**

Nominate an individual to attend the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Environmental Educators' workshop in Maseru, Lesotho 1 - 5 Oct 2001. The nominee will present and distribute a paper on the existence of the CIG and the value of the Cheetah as a "flagship" species for conservation education. It is likely that ministry officials will be attending this workshop.

*Cheetah Outreach attended the workshop and presented a paper. All groups are doing this to varying success. This has been initiated by all groups.*

Solution 2:

Facilitate opportunities to work with organisations such as the Peace Corps to "jump start" sustainable capacity building programmes for the purpose of training teachers through the medium of workshops.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify a CIG Education Coordinator, who will pursue methods and strategies for training teachers.

*Complete*

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Continue with at least one teacher training workshop annually (first one scheduled for July 2002).

*This is being done on an ongoing basis by Cheetah Outreach.*

**Solution 3:**

Identify key educators and ensure that they get international exposure.

**ACTION STEP:**

Identify star teachers from the workshops (two for 2002) for broad-scale exposure to environmental sciences at the Smithsonian Institution (USA) per programme implemented in 2001. The education coordinator will solicit other educational organisations for interest in providing training opportunities. (AfriCat Foundation, CCF, North American Zoos).

*Done to certain extent but requires extension. Coordinated by Cheetah Outreach in South Africa – annual international fellowships for South African teachers are delivered in the USA.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 4**

**THE QUALITY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO TOURISTS VISITING PROTECTED AREAS AND CULTURAL SITES IS POOR. Page 49 (2001)**

**Solution 1:**

a) Create a training programme for tour guides at the formal (commercial level) and the informal (community level).

*Ongoing*

b) Test and certify candidate tour guides for competency in wildlife.

*Not applicable in Southern Africa.*

c) Register certified tour guides under a government agency with annual renewal and disciplinary authority.

*Has not been done.*

**ACTION STEP:**

Create a description of existing training for tour guides that ensure accuracy with respect to Cheetah conservation issues. This document will be made available on the CIG (now known as GCF) website with Hu Berry identified as the contact person for those interested in this type of training.

*Has not been done; not required.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 5**

**INAPPROPRIATE POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS AT DECISION-MAKING LEVELS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXCLUSION OF INPUT BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE LEADS TO LACK OF IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY. Page 49 (2001)**

Solution 1a:

Encourage the appointment of individuals sympathetic to conservation principles wherever possible.

*Difficult to achieve*

Solution 1b:

Identify and lobby for appropriate policy decisions.

*Ongoing*

**ACTION STEP:**

Widely distribute this document to government departments involved in environmental issues.

*Has been initiated by all groups*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 6  
DIVERSITY OF THE COMMUNITY BASE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT  
COMPLICATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL  
EFFORT. Page 50 (2001)**

Solution 1:

Adapt the education package to accommodate urban and rural communities including subsistence and commercial farmers.

*Ongoing in all groups*

Solution 2:

Employ local interpreters to deliver programmes in the appropriate language.

*Ongoing in all groups*

Solution 3:

Promote a sense of awareness of the custodianship of the indigenous fauna and flora.

*Ongoing in all groups*

Solution 4:

Focus on training local scientists and appropriate agricultural extension staff.

*Ongoing in all groups*

**ACTION STEP:**

Develop a workshop to identify strategies that will enable the training of potential indigenous scientists in conservation.

*Ongoing in all groups*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 7**

**MULTICULTURAL BACKGROUNDS GOVERN THE ATTITUDES OF THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION TOWARDS CERTAIN SPECIES, OFTEN RESULTING IN ANIMAL PHOBIA AND MISCONCEPTIONS. Page 50 (2001)**

Solution 1:

Facilitate workshops to reduce the phenomenon of animal phobia through direct exposure to live animals and to impart a better understanding of their role in the ecosystem.

**ACTION STEP:**

Include these topics in the Teacher Training workshops to be held in 2002.

*Ongoing - Namibia, South Africa and Botswana are doing this at present. Zimbabwe is not.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 1  
EDUCATION**

The initiative begun by this group following the 2001 Global Cheetah Action Plan (GCAP) Workshop has been very successful. This will to communicate and cooperate has replaced the initial lack of communication and cooperation among GCF members. The issue has been revised as follows:

**GCF STAKEHOLDERS NEED TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS IN RANGE COUNTRIES. ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS A FEAR THAT AS THE NETWORK EXPANDS, PILOT PROJECTS MAY BE NEGLECTED. Page 82 (2002)**

Solution:

Start the visioning process for education in other regions or range countries.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify key individuals who are able to initiate a visioning process for education programmes targeting specific issues / audiences in countries where Cheetah occur. These key individuals will comprise skills / resource personnel, the anchor organisation(s) and a facilitator.

*Ongoing in all groups*

**ACTION STEP 2:**

The anchor organisation should indicate the appropriate target audience(s), relevant theme(s) with a consideration of local issues and perspectives.

*Ongoing in all groups*

**ACTION STEP 3:**

In the visioning process, sustainability and strategy for resulting projects should be discussed. This includes identifying both long and short-term funding, tapping additional resources and service providers, and articulating measurable outcomes (assessment and evaluation).

*Ongoing in all groups, looking at assessment and evaluation as we go along.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

## THE GLOBAL CHEETAH FORUM NEEDS AN INTERNAL COMMUNICATION STRUCTURE. Page 83 (2002)

### Solution 1:

Develop a Global Cheetah Forum website.

#### ACTION STEP 1:

A CIG - wide survey was completed following the 2001 GCAP Workshop. The summary of this survey is included as Appendix VI.

*No website – list serve only.*

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Establish the website address and template.

*Not done*

#### ACTION STEP 3:

GCF web master will request input directly from GCF membership, until the secretariat has access to a CIG list serve (see Solution 2, Action Step 1) for input onto URL links, and other items to include on website. This will include contributions to a GCF “News Update”, to be accessible via the website (see Solution 2, Action Step 2).

*Not done, no website*

#### ACTION STEP 4:

Reciprocal links will be established between the CIG (now known as GCF) website, CIG stakeholder websites, and other related websites (e.g., IUCN Cat Specialist Group; AZA Cheetah SSP; CCF; De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre; Marwell Zimbabwe Trust; AZA, EAZA, PAAZAB and other regional zoo organizations).

*Not done*

### Solution 2:

Develop mechanism(s) to promote effective communication among GCF members.

#### ACTION STEP 1:

A secretariat should be identified by GCF members. The GCF web master has committed to creating a list serve to facilitate the process of communication between the secretariat and GCF members. A budget should be established and adequate funding secured to support the functions of the secretariat.

*Complete - Secretariat and list serve exists.*

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Form a “body” (title to be determined by full GCF membership in plenary) to coordinate and sustain actions of the Working Groups. This group will consist of representatives appointed in plenary during the 2002 Cheetah Workshop, who can adequately represent each of the Working Groups.

*Complete to an extent, a census workshop was organized.*

*Bashir, S., Daly, B., Durant, S.M., Förster, H., Grisham, J., Marker, L. Wilson, K. and Friedmann, Y (editors). 2004. Global Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) Monitoring Workshop. Final workshop report. Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (SSC / IUCN). Endangered Wildlife Trust.*

Solution 3:

The GCF should utilise multiple media options for internal communications.

*Is being done, with the exception of a website.*

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Develop a GCF list serve. Secretariat and GCF members should use this for normal, logistical communications.

*List serve exists but there is minimal utilisation of this facility.*

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Develop an electronic, web-based news update. GCF members should be encouraged to post regular updates on new and ongoing activities. Submissions do not need to be restricted to "Cheetah projects" but can include anything considered of general interest to GCF members.

*Newsletter exists.*

**ACTION STEP 3:**

A future goal is to investigate the inclusion of GCF news updates into printed newsletters of other relevant organisations (e.g., IUCN Cat Specialist Group, CBSG, etc.).

*Ongoing*

**ACTION STEP 4:**

GCF members with common interests should continue to have informal dialogue, collaboration and information exchange. When projects are initiated as a result of this informal dialogue, anchor organization(s) should submit project updates for posting on the GCF website.

*Ongoing*

## **Session 2**

### ***PROTECTION OF CHEETAH OUTSIDE OF PROTECTED AREAS***

#### **WHAT HAS NOT BEEN DONE?**

##### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**THE KNOWLEDGE BASE REGARDING CHEETAH OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS IS LACKING AND MORE INFORMATION MAY LEAD TO IDENTIFYING OTHER ISSUES. Page 36 (2001)**

Solution:

The knowledge base must be expanded to more effectively conserve Cheetah outside of protected areas. There are many sources of available information and it is necessary to access as much of this knowledge as possible (scientific, anecdotal, tribal and agricultural).

#### **ACTION STEP 1:**

Set up an information database and allow access to other researchers. The database will also enable analysis of patterns and the impact of Cheetah on people in different areas and vice versa.

*Funding originally made available for database went missing. This was initiated by Cat Specialist Group (CSG) as a high priority. The structure of the database is complete and will be available in January.*

*DNA markers are the only ways to certainly identify Cheetah – at present samples are banked in different places. The Free State University and the University of Cape Town in South Africa are in the early stages of investigation. CCF intends to do the same.*

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 7**

**FUNDING IS CRITICAL IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN PROTECTING CHEETAH OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS. Page 39 (2001) Page 71 (2002)**

##### Solutions:

1. Develop overall funding strategy.
2. Identify donors / partners.
3. Identify proposals within overall strategy.
4. Endorsement from international body (IUCN Cat Specialist Group).
5. Form a Cheetah Interest Group.
6. Fundraise country-by-country.

*Funding as an overall strategy will be difficult to implement for various reasons. Groups should collaborate on certain issues with regional proposals and structured Memorandums of Understanding.*

#### **EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP**

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 1**

**THE GENERAL LACK OF RESOURCES IN AFRICA IS AFFECTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI-LEVEL EDUCATION. Page 46 (2001)**

##### Solution 2:

Utilise existing NGO networks to distribute resources and identify in-country organisations already working on eco-education and assist them in capacity building.

#### **ACTION STEP 3:**

Mail follow-up, tabulate, analyse and disseminate information which may ultimately result in a workshop.

*In progress*

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 4**

**THE QUALITY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO TOURISTS VISITING PROTECTED AREAS AND CULTURAL SITES IS POOR. Page 49 (2001)**

Solution 1:

- a) Create a training programme for tour guides at the formal (commercial level) and the informal (community level).
- b) Test and certify candidate tour guides for competency in wildlife.
- c) Register certified tour guides under a government agency with annual renewal and disciplinary authority.

**ACTION STEP:**

Create a description of existing training for tour guides that ensure accuracy with respect to Cheetah conservation issues. This document will be made available on the CIG website with Hu Berry identified as the contact person for those interested in this type of training.

*This can be dropped as it is already being done by government training initiatives.*

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 2  
THE GLOBAL CHEETAH FORUM NEEDS AN INTERNAL COMMUNICATION  
STRUCTURE. Page 83 (2002)**

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Establish the website address and template.

