

observe CCF field-work first-hand. As an agricultural training college, Neudamm is taking a lead in teaching non-lethal predator management as well as the importance of predator research.

Students from around the world assist in CCF research. After carrying out daily checks on a trap, Round River Conservation students participating in a three-month field school on CCF's Cheetah View farm recently trapped their first cheetah! After a full bio-medical collection, a female was radio-collared and released at the trap site. Information on her movements will add to a growing database on Namibian cheetahs.

Not all our work is pleasant. CCF recently dealt with a female and her cub who tragically broke their necks in unusual accidents. The female ran into a fence attempting to hunt an antelope, not seeing the game fence between her and her intended prey. When a farmer found her the next day, he also found a young cheetah sitting by her. A trap cage was set; that night the cub, approximately five months old, was caught. The farmer tried moving the cub into a transport cage to transport it to his farmstead, something he had often done before. This time, however, the panicked cheetah crashed into the gate and broke its neck. Called to fetch the cub, CCF found it completely paralyzed. A post-mortem revealed extensive damage to two neck vertebrae. This was CCF's first time dealing with this type of lethal injury. Another gin trapping tragedy took the life of a mature male cheetah CCF had been radio-tracking for almost three years. Caught by the trap on a front leg, he spent at least 15 hours in the trap before being discovered. The steel trap had inflicted extensive tissue and leg damage (both radius and ulna badly broken); a decision was made to euthanise the cat.

Despite this, modern technology and science ensure his genes live on. When radio-collared at CCF, his sperm had been collected and banked. After euthanasia, his testes were collected and transported to the Wildlife Breeding Resource Center in South Africa where sperm was collected and banked for the future.



CCF Director Laurie Marker working on an anaesthetized cheetah.

## CCF Policy on Downlisting the Cheetah

RECENTLY there has been discussion on Downlisting the Namibian Cheetah from Endangered to Threatened on the United States Endangered Species Act which would provide for the import of a limited number of live animals or trophy hunted animals into the US. The cheetah is listed as an Appendix I species (endangered or vulnerable) by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). In 1992 CITES granted an annual quota to Namibia of 150 cheetahs for live export of cheetahs to recognized zoological facilities and for export of trophy hunted animals. The purpose of the CITES quota is to reduce indiscriminate catching and killing of cheetahs which is the main threat to the wild Namibian cheetah. To date, import of cheetahs, live or as trophies, into the US is prohibited.

The greatest threat to cheetah survival is the continued indiscriminate trapping and killing of cheetah, not the current CITES quota. Although this quota is a fixed number, the continued indiscriminate trapping and killing of cheetahs may be a danger to achieving a sustainable level for this

cheetah population. For this reason CCF believes that more scientific data on the cheetah population, as well as Namibian farmer support towards long-term sustainability of the cheetah population on their land is still necessary. This is the main purpose of the National Census in Namibia in which CCF has been involved through tag-and-release. Due to the US Endangered Species Act, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has helped guide Namibia towards a sound conservation plan for the future.

At present CCF does not support Downlisting the Namibian Cheetah until more is known on the status and numbers of cheetahs in Namibia; also, because of the inevitable conflicts between different interest groups, the goal of sound conservation for the cheetah will be delayed.

However, CCF does support a limited quota, similar to what has been done by CITES. The cheetah would remain on the Endangered Species List, but a limited number of cheetahs would be allowed into the US for scientific purposes; enhancement or propagation of the species; survival; or for the limited import of trophy hunted cheetahs.

### EDUCATION NEWS FROM NAMIBIA

## World Environment Day – June 5

ESTABLISHED by the UN in 1972, World Environment Day (June 5) encourages responsible planetary trusteeship. Otjiwarongo's youth celebrated at Paresis Secondary School with a variety of activities sponsored and organised by the Regional Youth Officer of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, District Youth Forum, CCF, Namibia Breweries and Dairies.

Otjiwarongo's Mayor, Julius Neumbo officiated: "You, the youth, must use your influence to educate the entire community... humans do not weave the web of life, we are only a mere strand in it." Youth, local government and non-governmental groups gave various environmental presentations: deforestation—Mr. J. Piepmeyer, Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Dept of Forestry); health and safety—Mr. A.L. Du Toit, Health Inspector in the Ministry of Health and Social Services; youth's conservation involvement—Mr. Gerseon Geingob, Otjiwarongo's Regional Youth Officer. CCF Education Officer Matti Nghikembua presented an interactive program on the predator's role in the ecosystem.

Don Muroua, CCF's Community Development Officer, discussed the value

of wilderness and conservancies' long-term benefits. Paresis Secondary School Science and Environmental Club members presented projects, including a bio-gas collector using cattle-dung and a wood-efficient stove constructed from recycled and natural materials. These Namibian youth left an inspiring message: Plant more Trees, Be Water Wise, Stop Cutting Trees, Stop Pollution, Let's Conserve Energy, To Save the Animals, Learn More About Them and Share, Keep Our Country Clean As You Keep Your Body, and Be A Good Example To The Future Generations and Take Care of Our Environment.



"Otjiwarongo Youth" during World Environment Day activities at Paresis Secondary School. Activities included face-painting and coloring in CCF coloring books!