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Abstract: As announced at the inauguration meeting in Paris (IUCN/ SSC Cat Specialist Group 2005), the second OGRAN annual meeting took place in Tamanrasset, Algeria, 20 to 25 November 2006, following the invitation of the Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural (MADR) of Algeria. This second meeting concretized the OGRAN objectives, the increase of knowledge on cheetah in North African Regions for its conservation and the carrying out of conservation actions through the reinforcement of the relationships between the partners involved in exsitu and in-situ cheetah conservation within a coordinated network

Observatoire du Guépard en Régions d'Afrique du Nord (OGRAN) 2nd Meeting in Tamanrasset, Algeria

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As announced at the inauguration meeting in Paris (IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group 2005), the second OGRAN annual meeting took place in Tamanrasset, Algeria, 20 to 25 November 2006, following the invitation of the Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural (MADR) of Algeria. This second meeting concretized the OGRAN objectives, the increase of knowledge on cheetah in North African Regions for its conservation and the carrying out of conservation actions through the reinforcement of the relationships between the partners involved in ex-situ and in-situ cheetah conservation within a coordinated network (Claro & Berzins 2006).



Participants of the OGRAN meeting in Tamanrasset, Algeria

Some big cat experts, members of the OGRAN, managers of the Algerian MADR Direction Générale des Forêts (DGF), and representatives of several other governmental and non governmental Algerian institutions came to share their knowledge and interest in the North African cheetahs and to propose, together, some conservation actions.

The first day was dedicated to oral communications about the activities carried out by the OGRAN since 2005, the current data on the cheetah in Western and Northern Africa and on the sta-

tus and conservation of the cheetah in Algeria. The two following days were devoted to workshops on 1/ data collection standardisation, 2/ environmental education and sensitization and 3/ OGRAN functioning and perspectives (Berzins & Belbachir 2007).

An observation filing-card was created and made to be used in all North African regions. It will be tested during the year 2007 and will be improved according to users' comments.

For capacity building, it has been decided to train some trainers. Laurie Marker proposed to organise a training session in Algeria for specialists and non specialists, after determining the needs of the applicants. A field guide, based on the model created by KORA

for field workers on lynx conservation, will be created for cheetahs with the help of the experience by CCF and CCB. Many ideas about raising awareness among the local population for cheetah conservation were proposed. It was agreed to take on some of these ideas with the help of governmental and non-governmental

organizations by adapting them to the needs of each country.

To better coordinate OGRAN activities and actions, the group, currently representing 13 countries, needs more active country members. Consequently, the creation of OGRAN sub-groups was proposed and the Algerian one was initiated. It was also decided that the next OGRAN meetings will take place in a different country each time to focus on the cheetah situation locally and organise a bigger meeting all five years. The OGRAN members' declaration agreed

upon in Paris in 2005, was modified with the insertion of the following paragraph "Define and communicate a regional strategic framework for cheetah conservation, based on which the member countries would develop their national action plan". It is now called the Tamanrasset 2006 OGRAN member declaration. It was proposed that the next meeting will take place in Benin, where the SZP-OGRAN has already carried out some cheetah conservation activities.

The participants then left for a 3 days field trip to the Ahaggar National Park to have a look at the cheetah habitat.

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