*This has been initiated by Cat Specialist Group.*

**REPRIORITISED ISSUES:**

1. Publish the information database initiated by the CSG
2. Develop and publish website
3. Collaborate on certain issues pertaining to funding
4. Investigate DNA markers
5. Analyse and disseminate survey results
6. Establish Cheetah advisory body
7. Produce an education video

## Session 3

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### CHEETAH POPULATIONS OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Verity Bowman     | Marwell Trust                          |
| 2. Rebecca Klein     | Cheetah Conservation Botswana          |
| 3. Bonnie Schumann   | Cheetah Conservation Fund              |
| 4. Italy Awaseb      | Cheetah Conservation Fund              |
| 5. Meike Hötzel      | Okahumba Research Group                |
| 6. Mark Jago         | Large Carnivore Management Association |
| 7. Annie Beckhelling | Cheetah Outreach                       |
| 8. Glen Carlisle     | Cango Wildlife Ranch                   |
| 9. Bob Hartslief     | Savannah Game Ranch                    |

### HOW DO WE MAINTAIN VIABLE CHEETAH POPULATIONS OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA?

#### WAY FORWARD

##### Opportunities

1. Conservancies
2. Livestock / Wildlife combination
3. Wildlands available
4. Stakeholder united front
5. Donor support, tourism and by products
6. Government support
7. Transfrontier conservation area initiatives
8. Education

##### Threats

1. Subsistence farming
2. Game fences / Management
3. Land fragmentation
4. Non inclusive groups
5. Funds directed elsewhere
6. Political change
7. Human encroachment
8. Environmental illiteracy
9. Diverse human population policies

#### SOLUTIONS TO THREATS

1. Subsistence farming – promote integrated livestock management. This should involve the private sector, NGOs and conservation NGOs by means of agricultural extension officers and extension work.
2. Fenced areas – lobby government to control fenced areas throughout the regions.
3. Land fragmentation – protected areas for Cheetah need to be secured. Information needs to be provided on integrated land management for people outside protected areas.
4. Non inclusive groups – encourage participation in Cheetah conservation at all levels; identify possible umbrella organization for each region.
5. Funds directed elsewhere – international funding must be secured for all aspects of Cheetah conservation including social projects and the benefits in having Cheetah outside conservation areas. Also assist communities to develop and market products internationally.

6. Political change – target and lobby SADC ministries and the African Ministerial Council for the Environment (AMCEM) and attempt to change policy in the long-term to benefit Cheetah.
7. Human encroachment – competition with Cheetah for space. HIV, disease and treatment can influence this. Provide social facilities to communities in the name of Cheetah and link up with community based natural resource programmes. Establish Cheetah reserves on marginal farming areas that are owned by the state and managed by an NGO; however the ideal is to promote an integrated co-existence.
8. Environmental illiteracy – provide basic education based around iconic species. Skills are needed and awareness needs to be created. Distribute materials to schools, farmers associations and the public. All documents on predator education could be listed in a bibliography. Consider assisting disadvantaged schools whenever possible, e.g. when De Wildt visit schools in a bad state - will bring company in to paint it. Change perceptions and paradigms. Think innovatively e.g. ambassador cats.

Have a questionnaire to assess whether education and materials are successful. Link up with Regional Environmental Awareness Program (REAP) in SADC countries. Approach ShareNet to get resources made available.

9. Diverse human population policies - governments are attempting this but this is a huge issue.

#### **LONG-TERM**

- Game meat instead of beef.
- Should extend the concept of the Big Five into the Big Seven and include Cheetah and African Wild Dog.
- Seek partnership and commercial associations.
- Brand Cheetah conservation in the region. Need advertising agency to take up the challenge.
- Identify international Cheetah champion / celebrities.
- Improved inter-governmental relationships.
- Associations / fora / research project in all southern African countries.
- Bring representation from different countries / fora together twice a year for South Africa region. Include Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, etc.
- Formal structuring of GCF, office bearers, membership fees, regular meetings.

# **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHEETAH CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**6 – 7 December 2005**

**Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia**

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**



### **SECTION 3 WORKING GROUP REPORTS VETERINARY / HEALTH WORKING GROUP**

## Session 1 and 2

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### WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS

1. Arthur Bagot Smith	Veterinarian (private), CCF Board Member
2. Mark Jago	Large Carnivore Management Association
3. Kyle Good	Cheetah Conservation Botswana
4. Laura Jago	Medical practitioner (Otjiwarongo)
5. Laurie Marker	CCF
6. Susanne Schulze	Cheetah Research Project (IZWGermany)
7. Gus Mills	SANParks
8. Glen Carlisle	Cango Wildlife Ranch
9. Christine Breitenmoser	Cat Specialist Group

### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

All members of the working group gave a brief overview of monitoring activities in their region, these are summarised below.

#### PROBLEM STATEMENT 1

**THERE IS A LACK OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON DISEASE IN WILD AND EX-SITU POPULATIONS GLOBALLY. THE DISEASES OF WILD POPULATIONS ARE NOT WELL CHARACTERISED, SO THE IMPACT OF DISEASE ON POPULATION DYNAMICS CANNOT BE ASSESSED AND THE DISEASES OF CAPTIVE ANIMALS CANNOT BE PUT IN PERSPECTIVE. IT ALSO IS NOT KNOWN IF THE DISEASES IDENTIFIED IN SOUTH AFRICAN AND UNITED STATES POPULATIONS ARE ALSO PRESENT IN NAMIBIAN, AUSTRALIAN, EUROPEAN AND ASIAN CAPTIVE POPULATIONS. THIS INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CAUSES OF DISEASE AND TO MINIMISE DISEASE RISK AT AN INTERFACE BETWEEN WILD AND CAPTIVE POPULATIONS. THERE ALSO IS A NEED TO EVALUATE GENETIC INFLUENCES ON DISEASE. Page 24 (2001)**

#### Solution 2:

Conduct wild population disease surveillance using standardised methods in all range countries. A pilot study collecting gastric, kidney and liver biopsies should be conducted on trapped Cheetah in Namibia to determine the prevalence in the wild population of the important diseases found in captive animals. Of particular importance to biopsy are older Cheetah, Cheetah that have previously been caught, and Cheetah with signs of disease. Diseases should be compared among regions / facilities / populations.

#### ACTION STEP 1:

Necropsy on all free-ranging Cheetah that die: First, regional coordinators (including both veterinarians and ecologists) should be identified in all range countries and collaborative agreements established. Then in-country field personnel should be trained and supplied with protocols. Mortality signals on radio collars should be encouraged to increase fresh sampling of deceased animals by field researchers. Potential regional coordinators suggested at the meeting include:

- *Namibia: Laurie Marker (CCF), Lise Hanssen (AfriCat Foundation) and Ulf Tubbesing*

- *Zimbabwe: Netty Purchase (Marwell Zimbabwe Trust), Viv Wilson with Chris Foggin*
- *South Africa: Gus Mills (SANParks), Nick Kriek, Deon Cilliers (De Wildt) and Lente Roode (Hoedspruit)*
- *Botswana: Kyle Good (Cheetah Conservation Botswana), current Department of Wildlife and National Parks veterinarian, state veterinarian for Animal Health Services, wildlife unit (Neo Mapitse) and local ecologist.*

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Use regional pathologists with expertise in Cheetah diseases to conduct a necropsy survey of wild Cheetah that die. Archive all findings in a database that will be linked to the main disease database. Potential regional coordinators suggested at the meeting include:

- *South Africa: Emily Lane, Rick Last, Mark Williams, Lucy Lange, Wilhelm Botha*
- *Zimbabwe: Chris Foggin, John Lawrence, Mark Obolo / Nancy Kock*
- *Namibia: Felix Mettler, Linda Munson*

*It was determined that 3 groups (Linda Munson – USA, Emily Lane – South Africa and Nadja Robert – Switzerland) are presently involved in Cheetah histopathology and all agreed that in the future it would be beneficial to use the same pathologists for consistency.*

*Dental research has been initiated by Dr. Gerhard Steenkamp in South Africa and collaboration already exists between South Africa and Namibia looking into a larger collaboration i.e. including CCF and Botswana and perhaps Zimbabwe. There is a move by specialists to involve more than one country in their studies i.e. dental and eyes.*

*Standardisation of storage protocol and procedures is required – protocols and procedures have been compiled but have not yet been implemented.*

*DNA markers – markers are being used in South Africa but are they compatible with O'Brien's data from CCF (Deon Cilliers was championed to find this out). CCF is working toward hosting a regional laboratory for DNA work.*

#### ACTION STEP 3:

Acquire methods being developed by ecologists (Laurie Marker and Gus Mills) to age animals.

Conduct opportunistic sampling of live animals. Identify regional coordinators / collaborators in all range countries and supply them with protocols and collection sheets. Regional coordinators suggested at the meeting include:

- *Namibia: Laurie Marker, Lise Hanssen, Flip Stander and Ulf Tubbesing*
- *Zimbabwe: Nettie Purchase, Bruce Davison, Verity Bowman and Viv Wilson?*
- *South Africa: Gus Mills, Richard Burroughs? Deon Cilliers (De Wildt) and Lente Roode (Hoedspruit)*
- *Botswana: Kathy Alexander? Current state vet?*

*A paper was published by Laurie Marker and Amy Dickman containing ageing methodologies (refer to reference section for more detail). Gus Mills suggested investigating the use of skeletal growth pictures for ageing.*

**ACTION STEP 5:**

Develop a plan and a schedule for the training of in-country field personnel in necropsy techniques and collection of biomaterials from live animals. Regional veterinarians will conduct training if possible.

*There is a need to re-circulate the standardised necropsy document.*

**ACTION STEP 6:**

Identify site for banking of samples at a regional scale using "BioBank SA" as a model. Develop guidelines for intellectual property, identify funds to courier samples to the bank, and to maintain the bank, contact regional coordinators to recommend sending duplicate samples to the bank.

*Sign a Memorandum of Understandings with organisations that bank samples and develop a regional bank for Cheetah samples only.*

**ACTION STEP 7:**

Develop research proposal to biopsy wild-caught Cheetah to increase sample size in assessment of veno-occlusive disease, gastritis and glomerulosclerosis. Determine feasibility of project in Namibia.

*A biopsy is too invasive on free-range Cheetah therefore it was suggested that only liver and kidney samples be collected from necropsies on a regular basis. A large database already exists so there was the question of the relevance of endoscope work on free-ranging Cheetah (ongoing collaboration). It was suggested that different researchers get involved in the gastritis studies and are contacted to determine the need. Botswana plans to continue collecting samples for the time being.*

**Solution 3:**

Conduct captive population disease surveillance. Disease data should be collected for comparative purposes from a wide range of African, European and Australian facilities using standardised surveillance methods. Many regions now have zoo organisations that can facilitate data / sample collection among member institutions. Diseases should then be compared among regions and facilities.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify sites of needed surveillance and a contact person. Initiate surveillance with designated pathologist and coordinate findings with regional coordinator. Regional coordinators suggested at the meeting include:

- Namibia: Ulf Tubbesing, Laurie Marker and Lise Hannsen
- Zimbabwe: Viv Wilson, Chris Foggin
- South Africa: PAAZAB, Laurie Marker, Rob Hall, Henk Bertschinger (De Wildt), Lente Roode.

*Surveillance of diseases such as gastritis was identified as an action step and the annual testing within captive cats was suggested. There is a need for equipment at some institutions – it was suggested that institutions loan scopes with their techniques to other institutions.*

*Include clinical reports at regional biannual vet fora i.e. diseases seen, treatments used, different anaesthesia / treatment protocols, use the GCF list serve to bounce problems / ideas off each other (Cheetah Conservation Botswana, Kyle Good will facilitate and distribute these lists on list serve).*

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## ***List of Acronyms***

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AMCEM	African Ministerial Council for the Environment
ATS	Advanced Telemetry Systems
AZA	American Zoo and Aquarium Association
CSG	Cat Specialist Group
CBSG	Conservation Breeding Specialist Group
CCF	Cheetah Conservation Fund – Namibia
CIG	Cheetah Interest Group or Global Cheetah Forum
CKGR	Central Kalahari Game Reserve – Botswana
DWNP	Department of Wildlife and National Parks – Botswana
EAZA	European Association of Zoos and Aquaria
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
GCAP	Global Cheetah Action Plan
GCF	Global Cheetah Forum
GPS	Global Positioning System
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IZW Germany	Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research Berlin
LCMAN	Large Carnivore Management Association – Namibia
NCCF-SA	National Cheetah Conservation Forum of South Africa
PAAZAB	African Association of Zoos and Aquaria
REAP	Regional Environmental Awareness Program
SANParks	South African National Parks
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SLPRG	Shashe-Limpopo Predator Research Group
SSC	Species Survival Commission
SSP	Species Survival Plan
VHF	Very High Frequency
WCPN	Waterberg Carnivore Project Namibia
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
ZS	Zambezi Society

# **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHEETAH CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**6 – 7 December 2005**

**Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia**

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**



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### **SECTION 3**

### **THE WAY FORWARD**

**Workshop participants were asked what they require from the Global Cheetah Forum (GCF).**

Participants of the Southern African Cheetah Conservation Planning Workshop agreed that the GCF was effective as it is seen as a neutral facilitating body and independent secretariat. The system works well at present as it reduces conflict between individual organisations.

Organisations were encouraged to send their newsletters via the Cheetah List Serve (HTML font). Problems being experienced at present are duplicate newsletters coming through which are large in size (HTML format should solve this problem).

Bob Hartsliet was of the opinion that the GCF was a useful group to be a member of, as Cheetah groups and programmes are currently working independently and not working under a larger umbrella body which fragments the Cheetah community significantly. Therefore a more consolidated collaboration of groups would be beneficial. No definitive structure for Cheetah conservation currently exists with any legal standing as an organisation. Advantages of having a united body, internationally, is that as the Cheetah conservation industry expands, organisations will become more independent, it is therefore essential that a formal body coordinates and oversees these aspects.

Kelly Marnewick commented that previously there was little collaboration between the different Cheetah organisations but that this had changed considerably, attitudes within the Cheetah community are a lot more positive.

Deon Cilliers believes that the GCF does not need to be a formal organisation but should be an advisory body. Support between members had increased but this depended on individuals present in the groups. A formal structure affiliated to a larger organisation like the IUCN was necessary.

Yolan Friedmann commented that the GCF already has endorsement and support from the IUCN Specialist Group through CBSG.

It was suggested that the GCF logo be used as branding on all letterheads, stickers etc., in this way uniting the different groups and thereby raising interest and awareness. Concern was raised that in the event that one of the associated organisation does something controversial because of the branding all other organisations are implicated. A brief explanation of the GCF and a Memorandum of Understanding should be drawn up, however the relationship should be informal (no contract) but allow for retraction of logo with transgression.

All agreed that terms of conduct were essential and agreed that a list of ethics should be compiled for wishing to become a member. Kelly Marnewick suggested that existing memoranda could be used to establish the GCF terms and conditions **(Kelly Marnewick will take responsibility for compiling these terms)**.

A structure for captive breeders already exists, through PAAZAB, etc. The GCF should be a forum to unite individuals globally, as it becomes difficult to discuss all the relevant issues and there may be language barriers etc. GCF is more southern African, but should start getting different Cheetah fora involved, in contact and working together. Government still has to regulate captive breeding trade, etc. and this is not the role of the GCF. The need is not to set up another large organisation, but a facilitation body to drive people towards actions.

Harald Förster was of the opinion that the GCF should be more formal and structured.

Gus Mills stated that the GCF logo should only be used on publications produced as a group and belongs to the secretariat. Gus added that the GCF should not be more structured, as individuals have diverse interests and formalities and this should not preclude others from participating.

Certain participants were of the opinion that belonging to a larger body such as the GCF, facilitates the sourcing of funds and having the same logo and links to a website will increase solidarity.

The resolution for the GCF list serve was a test period of six months, to determine usage. The deadline is June 2006.

### **STATUS REPORT FOR CHEETAH**

Items that need to go into the report include:

- One person per country volunteered to drive the process in each country -
  - South Africa – Kelly Marnewick
  - Namibia – Laurie Marker
  - Botswana – Rebecca Klein
  - Zimbabwe – Verity Bowman?
- 6 month timeline was determined
- Multi-authorship

List of ideas for chapters in the status report include:

1. Brief historical overview.
2. Present distribution (i.e. distribution map) and identify survey sites that are repeatable, assessments of reliability and gaps, estimates of population numbers (methods of how these numbers were determined) and status of protected areas.
3. Habitat.
4. Prey species (main prey, alternative prey, livestock type and approximate numbers if possible).
5. Health and genetics (what has been done and how?).
6. Human population trends and distribution patterns so depicting change in the past 15 years.
7. Threats and problems (give reasons and areas e.g. resettlements).
8. Trade and *ex-situ*.
9. Solutions (describe the solutions and results).
10. Policy and legislation.
11. Sustainable use and trophy hunting.
12. List of projects and organisations and include problems they address or activities they are involved in.
13. Way forward (4 to 6 maximum steps).
14. Ten references.
15. Timeline: January to June to collect data, July to December for collation and completion (project length 1 year).

All agreed that those driving the process can determine the way forward and type of data collection needed.

Needs identified:

- An official letter to authorities describing the project, will help with formalities, create awareness and coordinate activities, **this will be the responsibility of the Cat Specialist Group.**
- Publish a statement around the status report
- Identify and implement a system to evaluate the progress of the project
- Share information

# **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHEETAH CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

**6 – 7 December 2005**

**Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia**

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**



### **SECTION 4 APPENDICES**

## Appendix 1: Workshop Participants List

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## Appendix 2: The Global Cheetah Forum

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*Ensuring the survival of the Cheetah through integrated conservation, education and research programmes.*

### Background

The Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) is a Vulnerable species on the IUCN Global Red List and an Appendix I species in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES 2002). The fastest animal on Earth, Cheetah are found in a wide variety of habitats ranging from open plains and savannah to arid or semi desert regions and thick bush. Historically, Cheetah ranged widely throughout Africa and southwest Asia. Today however, free-ranging Cheetah only inhabit areas of North Africa, the Sahel, and eastern and southern Africa only. The largest known populations exist in Namibia, Kenya and Botswana. Over the past 50 years, Cheetah have become locally extinct in at least 13 countries and it is believed that between 12 – 15 000 Cheetah remain in the wild. Although the species faces different problems in different parts of its range, the main causes of decline are human-cheetah conflict and a vast reduction in suitable, secure habitat.

In response to the urgent need for a comprehensive, global Cheetah conservation strategy, Cheetah conservationists from 13 countries congregated in South Africa in both 2001 and 2002 to develop a Global Cheetah Action Plan which was facilitated by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Southern Africa and sponsored by the North American Cheetah Species Survival Plan (SSP). The result was an initial Global Cheetah Action Plan developed in 2001 and revised and updated in 2002. This Global Action Plan deals with Cheetah health, *in-situ* and *ex-situ* population management, the protection of Cheetah outside protected areas, the international Cheetah studbook, Cheetah censusing methods and education and awareness.

During these workshops, the group identified the need for a forum to continue facilitating their collaboration, resource sharing and networking. Many of these organisations and individuals had been working in the same field and on similar projects for years and had never, until then, met or communicated with each other. This therefore provided the impetus for establishing the Global Cheetah Forum as a tool to facilitate their continued collaboration, communication and partnership building.

### The Global Cheetah Forum

The Global Cheetah Forum (GCF) is a neutral, global forum which aims to support and facilitate the efforts of Cheetah conservationists worldwide, through communication, collaboration and integration. Its goals are to facilitate open dialogue

between the role players and stakeholders in Cheetah conservation, to assist in problem solving, encourage and support sound scientific research on Cheetah, provide a link between *ex-situ* and *in-situ* Cheetah conservation programmes and promote the interests of Cheetah conservation globally.

### **Structure**

The GCF secretariat is currently held by CBSG Southern Africa and is guided by a steering committee comprising 12 people from 7 Cheetah range countries. CBSG Southern Africa is a non-profit partnership project with the Endangered Wildlife Trust and is a regional network of the IUCN's Species Survival Commission's CBSG. The GCF is therefore affiliated to the CBSG (IUCN / SSC) as well as the Cat Specialist Group (IUCN / SSC) and the Endangered Wildlife Trust. It exists as a non-profit conservation project.

The GCF currently has more than 70 members in 13 countries. These members are served by a list serve and receive a quarterly electronic newsletter called "The Fast Track" to which they contribute. Financial support for the group has been received from the North American Cheetah Species Survival Plan, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, the St. Louis Zoo, the Wassenaar Wildlife Breeding Centre (Holland) and Diana Twining.

### **Objectives of the Global Cheetah Forum**

#### **To.....:**

- Facilitate and foster open and effective communication between workshop participants and other Cheetah conservationists worldwide;
- Educate and inform the general public and other stakeholder groups on matters relating to Cheetah conservation;
- Facilitate dynamic, interactive collaboration and information exchange between various role players in Cheetah research and conservation, worldwide;
- Facilitate fundraising for Cheetah research and conservation and channel funds into needy projects;
- Encourage and support sound scientific research on Cheetah;
- Encourage an holistic approach to the conservation and management of Cheetah;
- Provide a link between *ex-situ* and *in-situ* Cheetah conservation programmes;
- Act as a forum through which obstacles facing effective Cheetah research and conservation can be addressed and dealt with
- Provide a forum for channelling queries and requests for information or participation from Cheetah conservationists, as well as members of the public, to the appropriate organisations / individuals
- Act as a neutral mouthpiece for Cheetah conservation organisations worldwide
- Keep the processes initiated at the Global Cheetah Action Planning workshop "alive" and dynamic

## Appendix 3: The Endangered Wildlife Trust and CBSG Southern Africa

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### Endangered Wildlife Trust

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is one of the largest non-governmental conservation organisations in southern Africa and was established in 1973. Widely recognised by its prominent red Cheetah spoor logo, the EWT conserves biodiversity through the hands-on conservation of threatened species and their habitats, in a sustainable and responsible manner. Coordinating more than 100 field-based conservation projects and with 18 specialist Working Groups operating throughout southern Africa, Endangered Wildlife Trust programmes cover a wide variety of species and eco-systems and play a pivotal role in conserving southern African biodiversity and natural resources.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust with its access to a rich and diverse range of conservation expertise established CBSG Southern Africa in partnership with the CBSG, SSC / IUCN in 2000. Nine CBSG regional networks exist worldwide, including CBSG Indonesia, India, Japan, Mesoamerica, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Europe and South Asia. Regional CBSG networks are developed in regions requiring intensive conservation action and each network operates in a manner best suited to the region and local species. CBSG tools are adapted according to the needs and requirements of regional stakeholders and species and local expertise is utilised to best effect.

*CBSG Southern Africa's mission is: To catalyse conservation action in southern Africa by assisting in the development of integrated and scientifically sound conservation programmes for species and ecosystems, building capacity in the regional conservation community and incorporating practical and globally endorsed tools and processes into current and future conservation programmes.*

CBSG Southern Africa, operating under the banner of the Endangered Wildlife Trust is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, serving the needs of the *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation community in southern Africa through the provision of capacity building courses, species and organisational Action Planning, Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) and Conservation Assessment and Management Planning (CAMP) workshops, communication networks, species assessments and a host of other CBSG processes for species and ecosystem conservation. CBSG Southern Africa works with all stakeholders in the pursuit of effective biodiversity conservation throughout southern Africa.

Contact CBSG Southern Africa  
on +27 (0)11 486 1102 /  
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[www.ewt.org.za/cbsg](http://www.ewt.org.za/cbsg)



**CONSERVATION BREEDING  
SPECIALIST GROUP**  
SOUTHERN AFRICA



## **Appendix 4: Problem Statements and Solutions**

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### **GLOBAL CHEETAH WORKSHOP REPORTS 2001 AND 2002**

#### **Censusing Cheetah Working Group Report**

##### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 1**

**WE NEED INFORMATION ON NUMBERS AND DEMOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS IN DIFFERENT HABITATS AND TO DEVELOP CENSUS TECHNIQUES. Page 19 (2001)**

Solution:

Establish a working group to link interested parties and discuss and establish techniques. This group must:

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Establish an e-mail chain to keep participants in communication about developments.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Identify key players, including both field workers and advisors such as statisticians and modellers, to get input on all areas of census methodology

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Co-ordinate meetings and communication between all parties to ensure comparability across regions and enable us to work together

##### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**WITHOUT AN EASY AND ACCURATE TECHNIQUE FOR COUNTING CHEETAH WE CANNOT GAIN ANY ESTIMATES OF NUMBERS. Page 20 (2001) Page 56 (2002)**

Solution 4:

Photographic surveys in countries with sufficient numbers of tourists.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Initiate a second photographic survey in Kruger National Park in South Africa.

Solution 5:

Broaden scope of census to include areas where the status of cheetah is unknown.

**ACTION STEP:**

Establish links in these countries through opportunistic identification of interested researchers in country. Botswana, Zambia, Niger and Iran are suggested as possible priority countries.

Solution:

Convene a workshop to identify possible techniques. (2002)

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Raise resources for workshop.

Laurie Marker has promise of \$10 000 from USA Fish and Wildlife Service, there is a possibility of matching funding from World Wildlife Fund. A&K will be approached to assist with travel and accommodation - Kusini Tented Camp in southern Serengeti, Tanzania, is a potential venue for the workshop.

**ACTION STEP 2:**  
Hold workshop

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 3**  
**THERE IS CURRENTLY NO ESTABLISHED UNIVERSAL METHOD OF LONG-TERM MONITORING, AND IN MANY RANGE COUNTRIES THERE IS A LACK OF RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESEARCH. Page 22 (2001)**

Solution:  
Develop standardised methods of monitoring cheetah populations.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 4**  
**RESOURCES ARE REQUIRED TO FUND THE PRELIMINARY SPOOR SURVEYS, TRAINING, WORKSHOPS AND ANALYSIS OF THE CENSUS RESULTS. Page 22 (2001)**

Solution:  
Ensure that censusing cheetah becomes a priority for funding, from both *ex situ* and *in situ* funding sources.

**ACTION STEP:**  
Application to *ex situ* and other funding sources.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**  
**CENSUSING IS NOT ATTRACTIVE TO DONORS AND IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE LACK OF PROGRESS TO-DATE ON THE ACTION STEPS OUTLINED AT THE LAST WORKSHOP. Page 58 (2002)**

Solution:

- Raise general awareness for the need for census data on wild cheetah populations.
- Encourage census to be a component of all field projects.

**ACTION STEP 1:**  
Produce a leaflet outlining the importance of censusing cheetah populations in the wild.

**ACTION STEP 2:**  
Include census issues in public relations material.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 3**  
**THERE IS A NEED TO TEST AND ASSESS THE ACCURACY OF PRIORITY TECHNIQUES IN DIFFERENT FIELD SITUATIONS. Page 58 (2002)**

Solution:  
Use priority techniques in identified areas with known cheetah population sizes.

**ACTION STEP 1:**  
Raise resources where necessary.

ACTION STEP 2:  
Conduct censuses in target areas.

ACTION STEP 3:  
Workshop to disseminate results from trial censuses.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 5**  
**THERE IS A LACK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, LANDOWNERS AND MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP. Page 22 (2001) Page 59 (2002)**

Solution:  
Encourage frequent and regular communication within the working group and between landowners and government.

ACTION STEP 1:  
Encouraging frequent and regular communication within the group.

ACTION STEP 2:  
Produce a document outlining the group's objectives and to highlight the need for census / trend data for distribution to relevant parties such as governments and landowners.

ACTION STEP 3:  
Disseminate results of calibration in the form of frequent updates to governments and landowners.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 5**  
**THERE IS LITTLE INFORMATION ON CHEETAH NUMBERS IN MOST AREAS AND HABITATS WHERE THEY OCCUR. Page 60 (2002)**

Solution:  
Conduct censuses of cheetah in representative habitats within key range states and analyse results.

ACTION STEP 1:  
Ensure that there is sufficient capacity and trained personnel within key range states.

ACTION STEP 2:  
Activate censuses of cheetah in as many different habitats as possible.

ACTION STEP 3:  
Hold workshop to disseminate results from censuses undertaken.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 6**  
**THERE IS CURRENTLY LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE IMPACT OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT ON CHEETAH POPULATIONS. Page 61 (2002)**

Solution:  
Initiate long-term monitoring of cheetah populations in areas identified under Problem Statement 5, Action step 3.

ACTION STEP 1:  
Identify key individuals, organisations or institutions able to implement monitoring plans.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 7**

**THERE IS LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS AND THE ECOLOGY OF CHEETAH POPULATIONS IN DIFFERENT HABITATS. Page 61 (2002)**

Solution:

Identify and collate all existing information and initiate in depth demographic and ecological studies of cheetah in habitats where there is no information available.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Collate and summarise existing demographic and ecological information on cheetah into a report.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Initiate relevant in-depth field studies in habitats where no information currently exists.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 6**

**THERE IS A LACK OF TRAINED PERSONNEL IN MANY RANGE STATES. THERE IS THEREFORE A NEED FOR SPECIFIC TRAINING IN CENSUS METHODOLOGY FOR EACH SITUATION IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE CENSUS TECHNIQUES BECOME PART OF THE LONG-TERM MONITORING PLAN. Page 23 (2001)**

Solution 1:

Training of local trackers in Tanzania by Namibian San trackers.

**ACTION STEP:**

San trackers and Flip Stander to visit Tanzania.

Solution 2:

Training for various scientists in range countries.

**ACTION STEP:**

Organising workshop in Tanzania in 2004.

Solution 3:

Training for photographic recognition.

## **Health Working Group Report**

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 1**

**LACK OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON DISEASE IN WILD AND *EX SITU* POPULATIONS GLOBALLY. THE DISEASES OF WILD POPULATIONS ARE NOT WELL CHARACTERISED, SO THE IMPACT OF DISEASE ON POPULATION DYNAMICS CANNOT BE ASSESSED AND THE DISEASES OF CAPTIVE ANIMALS CANNOT BE PUT IN PERSPECTIVE. IT ALSO IS NOT KNOWN IF THE DISEASES**

**IDENTIFIED IN SOUTH AFRICAN AND UNITED STATES POPULATIONS ARE ALSO PRESENT IN NAMIBIAN, AUSTRALIAN, EUROPEAN AND ASIAN CAPTIVE POPULATIONS. THIS INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CAUSES OF DISEASE AND TO MINIMIZE DISEASE RISK AT AN INTERFACE BETWEEN WILD AND CAPTIVE POPULATIONS. THERE ALSO IS A NEED TO EVALUATE GENETIC INFLUENCES ON DISEASE.**

**Page 24 (2001)**

### **Solution 2:**

Conduct wild population disease surveillance using standardised methods in all range countries. A pilot study collecting gastric, kidney and liver biopsies should be conducted on trapped cheetah in Namibia to determine the prevalence in the wild population of the important diseases found in captive animals. Of particular importance to biopsy are older cheetah, cheetah that have previously been caught, and cheetah with signs of disease. Diseases should be compared among regions / facilities / populations.

### **ACTION STEP 1:**

Necropsy all free-ranging cheetah that die: First regional coordinators (including both veterinarians and ecologists) should be identified in all range countries and collaborative agreements established. Then in-country field personnel should be trained and supplied with protocols. Mortality signals on radio collars should be encouraged to increase fresh sampling of deceased animals by field researchers. Potential regional coordinators suggested at the meeting include:

- Namibia: Laurie Marker, Lise Hanssen and Ulf Tubbesing
- Zimbabwe: Netty Purchase, Viv Wilson with Chris Foggin
- South Africa: Gus Mills, Nick Kriek, Deon Cilliers (De Wildt) and Lente Roode (Hoedspruit)
- Botswana: Kathy Alexander or current state veterinarian and local ecologist

### **ACTION STEP 2:**

Use regional pathologists with expertise in cheetah diseases to conduct a necropsy survey of wild cheetah that die. Archive all findings in a database that will be linked to the main disease database. Potential regional coordinators suggested at the meeting include:

- South Africa: Emily Lane, Rick Last, Mark Williams, Lucy Lange, Wilhelm Botha
- Zimbabwe: Chris Foggin, John Lawrence, Mark Obolo / Nancy Kock
- Namibia: Felix Mettler, Linda Munson

### **ACTION STEP 3:**

Acquire methods being developed by ecologists (Marker and Mills) to age animals.

Conduct opportunistic sampling of live animals. Identify regional coordinators / collaborators in all range countries and supply them with protocols and collection sheets. Regional coordinators suggested at the meeting include:

- Namibia: Laurie Marker, Lise Hanssen, Flip Stander and Ulf Tubbesing
- Zimbabwe: Nettie Purchase, Bruce Davison, Verity Bowman and Viv Wilson?
- South Africa: Gus Mills, Richard Burroughs? Deon Cilliers (De Wildt) and Lente Roode (Hoedstruit)
- Botswana: Kathy Alexander? Current state vet?

**ACTION STEP 5:**

Develop a plan and a schedule for the training of in-country field personnel in necropsy techniques and collection of biomaterials from live animals. Regional veterinarians will conduct training if possible.

**ACTION STEP 6:**

Identify site for banking of samples at the regional site using "BioBank SA" as a model. Develop guidelines for intellectual property, identify funds to courier samples to the bank, and to maintain the bank, contact regional coordinators to recommend sending duplicate samples to the bank.

**ACTION STEP 7:**

Develop research proposal to biopsy wild-caught cheetah to increase sample size in assessment of veno-occlusive disease, gastritis and glomerulosclerosis. Determine feasibility of project in Namibia.

Solution 3:

Conduct captive population disease surveillance. Disease data should be collected for comparative purposes from a wide range of African, European and Australian facilities using standardised surveillance methods. Many regions now have zoo organisations that can facilitate data / sample collection among member institutions. Diseases should then be compared among regions and facilities.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify sites of needed surveillance and a contact person. Initiate surveillance with designated pathologist and coordinate findings with regional coordinator. Regional coordinators suggested at the meeting include:

- Namibia: Ulf Tubbesing, Laurie Marker and Lise Hanssen
- Zimbabwe: Viv Wilson, Chris Foggin
- South Africa: PAAZAB, Laurie Marker, Rob Hall, Henk Bertschinger (De Wildt), Lente Roode.

Solution 2:

Identify sites for sample submission and analysis: Samples should be submitted to appropriate diagnostic laboratories / scientific collaborators for serology, infectious disease surveillance, genetics, etc. The standardised forms (see 2a) should be submitted to these laboratories with the samples. Data from the analysis should be sent to submitters of samples who will then forward this information to appropriate collaborators and officials. All data should be proprietary until published.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Select regional laboratories for sample analysis. Laboratories with ongoing Quality Analysis and expertise in felid tests will be selected.  
E.g. RSA: Golden Laboratory and University of Pretoria.  
Regional veterinarians will select.

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Develop e-mail group of people interested in corresponding on cheetah health. Develop mechanism of reporting new findings on an Internet based discussion group and posting existing documents.

#### Solution 3:

A Cheetah Biological Resource Database should be established and maintained by a fulltime secretariat. Lists of samples, projects, and current investigators should be submitted to the Database. Data should be compiled from standardised forms. Archival information from the Database should be made available via a website. There also is a need for a third party biological bank to maintain biological samples for field scientists and provide samples to other researchers with approval of submitters.

#### ACTION STEP 1:

Link existing databases of disease information or archived samples with BioBank SA. Use their Secretariat to enter information from archived samples. Contact all researchers with cheetah samples and encourage submission of information of archived samples to BioBank SA

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Work with Cheetah Interest Group to develop a website for a newsletter of important new health findings as a means for the Health Working Group to communicate with other groups.

#### ACTION STEP 3:

Contribute ongoing information on health research projects to the website.

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 1**

**ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, THERE IS STILL INADEQUATE STANDARDISATION OF DATA AND SAMPLE COLLECTION AND ORGANISED COLLABORATION AMONGST INSTITUTIONS. COMPARATIVE HEALTH STATUS STUDIES BETWEEN WILD AND CAPTIVE POPULATIONS ARE DIFFICULT TO CONDUCT BECAUSE SAMPLE COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND STORAGE HAVE NOT BEEN DONE CONSISTENTLY, AND INFORMATION IS NOT CENTRALISED. COLLABORATION AMONG MANY OF THE ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN COLLECTING HEALTH STATUS DATA HAVE NOT BEEN INITIATED OR MAINTAINED. ADEQUATE GLOBAL ACCESS TO PUBLICATIONS AND NEW INFORMATION ON CHEETAH HEALTH IS ALSO LACKING. Page 45 (2002)**

#### Solution 1: DATA COLLECTION AND PROTOCOLS

Complete and distribute standardised protocols, datasheets and sample collection sheets and encourage all people who handle cheetah (whether opportunistically or as part of a research study) to routinely use these protocols.

#### ACTION STEP 1:

Circulate (by e-mail) a draft datasheet for sample collection for review by all interested parties. Circulate the finalised form to all participants and encourage its use.

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Develop a booklet and practical courses for sample collection in endangered species, including cheetah. Circulate the health working group with a draft booklet for input.

#### ACTION STEP 3:

Update existing necropsy and biopsy protocols and distribute these to the health group via e-mail for comments and editing. The finalised copy is to be sent to GCF secretariat for circulation to GCF members.

#### Solution 2: SAMPLE COLLECTION AND STORAGE

Optimise sample storage and collection. Archival information from the Cheetah BRB database may be made available via a web site and / or an email interest group list with approval of sample submitters (legal owners). This third party biological bank will maintain biological samples for researchers and managers and may provide samples to others subject to the (written?) approval of legal owners.

#### ACTION STEP 1:

Every member of the health group collecting samples must ensure that the appropriate chain of responsibility is in place to ensure optimal and complete sample collection at every opportunity.

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Identify equipment necessary to ensure optimal sample collection and storage (at various sites of storage – field to BRB). Locate possible sources for this equipment, obtain quotations and funding that may be necessary to achieve this.

#### ACTION STEP 3:

Write a multi-centre, multinational, biological resource bank collaborative proposal for the collection, storage and management of biological samples. Circulate a list of sample storage facilities to health group members.

#### ACTION STEP 4:

Establish Cheetah Biological Resource Database to be maintained by the biological resource bank network (Virtual Bank)

#### Solution 3: SAMPLE ANALYSIS

Samples should be submitted to reputable diagnostic laboratories / scientific collaborators for serology, infectious disease surveillance, genetic analysis, reproduction, etc. Identify these sites for reliable sample analysis, circulate and recommend them to researchers and individuals commonly involved in sample collection. The samples should be submitted to these laboratories with the standardised forms (see solution 1). Results from the analysis performed should then be sent to submitters of samples and a confidential copy should be submitted to and stored at the relevant sample storage site. Information may be forwarded to appropriate collaborators and officials with the (written) permission of the legal owners.

#### ACTION STEP:

Regional veterinarians / researchers will select suitable regional laboratories for sample analysis.

Laboratories with ongoing quality analysis and expertise in felid tests will be selected. E.g. RSA: Golden Laboratory and University of Pretoria. USA: Cornell University and Washington State Diagnostic Laboratory.

Develop a list of recommended laboratories and facilities to be circulated to all regional people doing work on cheetah.

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**THERE IS A LACK OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION REGARDING THE HEALTH STATUS OF IN SITU AND EX SITU CHEETAH POPULATIONS GLOBALLY DUE TO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN ACCESSING ANIMALS AND / OR SAMPLES (LOGISTICS) AND DUE TO A LACK OF COMMUNICATION AMONG RESEARCHERS / FIELD WORKERS. Page 47 (2002)**

### Solution 1: HEALTH BIBLIOGRAPHY

Conduct a retrospective survey to collate information from published sources regarding the health status of cheetah. Availability of this information must be assured.

#### **ACTION STEP:**

Update and collate literature from all databases. Information will be listed on [www.cincyzoo.org](http://www.cincyzoo.org) until the Cheetah Interest Group web site is developed.

### Solution 2: PATHOLOGY DATABASE

Update retrospective surveys on archived pathology reports / slides on diseases of wild and captive populations. Availability of this information must be assured.

#### **ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify suitable regional pathologists to conduct retrospective surveys on archived pathology slides and reports to add to the existing cheetah pathology database. Standardise interpretation and scoring of lesions.

#### **ACTION STEP 2:**

Write a proposal and secure funding for a pathologist to assist Linda Munson in Action Step 1.

### Solution 3: CLINICAL CASES

Identify clinicians who work with cheetah globally and ensure that they have access to the communications forum of the CIG. Create an electronic platform for the exchange of current issues regarding health (diagnosis, epidemiology, aetiology, prevention and treatment)

#### **ACTION STEP:**

Develop an e-mail group of people interested in corresponding on cheetah health. Develop a mechanism of reporting new findings on an Internet-based discussion group and posting existing documents.

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT 3**

**THE DISEASE STATUS OF WILD CHEETAH POPULATIONS IS NOT WELL CHARACTERISED. THE IMPACT OF DISEASE ON POPULATION DYNAMICS THUS CANNOT BE ASSESSED AND THE DISEASES OF CAPTIVE ANIMALS CANNOT BE PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE. THIS INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND THE CAUSES OF DISEASE AND TO MINIMIZE DISEASE RISK AT AN INTERFACE BETWEEN WILD AND CAPTIVE POPULATIONS. THERE IS A NEED TO EVALUATE GENETIC INFLUENCES ON DISEASE. Page 49 (2002)**

### Solution 1: WILD POPULATION DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Whenever access to wild cheetah is possible, conduct disease surveillance using standardised methods in all range countries. Once ethical and safety issues have been addressed, these studies should, in addition to a full clinical work-up, be expanded to, when practically feasible, include kidney and liver biopsies. Studies involving the collection of gastric biopsy samples in range countries should be

continued. These studies should be conducted on cheetah in range countries to determine the health status of the wild population. It is considered to be of particular importance to biopsy older cheetah, individuals that have previously been caught and cheetah with signs of disease. Diseases should be compared among regions and populations. Availability of this information must be assured.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Establish an ethical and safe, minimally invasive liver and kidney biopsy procedure.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Continue studies involving gastric biopsies in range countries should be continued.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Formalise methodology for the ageing cheetah.

**ACTION STEP 4:**

Continue and promote the training of in-country field personnel in necropsy techniques and collection of biomaterials from live animals. As far as possible, regional veterinarians should conduct the training.

**Solution 2: REPRODUCTION**

Establish a database of normal reproductive traits of wild cheetah.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Continue biomaterial (semen, blood, vaginal smears) collection and analysis on wild caught cheetah.

**Solution 3: DIET ANALYSIS**

Conduct a diet analysis, assessing the prey composition of wild cheetah diets through qualitative scat analysis.

**ACTION STEP:**

Contact people who have been working on captive and wild diets to determine status of current information and source of that information. These people include:

- Wilhelm Schultheiss
- Ellen Dierenfeld
- Mary Allen
- Peter Rogers
- Willie Labuschagne

Link with Laurie Marker / Gus Mills concerning their planned project to determine prey species from faecal analysis. Find out what current information regarding prey species is available from field ecologists. Collate all this information to determine if further work should be done.

## **Protection of Cheetah outside Protected Areas Working Group Report**

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 1**

**CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND CHEETAH OCCUPYING THE SAME AREA. Page 33 (2001) Page 65 (2002)**

#### Solution:

Conflict resolution, recognizing that human needs play a key role, needs to be applied to communities where people and cheetah occupy the same area. Resolution of conflicts should be divided into short- and long-term solutions.

#### SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS

##### Short-term solution 1:

Identifying stakeholders in the range states from which sub-regional and regional cheetah fora can be set up to address the issues of conflict within and between countries and work towards resolving conflict.

##### ACTION STEP:

Establish regional fora to address conflict issues. Otherwise, use existing fora within range states to help form new groups within other countries that will then be incorporated into regional fora.

- SA -Mozambique and Botswana
- Namibia - Central Africa and North Africa
- Zimbabwe – Zambia

##### Short-term solution 2:

Use these fora to identify and develop key people to act as role models and spokespersons.

##### ACTION STEP 1:

Identify these people to pass on the message.

##### ACTION STEP 2:

Development of these key people.

##### Short-term solution 3:

Compile a database comprising people working with stakeholders in range states, data they have collected and conflict resolution successes and failures. Make these data available to representatives in all range states and update it regularly.

##### ACTION STEP:

Set up the database using people and information on conflict resolution.

##### Short-term solution 4:

Where no immediate co-existence is possible cheetah should be removed and relocated into parks or reserves and captive situations where they will have to be managed as metapopulations and become part of a global management plan (captive / metapopulation).

##### ACTION STEP 1:

List areas in each country where cheetah can be relocated, incorporating cross-border movement.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Identification of regulations pertaining to holding centres or captive properties in each country if it is not possible to release the animals into the wild.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Draft a metapopulation management plan both within countries and between countries using a “stud-book” approach at both scales. When possible, all cheetah that have been removed are recorded and if cheetah are to be moved, it can be decided where they will be most productive.

**LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS:**

**Long-term solution 1:**

Cheetah removal and relocation into parks or reserves or captivity and managed as metapopulations.

**ACTION STEP:**

See short-term solution 4, action steps 1.2 and 3 above

**Long-term solution 2:**

Ongoing research to understand more about the role of a cheetah in the ecosystem outside protected areas

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify ecosystems where research is taking place and tap into the data being collected.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Where no research is being done, identification of key ecosystems should be carried out and feasibility studies should be done.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Ecosystems should have priorities assigned in terms of the usefulness of the research into cheetah biology in resolving conflict.

**Long-term solution 3:**

Compensation to farmers for capture / damage using in insurance policy compensation with community verification or specialist group verification.

**ACTION STEP:**

Assess and consolidate models (as examples: SA Eagle compensation fund – verified by field staff; Eastern Cape, farmers paid into kitty and compensate for crop loss – to encourage kudu in area, allowed hunting to raise money) in terms of their usefulness in different land-use types.

Over time models will be developed that are appropriate to regions where there is presently limited knowledge.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**THE KNOWLEDGE BASE REGARDING CHEETAH OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS IS LACKING AND MORE INFORMATION MAY LEAD TO IDENTIFYING OTHER ISSUES. Page 36 (2001)**

Solution:

The knowledge base must be expanded to more effectively conserve cheetah outside of protected areas. There are many sources of available information and it is necessary to access as much of this knowledge as possible (scientific, anecdotal, tribal and agricultural).

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Set up an information database and allow access to other researchers. The database will also enable analysis of patterns and the impact of cheetah on people in different areas and vice versa.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Investigate problem, solutions, make recommendations, investigate solutions and monitor effectiveness.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS ARE UNCOORDINATED AMONG GROUPS, REGIONS AND COUNTRIES. THIS RESULTS IN DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS. Page 67 (2002)**

SOLUTION:

Establish a central advisory body where new cheetah conservation and research projects can be compared to existing projects. The body will suggest alterations and coordinate these activities and encourage communication between fora and projects.

**ACTION STEP 1:** Request that the CIG take on this function.

**ACTION STEP 2:** Each forum will send either a copy of minutes of meeting / media releases / newsletters to other fora that are known to be in place and in active.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 3**

**THERE IS A NEED TO EDUCATE STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT CHEETAH BIOLOGY, THE ROLE THAT CHEETAH PLAY IN THE ECOSYSTEM AND WAYS TO LIVE WITH CHEETAH. BUILDING ON THAT WILL BE THE NEED TO ACCEPT CHEETAH THROUGH MARKETING INITIATIVES WITH A VIEW TO EXPANDING THE RANGE OVER WHICH CHEETAH AND HUMANS CAN COEXIST. Page 36 (2001) Page 68 (2002)**

Solution 1:

Improve the information available to educate people living with cheetah about the basic ecology of cheetah, the importance of cheetah as a species in an ecosystem, livestock predators responsible for killing a stock animal (livestock or game).

**ACTION STEP:**

Investigate what education materials are available (brochures, pamphlets etc.) and what further developments of these materials are necessary.

Solution 2:

Education material needs to be passed onto to the people living with cheetah but in an active manner. This will require individuals involved in nature conservation (extension workers, agricultural people, biology students, farmers / farmers wives, sociologists and community based NGO's) to be made aware of the issues and shown how to explain them to people living on the land. Each type of person / group needs suited to the task of getting the information across to the various groups of people living with cheetah.

**ACTION STEP:**

- Identify target individuals / groups of peoples who are available
- Identify who will put education packages on conflict resolution together using media resources available – radio, TV, magazines, multiple languages
- Decide on content of packages for each target group

\* Video on conflict resolution could be produced –offer made by Neil Herman

Solution 3:

Develop a marketing strategy that emphasises the:

1. Value of cheetah (for farmers): economic, intrinsic, ecological.
2. Basic economic benefit of sound land management (includes game / livestock).
3. Benefits of conservancies.
4. Change in perception of the real economic impact of cheetah on farming – relays success stories.
5. Benefits of tourism
6. Concept that cheetah contribute to a healthy ungulate population.
7. Value of trophy hunting in true wilderness area.
8. Value of marketing ethical hunting.
9. Marketing of cheetah as a flagship species in conservation. Market steps to become a cheetah conservation farmer.
10. Increased value of cheetah through marketing

**ACTION STEP:**

Investigate the possibility of having an advertising company adopt the concept of telling the story of cheetah and how wonderful an animal it is to as many people as possible.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 4**

**CHEETAH ARE COMPATIBLE WITH SOME LAND-USES AND NOT WITH OTHERS. Page 38 (2001) Page 69 (2002)**

Solution:

Identify land management practices that are compatible with cheetah and those that are thought not to be, and try to obtain maximum area of the former as well as change the incompatible land-use practices where possible.

**ACTION STEP:**

A basic document on sound land management is available from Birgit Forster that can be sent to authorities / cheetah fora in all range states. This will then give these states a baseline from which to start working.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 5**

**THE CHEETAH HAS AN ECONOMIC, ECOLOGICAL AND INTRINSIC VALUE, AND WE NEED TO WORK TOWARDS HAVING THE PERCEIVED AND ACTUAL COSTS OUTWEIGHED BY THESE VALUES. THE VALUE AND COST OF CHEETAH IS AN INDIVIDUAL, COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ASSET. WE NEED TO RECOGNISE DIFFERENT CULTURAL UNDERSTANDINGS OF COST AND VALUE. Page 38 (2001) Page 70 (2002)**

Solution:

In order to determine if the value of a cheetah to a person outweighs the cost, cost benefit analyses should be carried out in the following different scenarios:

- Commercial farming with the option of trophy hunting and ecotourism
- Commercial farming without the option to harvest the cheetah
- Communal sedentary farming
- Nomadic pastoralist areas
- Hunter-gatherer areas

#### ACTION STEP 1:

Compile a basic document that:

- Details the problem on a regional basis.
- Promotes the direct and indirect values of cheetah (if it pays it stays).
- Changes the perception of the cost of having cheetah on a property.
- Promotes the concept of “predator friendly meat” and
- Involves national and international politicians to provide tax relief (or other economic incentives) for farmers with sustainable land and livestock management practices.

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Take document to suitable organisations and outsource this as a research project.

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 6**

**GLOBAL, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY AND LEGISLATION REGARDING LAND-USE AND CONSERVATION IS FRAGMENTED, INAPPROPRIATE AND UNENFORCED. THERE IS VERY LITTLE REGIONAL AND COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY AGREEMENT. Page 39 (2001) Page 71 (2002)**

#### Solution:

The working group made the following recommendations:

1. Governments in range states should be given information that will lead to the formulation of policies of sound land-use and leading to the drawing up of suitable legislation.
2. Countries that have in the past experienced fragmented policy and legislation must be encouraged to formulate new policies to include all stakeholders and that take into account the status of cheetah throughout the country.
3. Changes in policy will only come about through education and lobbying of internal and external governments.
4. Politicians that have an influence on policy formation must be given up-to-date and accurate information regarding the status of cheetah in their countries.
5. When drawing up new policy and legislation, international conventions must be adhered to in order to prevent conflict between stakeholder countries.
6. Begin dialogue between range states on a regional basis with the view to formulating regional policy that will enable cheetah to be conserved across national boundaries.
7. Without effective enforcement of new and past laws resulting from policy, no progress will be made. It is important to identify suitable law enforcement agencies within range states.

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 7**

**FUNDING IS CRITICAL IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN PROTECTING CHEETAH OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS. Page 39 (2001) Page 71 (2002)**

#### Solutions:

1. Develop overall funding strategy.
2. Identify donors / partners.
3. Identify proposals within overall strategy.
4. Endorsement from international body (IUCN Cat Specialist Group).
5. Form a Cheetah Interest Group.
6. Fundraise country-by-country.

## **Coordinating Cheetah Conservation Efforts *In Situ* and *Ex Situ* Working Group Report**

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 1**

**COORDINATING *EX SITU* EFFORTS TO CONSERVE CHEETAH - THAT IS, INCREASING COOPERATION AND NETWORKING BETWEEN CAPTIVE CHEETAH BREEDING ORGANISATIONS, IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS AND FACILITATING THE MOVEMENT OF CHEETAH BETWEEN FACILITIES GLOBALLY. Page 40 (2001) Page 74 (2002)**

#### Solution 1:

Develop a database of people working in ex situ cheetah activities and not just people publishing their data. Identify contact people starting at this meeting and request areas of expertise, their activities and projects, including a list of their needs. A facilitator (regional programme manager) of collection data needs to be appointed.

#### **ACTION STEP 1:**

Use the database designed by Luke Hunter. Send this form for comment to regional coordinators.

#### **ACTION STEP 3:**

Regional coordinators send the database out to their participants for input and need to get it returned.

#### Solution 2:

Disseminate information in a usable updateable format (regional and international programme managers). Review and update this resource guide on a regular basis every 2 to 3 years.

#### **ACTION STEP:**

Place information on appropriate website

#### Solution 3:

Develop a global programme (genetic and demographic) for managing captive cheetah.

1. It is recognised that many cheetah in captivity are privately owned, and that these private facilities and / or individuals may have either no ability or interest in participating in regional or global captive cheetah management plans.
2. Animals in these facilities need to be identified and excluded from population analysis, and when necessary recorded as "Lost to Follow-up."
3. Those facilities that choose to participate need to commit to timely communication of changes to their collection (births, deaths, illness).
4. It should be recognised that the primary benefit of globalisation of captive management is information sharing. Movement of animals among regions when considered necessary for demographic or genetic reasons should be done in coordination with global population analyses.
5. The International Studbook should be analysed at least every three years, not to make animal-by-animal recommendations but rather to track the status of the population. On an as-needed basis analyses can be done to help regional coordinators locate suitable animals for import / export.
6. Regional studbooks should be analysed at least annually and used to help guide decisions on breeding and animal moves. Regions may have different levels of expected participation in the captive breeding programmes, and that

needs to be respected. Regional programme coordinators need to let the International Studbook Keeper know when they believe they have a need to import or export animals for genetic or demographic reasons.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Improve accuracy of International Studbook

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Formalisation of captive management programmes within regions. If regions do not already have a formalised captive management programme (Asia?), it needs to be determined whether there is the possibility of those regions being able to participate at some time in the future.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Each region should identify a regional studbook keeper so that data collection can be more proactive (i.e. multiple contacts to get information) and occur on a timelier basis. Regional studbook keepers should send data to the International Studbook Keeper on a regular basis.

**ACTION STEP 4:**

If a region currently lacks the expertise in studbook keeping and / or population management, options include obtaining copies of training manuals, attending courses offered in other regions, and / or hosting training workshop(s) within the region.

Solution 4: Page 76 (2002)

The knowledge base regarding free-roaming cheetah is lacking and more information may lead to identifying other issues. The knowledge base must be expanded to more effectively conserve cheetah outside of protected areas. There are many sources of available information and it is necessary to access as much of this knowledge as possible (scientific, anecdotal, tribal and agricultural).

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Set up an information database and allow access to other researchers. The database will also enable analysis of patterns and the impact of cheetah on people in different areas and vice versa.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Investigate problem, solutions, make recommendations, investigate solutions and monitor effectiveness.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**COORDINATING *IN SITU* EFFORTS TO CONSERVE CHEETAH - i.e. ENHANCING THE CONSERVATION OF CHEETAH IN NORTH AFRICA AND ASIA, CONDUCTING RESEARCH INTO NORTH, WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN AND IRANIAN CHEETAH, COORDINATING REINTRODUCTION AND TRANSLOCATION PROJECTS AND IDENTIFYING *IN SITU* PROJECTS IN NEED OF SUPPORT. Page 42 (2001)**

Solution 1:

Develop a database of people working on in situ cheetah activities and not just of people publishing their data. A facilitator (regional programme manager) of collection data needs to be appointed.

**ACTION STEP:**

Design a database, identify contact people starting at this meeting and request areas of expertise, their activities and projects, including a list of their needs (link with other databases formed from this meeting).

Solution 2:

Disseminate information in a usable updateable format (Cat Specialist Group / Cheetah Interest Group web sites?) and review and update this resource guide regularly (every two to three years?).

**ACTION STEP:**

Compile information that was sent to Duncan Purchase / Steve Hines by the 28 May 2002. Disseminate information as appropriate based on the size of the database. For example, if the database is relatively small and in a commonly used software package, it could be sent via e-mail as well as be posted on the web (e.g., IUCN Cat Specialist Group and the Cheetah Interest Group). If the database is both large and complex other methods may be more appropriate.

Solution 3:

Develop a regional programme for managing small isolated wild cheetah populations as a metapopulation

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Start dialogues on a national basis to establish the need for and benefit of managing cheetah among isolated areas. This may be primarily an issue for South Africa, and should be championed by a South African governmental agency, NGO, or researcher.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Knowledge of translocations, past and future, is critical to developing any kind of metapopulation profile that could lead to metapopulation management. Existing information needs to be combined and centrally stored so that it is not lost.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Develop integrated management programmes for populations that exist across borders.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 3**

**LINKING *IN SITU* AND *EX SITU* EFFORTS TO CONSERVE CHEETAH. THE GOAL OF THE CHEETAH CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP (CAP) IS THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE AND PROTECTION OF THE CHEETAH IN THE WILD. GOALS SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED TO AVOID OVERLAP AND TO MESH THE INTERESTS OF BOTH FACTIONS. IMPROVED EDUCATION AND INCREASED POLICY ARE REQUIRED TO ENCOURAGE REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION. ISSUES SUCH AS HEALTH, BEHAVIOUR, HUSBANDRY, EDUCATION, CENSUS ETC. NEED TO BE LINKED ON A PERSON-TO-PERSON BASIS - WITHOUT ESTABLISHING THESE CLOSE PERSONAL BONDS, THIS LINKING OF *IN SITU* AND *EX SITU* EFFORTS WILL NOT PROGRESS. Page 43 (2001)**

Solution 1:

The data facilitators previously mentioned will integrate *in situ* and *ex situ* databases.

**ACTION STEP:**

Combine both databases for *ex situ* / *in situ* cheetah conservation

Solution 2:

Distribute database to all who are involved in cheetah conservation.

**ACTION STEP:**

Duncan will send the databases to Luke Hunter and Dusty Lombardi who will send it to regional coordinators and field biologists. Regional coordinators will send it to the appropriate websites.

Solution 3:

Coordinate and integrate *in situ* / *ex situ* conservation education programmes messages to present an accurate and consistent message on cheetah conservation.

**ACTION STEP:**

The education document developed by the education working group should be distributed to the regional coordinators and field researchers.

Solution 4:

Public awareness and public relations should help fund raise for support of *ex situ* and *in situ* needs.

**ACTION STEP:**

Institutions and regional coordinators cooperating in cheetah management programmes should promote the document to their fund raising personnel.

Solution 5:

Educate and include policy makers should encourage the removal of barriers that impede collaboration.

**ACTION STEP:**

Distribute the final document distributed by CBSG from this workshop.

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 4**

**GENETIC MANAGEMENT OF *EX SITU* POPULATIONS WITHOUT THE NEED TO IMPORT WILD CHEETAH FROM RANGE COUNTRIES. Page 44 (2001)**

Solution:

Utilise assisted breeding (such as artificial insemination) with cryopreserved semen from wild cheetah as a strategy for importing new genetic material into *ex situ* populations.

**ACTION STEP:**

Continue improving semen cryopreservation and artificial insemination methods to maximize reproductive success after assisted breeding.

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**THERE IS A LACK OF COOPERATION AND COORDINATED MOVEMENT OF CHEETAH AND OR BIOMATERIALS TO FACILITATE GENETIC MANAGEMENT OF THE GLOBAL *EX SITU* POPULATION AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON GENETICS, HUSBANDRY, HEALTH REPRODUCTION, NUTRITION, BEHAVIOUR AND EDUCATION. Page 76 (2002)**

Solution 1:

Develop a global programme (genetic and demographic) for managing *ex situ* cheetah.

**Minimum goal:** Develop global management strategy.

**Maximum goal:** Implement global management strategy in all *ex situ* populations.

1. It is recognised that many cheetah in captivity are privately owned, and that these private facilities and / or individuals may have either no ability or interest in participating in regional or global captive cheetah management plans.
2. Animals in these facilities need to be identified and excluded from population analysis, and when necessary recorded as "Lost to Follow-up."
3. Those facilities that choose to participate need to commit to timely communication of changes to their collection (births, deaths, illness).
4. It should be recognised that the primary benefit of globalisation of captive management is information sharing. Movement of animals among regions when considered necessary for demographic or genetic reasons should be done in coordination with global population analyses.
5. The International Cheetah Studbook should be analysed at least every 3 years, not to make animal-by-animal recommendations but to rather track the status of the population. As-needed basis analyses can be done to help regional coordinators locate suitable animals for import / export.

Regional studbooks should be analysed at least annually and used to help guide decisions on breeding and animal moves. Regions may have different levels of expected participation in the captive breeding programmes, and that needs to be respected. Regional programme coordinators need to let the International Studbook Keeper know when they believe they have a need to import or export animals for genetic or demographic reasons

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Distribute new and improved International Cheetah Studbook.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Formalise captive management programmes within regions. If regions do not already have a formalised captive management programme (Asia?), it needs to be determined if it is possible for those regions to participate in the future.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

Each region should identify a Regional Studbook Keeper so that data collection can be more proactive and done on a more timely basis. Regional studbook keepers should send data to the International Studbook Keeper on a regular basis.

**ACTION STEP 4:**

If a region currently lacks the expertise in studbook keeping and / or population management, options include obtaining copies of training manuals, attending courses offered in other regions, and / or hosting training workshop(s) within the region.

**Solution 2:**

Continue to utilise assisted breeding (such as artificial insemination) with cryopreserved gametes from wild cheetah as a means for contributing to the genetic management for *ex situ* populations.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Continue improving semen cryopreservation and artificial insemination methods to maximise reproductive success after assisted breeding.

### PROBLEM STATEMENT 3

THERE IS A SPECIAL AREA OF CONCERN ABOUT THE LACK OF INFORMATION FOR THE CHEETAH OF NORTHERN AND WESTERN AFRICA.

Page 78 (2002)

#### Solution 1:

Develop a list of contacts from experts in the region that might have useful information to begin or enhance conservation initiatives.

**Minimum goal:** Make list of contacts in North and West African range states.

**Maximum goal:** Secure information from these contacts and include it in the database.

#### ACTION STEP:

Identify and contact experts in those regions. Send database and request their information for the database

#### Solution 2:

Assist these contact people by inviting them to the next cheetah workshop and / or helping to organise a conservation management planning workshop in the northern and / or western Africa region(s).

#### ACTION STEP:

Invite the identified contact individuals from the above solution.

## **Education and Communication Working Group Report**

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 1**

**THE GENERAL LACK OF RESOURCES IN AFRICA IS AFFECTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTI-LEVEL EDUCATION. Page 46 (2001)**

#### **Solution 1.**

Seek and establish partnerships with developed countries to acquire resources.

#### **ACTION STEP:**

Acquire and circulate data on:

- a) funding organisations
- b) teaching materials and ideas emphasising interactivity
- c) information to initiate capacity building

#### **Solution 2:**

Utilise existing NGO networks to distribute resources and identify in-country organisations already working on eco-education and assist them in capacity building.

#### **ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify suitable NGOs already working on eco-education.

#### **ACTION STEP 2:**

Prepare a survey for mailing to possible participants to gather data on their needs.

#### **ACTION STEP 3:**

Mail follow-up, tabulate, analyse and disseminate information which may ultimately result in a workshop.

#### **Solution 3:**

Facilitate teacher workshops to bring environmental issues into existing school curriculum.

#### **ACTION STEP:**

Take recent Cape Town (July 2001) Teacher Training Model developed by Cheetah Outreach (Cape Town) and the Smithsonian National Zoological Park (USA) into Namibia. Venue to be decided. Listen to what the Teachers perceive their needs to be.

#### **Solution 4:**

Establish, implement and share "in house " educational programmes for children using outside resources and expertise to assist development. Emphasis should be placed on field trips to enhance the learning experience.

#### **ACTION STEP 1a:**

Follow-up to ensure development of materials relevant to the country as identified in workshops.

#### **ACTION STEP 1b:**

Duplicate throughout range countries.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**  
**LACK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL STAKEHOLDERS AT ALL LEVELS.**  
**Page 47 (2001)**

Solution:

Promote communication and cooperation between key stakeholders to ensure a strong dialogue between the following groups: Government agencies; NGO's, educators and donors; researchers, captive animal facilities and field workers; commercial and subsistence farmers.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Establish a Cheetah Interest Group (CIG), using the address list from the present workshop. Consider enhancing the permanence of this group by developing a CIG Secretariat.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Establish a communication network to reach all stakeholders, via platforms, such as conferences, websites, email, newsletters, magazine articles and electronic media. Radio ownership is widespread in communities and should also be used.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 3**  
**DEFECTS IN THE CURRENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM INHIBIT THE AWARENESS OF AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION CAREERS FOR PEOPLE FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES. Page 48 (2001)**

Solution 1:

Involve Ministries of Education and Environment and Tourism in all initiatives.

**ACTION STEP:**

Nominate an individual to attend the SADC Environmental Educators' workshop in Maseru, Lesotho 1-5 Oct 2001. The nominee will present and distribute a paper on the existence of the Cheetah Interest Group (CIG) and the value of the cheetah as a "flagship" species for conservation education. It is likely that Ministry officials will be attending this workshop.

Solution 2:

Facilitate opportunities to work with organisations such as the Peace Corps to "jump start" sustainable capacity building programmes for the purpose of training teachers through the medium of workshops.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify a CIG Education Coordinator, who will pursue methods and strategies for training teachers.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Continue with at least one teacher training workshop annually (first one scheduled for July 2002).

Solution 3:

Identify key educators and ensure that they get international exposure

**ACTION STEP:**

Identify star teachers from the workshops (two for 2002) for broad-scale exposure to environmental sciences at the Smithsonian Institution (USA) per programme implemented in 2001. The education co-ordinator will solicit other educational

organisations for interest in providing training opportunities. (AfriCat, CCF, North American Zoos).

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 4**  
**THE QUALITY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO TOURISTS VISITING PROTECTED AREAS AND CULTURAL SITES IS POOR. Page 49 (2001)**

Solution 1:

- a) Create a training programme for tour guides at the formal (commercial level) and the informal (community level).
- b) Test and certify candidate tour guides for competency in wildlife.
- c) Register certified tour guides under a government agency with annual renewal and disciplinary authority.

**ACTION STEP:**

Create a description of existing training for tour guides that ensure accuracy with respect to cheetah conservation issues. This document will be made available on the CIG website with Hu Berry identified as the contact person for those interested in this type of training.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 5**  
**INAPPROPRIATE POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS AT DECISION-MAKING LEVELS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXCLUSION OF INPUT BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE LEADS TO LACK OF IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY. Page 49 (2001)**

Solution 1a:

Encourage the appointment of individuals sympathetic to conservation principles wherever possible.

Solution 1b:

Identify and lobby for appropriate policy decisions.

**ACTION STEP:**

Widely distribute this document to government departments involved in environmental issues.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 6**  
**DIVERSITY OF THE COMMUNITY BASE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT COMPLICATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL EFFORT. Page 50 (2001)**

Solution 1:

Adapt the education package to accommodate urban and rural communities including subsistence and commercial farmers.

Solution 2:

Employ local interpreters to deliver programmes in the appropriate language.

Solution 3:

Promote a sense of awareness of the custodianship of the indigenous fauna and flora.

Solution 4:

Focus on training local scientists and appropriate agricultural extension staff.

**ACTION STEP:**

Develop a workshop to identify strategies that will enable the training of potential indigenous scientists in conservation.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 7**

**MULTICULTURAL BACKGROUNDS GOVERN THE ATTITUDES OF THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION TOWARDS CERTAIN SPECIES, OFTEN RESULTING IN ANIMAL PHOBIA AND MISCONCEPTIONS. Page 50 (2001)**

Solution 1:

Facilitate workshops to reduce the phenomenon of animal phobia through direct exposure to live animals and to impart a better understanding of their role in the ecosystem.

**ACTION STEP:**

Include these topics in the Teacher Training workshops to be held in 2002.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 1**

**EDUCATION**

The initiative begun by this group following the 2001 GCAP Workshop has been very successful. A will to communicate and cooperate has replaced the initial lack of communication and cooperation among GCF members. The issue has been revised as follows:

**GCF STAKEHOLDERS NEED TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS IN RANGE COUNTRIES. ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS A FEAR THAT AS THE NETWORK EXPANDS, PILOT PROJECTS MAY BE NEGLECTED. Page 82 (2002)**

Solution:

Start the visioning process for education in other regions or range countries.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify key individuals who are able to initiate a visioning process for education programmes targeting specific issues / audiences in countries where cheetah occur. These key individuals will comprise skills / resource personnel, the anchor organisation(s) and a facilitator.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

The anchor organisation should indicate the appropriate target audience(s), relevant theme(s) with a consideration of local issues and perspectives.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

In the visioning process, sustainability and strategy for resulting projects should be discussed. This includes identifying both long and short-term funding, tapping additional resources and service providers, and articulating measurable outcomes (assessment and evaluation).

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**THE GLOBAL CHEETAH FORUM NEEDS AN INTERNAL COMMUNICATION STRUCTURE. Page 83 (2002)**

Solution 1:

Develop a Global Cheetah Forum website.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

A CIG-wide survey was completed following the 2001 GCAP Workshop. The summary of this survey is included as Appendix VI this workshop report.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Establish the website address and template.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

GCF web master will request input directly from GCF membership, until the secretariat has access to a CIG list-serve (see Solution 2, Action Step 1) for input onto URL links, and other items to include on website. This will include contributions to a GCF "News Update", to be accessible via the website (see Solution 2, Action Step 2).

**ACTION STEP 4:**

Reciprocal links will be established between the CIG website, CIG stakeholder websites, and other related websites (e.g., IUCN Cat Specialist Group; AZA Cheetah SSP; CCF; De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre; Marwell Zimbabwe Trust; AZA, EAZA, PAAZAB and other regional zoo organizations)

**Solution 2:**

Develop mechanism(s) to promote effective communication among GCF members.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

A secretariat should be identified by GCF members. The GCF web master has committed to creating a list serve to facilitate the process of communication between the secretariat and GCF members. A budget should be established and adequate funding secured to support the functions of the secretariat.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Form a "body" (title to be determined by full GCF membership in plenary) to coordinate and sustain actions of the Working Groups. This group will consist of representatives appointed in plenary during the 2002 Cheetah Workshop, who can adequately represent each of the Working Groups.

**Solution 3:**

The GCF should utilise multiple media options for internal communications.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Develop a GCF list serve. Secretariat and GCF members should use this for normal, logistical communications.

**ACTION STEP 2:**

Develop an electronic, web-based news update. GCF members should be encouraged to post regular updates on new and ongoing activities. Submissions do not need to be restricted to "cheetah projects" but can include anything considered of general interest to GCF members.

**ACTION STEP 3:**

A future goal is to investigate the inclusion of GCF news updates into printed newsletters of other relevant organisations (e.g., IUCN Cat Specialist Group, CBSG, etc.).

**ACTION STEP 4:**

GCF members with common interests should continue to have informal dialogue, collaboration and information exchange. When projects are initiated as a result of this informal dialogue, anchor organization(s) should submit project updates for posting on the GCF website.

## **Appendix 5: Response to solutions and actions from the Zambezi Society (ZS)**

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### **Censusing Cheetah Working Group Report**

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 3**

**THERE IS A NEED TO TEST AND ASSESS THE ACCURACY OF PRIORITY TECHNIQUES IN DIFFERENT FIELD SITUATIONS. Page 58 (2002)**

#### **Solution:**

Use priority techniques in identifying areas with known Cheetah population sizes.

#### **ACTION STEP 2:**

Conduct censuses in target areas.

*ZS has conducted a census of Cheetah in Matusadona National Park using the spoor method. See report for full details (Evaluation of a wild-wild translocation of Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) from private land to Matusadona National Park, Zimbabwe (1994 – 2005) by Dr G K Purchase and G Vhurumuku).*

*Two caveats that we experienced in this method were:*

*1) The need to record actual distance travelled during the spoor surveys. As this is a critical part of the technique, in the end we had to supervise the trackers during data collection.*

*2) The calibration of spoor density from true density was not a straightforward process. To calibrate, a known population of Cheetah have to exist in an area where the spoor density is determined. It is then assumed that this is a discrete population. Defining the boundary of both the known population (from tourist sightings in our case) and the spoor density area then relies heavily on local knowledge of the area and Cheetah movements. More work needs to be done with this technique, especially when trying to translate spoor density to Cheetah numbers.*

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 5**

**THERE IS LITTLE INFORMATION ON CHEETAH NUMBERS IN MOST AREAS AND HABITATS WHERE THEY OCCUR. Page 60 (2002)**

#### **Solution:**

Conduct censuses of Cheetah in representative habitats within key range states and analyse results.

#### **ACTION STEP 2:**

Activate censuses of Cheetah in as many different habitats as possible.

*ZS has conducted a census of Cheetah in Matusadona National Park.*

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 6**

**THERE IS CURRENTLY LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE IMPACT OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT ON CHEETAH POPULATIONS. Page 61 (2002)**

Solution:

Initiate long-term monitoring of cheetah populations in areas identified under Problem Statement 5, Action step 3.

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify key individuals, organisations or institutions able to implement monitoring plans.

*ZS sponsored the translocation of cheetah into Matusadona National Park in 1994, and have since sponsored three follow up studies in 1994, 1998 and 2005. ZS is also planning to determine the presence and absence of cheetah in protected areas within the Zambezi Basin, along with other key carnivore species. This project is awaiting funding.*

**Protection of Cheetah outside Protected Areas Working Group Report**

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 1**

**CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND CHEETAH OCCUPYING THE SAME AREA. Page 33 (2001) Page 65 (2002)**

Solution:

Conflict resolution, recognizing that human needs play a key role, needs to be applied to communities where people and Cheetah occupy the same area. Resolution of conflicts should be divided into short- and long-term solutions.

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS:

Long-term solution 2:

Ongoing research to understand more about the role of a Cheetah in the ecosystem outside protected areas

**ACTION STEP 1:**

Identify ecosystems where research is taking place and tap into the data being collected.

*ZS conducted a communal survey regarding attitudes towards Cheetah in the areas surrounding Matusadona National Park – 2005.*

**Coordinating Cheetah Conservation Efforts *In Situ* and *Ex Situ* Working Group Report**

**PROBLEM STATEMENT 2**

**COORDINATING *IN SITU* EFFORTS TO CONSERVE CHEETAH - ie ENHANCING THE CONSERVATION OF CHEETAH IN NORTH AFRICA AND ASIA, CONDUCTING RESEARCH INTO NORTH, WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN AND IRANIAN CHEETAH, COORDINATING REINTRODUCTION AND TRANSLOCATION PROJECTS AND IDENTIFYING *IN SITU* PROJECTS IN NEED OF SUPPORT. Page 42 (2001)**

Solution 2:

Disseminate information in a usable updateable format (Cat Specialist Group / Cheetah Interest Group web sites?) and review and update this resource guide regularly (every two to three years?).

**ACTION STEP:**

Compile information that was sent to Duncan Purchase / Steve Hines by the 28 May 2002. Disseminate information as appropriate based on the size of the database. For example, if the database is relatively small and in a commonly used software package, it could be sent via e-mail as well as be posted on the web (e.g., IUCN Cat Specialist Group and the Cheetah Interest Group). If the database is both large and complex other methods may be more appropriate.

*An attempt to collect information from stakeholders using an Excel Spreadsheet happened before the end of 2002. There was very little feedback. Due to the comprehensive database of publications maintained by the CSG, there would be a duplication of work in this area. The development of a list of current and past cheetah specialists can be reinitiated. Duncan Purchase is will to assist*

#### Solution 3:

Develop a regional programme for managing small isolated wild cheetah populations as a metapopulation

#### ACTION STEP 2:

Knowledge of translocations, past and future, is critical to developing any kind of metapopulation profile that could lead to metapopulation management. Existing information needs to be combined and centrally stored so that it is not lost.

*ZS document on translocation and post monitoring (10 years on) is available for circulation.*

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 3**

**LINKING *IN SITU* AND *EX SITU* EFFORTS TO CONSERVE CHEETAH. THE GOAL OF THE CHEETAH CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP (CAP) IS THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE AND PROTECTION OF THE CHEETAH IN THE WILD. GOALS SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED TO AVOID OVERLAP AND TO MESH THE INTERESTS OF BOTH FACTIONS. IMPROVED EDUCATION AND INCREASED POLICY ARE REQUIRED TO ENCOURAGE REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION. ISSUES SUCH AS HEALTH, BEHAVIOUR, HUSBANDRY, EDUCATION, CENSUS ETC. NEED TO BE LINKED ON A PERSON-TO-PERSON BASIS - WITHOUT ESTABLISHING THESE CLOSE PERSONAL BONDS, THIS LINKING OF *IN SITU* AND *EX SITU* EFFORTS WILL NOT PROGRESS. Page 43 (2001)**

#### Solution 2:

Distribute database to all who are involved in cheetah conservation.

#### ACTION STEP:

Duncan will send the databases to Luke Hunter and Dusty Lombardi who will send it to regional coordinators and field biologists. Regional coordinators will send it to the appropriate websites.

*Database not yet populated and combined.*

## Education and Communication Working Group Report

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT 7**

**MULTICULTURAL BACKGROUNDS GOVERN THE ATTITUDES OF THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION TOWARDS CERTAIN SPECIES, OFTEN RESULTING IN ANIMAL PHOBIA AND MISCONCEPTIONS. Page 50 (2001)**

*ZS – An interesting outcome from the communal survey was that in communities where Cheetah were seen, there appeared to be a greater tolerance to their presence. In areas where Cheetah did not occur, when asked, the community seemed to have a greater negative attitude towards the presence of Cheetah.*