

Integrating Farmers and Predators

Capacity building and training of Namibians in the agricultural sector remains high on CCF's list of priorities. With this in mind, CCF has hosted 12 training courses for 300 communal and emerging commercial farmers from Namibia in the last year. Focusing on an integrated approach of live-stock and predator management this course challenges conventional thinking on many issues.

Of the courses presented in 2006, four of the Integrated Livestock and Predator Management training courses conducted by CCF were geared to emerging commercial farmers and included topics such as cattle husbandry, herd management, disease and vaccination programmes, predator kill identification and basic conservation training on



Course participants on the July Practical Farming course sponsored by Agra represented farm workers from around Namibia.

the role and value of predators.

Recognising the valuable role Agricultural Extension officers play in the transfer of knowledge, CCF also hosted one of the integrated courses for 42 staff members from the

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, representing eight regions of Namibia. Ms. Mildred Kambinda, Chief Agricultural Extension Officer for the Otjizondjupa region was instrumental in making this course a reality. Noting

that normal agricultural extension training has only limited coverage of predators and related matters, she said "This course is a real eye-opener and it needs to be intensified with farmers of various categories in the region."

CCF has introduced a new course for farm workers that is aimed at improving the understanding of farming production principles and systems and provides hands on practical training. The course is geared to include those often left out of training due to literacy limitations. The practical farming training course was developed by Günther Roeber and co-sponsored by Agra.

CCF's training courses have been organised by Senior Research Assistant Bonnie Schumann and presented in co-operation with other CCF staff and professionals.

Gala fundraiser

This year's Celebration of Speed and Elegance highlighting the 'Spirit of the Savannah' was held at the Windhoek Country Club



US Ambassador Joyce Barr & guest speaker, Dave Pepler, share thoughts at the gala.

on 29 July and was judged a great success on all counts. More than 325 guests enjoyed fine food, live entertainment and dancing with the high-lights being the presentation of CCF's annual Cheetah Conservation Awards and a silent auction which raised more than N\$55,000. Many thanks to our great sponsors and donors.

The Gala's guest speaker, Mr. Dave Pepler, highlighted the use of environmental media in assisting conserva-



(From left) Mr. Haddis Tilahun, United Africa Group, Hon. A. Iyambo, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Dr. Todd Fuller, University of Massachusetts, Founding President, H.E. Dr. Sam Nujoma, Hon. Dep. Minister Leon Jooste, Ministry of Environment and Tourism & Dr. Laurie Marker at CCF's gala.

tion awareness during his thought-provoking speech. Mr. Pepler is a lecturer at the University of Stellenbosch,

but most Namibians know him as a presenter on GROEN-DSTV 35.

See **FUNDRAISER**, page 3

IN THIS ISSUE...

Biology & Ecology
Education News

pages 4, 5 & 6
pages 8

Guarding Dogs
Community News

page 7
page 9

Media News
International News

page 7
pages 10

Namibia Highlighted at Washington DC Gala

CCF's Executive Director, Dr. Laurie Marker (third from left) represented CCF, a founding member of the Conservation Council for the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, at their Inaugural Gala in Washington DC in September, along with a Namibian delegation including the Namibia Minister of Environment and Tourism, Honourable Willem Konjore (centre), US Congressman Ed Royce (left), Carter Roberts, President & CEO WWF USA (second from right) and Chris Weaver, WWF- Life Project, Namibia (right). The Gala was the largest gathering of international conservation organisations and conservationists yet gathered and celebrated this collaborative force that has the potential to change the world through its leadership to conserve our world's natural heritage while at the same time promoting reduction of poverty.



Jonathan Scott CCF UK Patron



Dr. Laurie Marker (right) with CCF UK's Board of Trustees Chairman, Andrew Mitchell (left) and internationally renowned wildlife photographer, BBC TV presenter for the Big Cat Diaries and CCF UK's new Honorary Patron Jonathan Scott (middle).

Netherlands & CCF collaborate for cheetah conservation

Stichting SPOTS is the CCF representative in the Netherlands. In June, Stichting SPOTS Director Simone Eckhardt (pictured right with Dr. Laurie Marker and Chewbaaka) visited CCF to learn first-hand of our conservation, research and education programmes.

Stichting SPOTS supporters have sponsored CCF resident cheetah Blondi and they have been bringing in more visitors from the Netherlands to CCF and Namibia.

Stichting SPOTS has formed a relationship with the Netherlands company VibroGym, that is selling exercise equipment and is now one of CCF's sponsors. Spots Ambassador, Netherlands Formula 1 driver, Christijan Albers, is also helping to raise cheetah awareness and hopes to visit CCF in Namibia in 2007.



notes FROM THE DIRECTOR



Chief Justice Uapimbi (left) of the Gam community and Jonas Kauheva (right), Chairman of the Ondjou Conservancy with Dr. Laurie Marker.

Dear CCF Friends,

Working for the cheetah continues to be exciting and challenging. Our days are never long enough and the needs continue to grow if we are to meet these challenges head on and find opportunity for cheetah and people.

It's an exciting time to be a conservationist especially in Namibia where there are forward thinking conservation initiatives - in particular, conservancies are having huge impacts in natural resource management of our wildlife as well as on human livelihoods.

As I travel into other African countries or even the United States and Europe, I see where properly implemented community based natural resource management programmes like we have in Namibia could benefit a variety of areas where today's development is affecting ecosystems and habitats. These problems will continue without concerted effort in forethought combined with sustainable economic development, supported by management and training. Habitats will continue to be reduced and species found in conflict with humans. However, by working together, much can be accomplished to bring species as special as the cheetah into the lives and livelihoods of people who once were at war with them.

The last few months have been extremely busy as Namibian farmers and young conservation professionals have worked together with CCF staff through training courses to learn how to address these problems and construct their own futures.

Laurie Marker

Dr. Laurie Marker
CCF Executive Director

gala FUNDRAISER

For the seventh year, CCF presented a series of awards at its fundraising gala dinner. The Awards carry considerable prestige and highlight the very best in conservation work.

Cheetah Conservationist of the Year is Mr **Volker Grellman**, who helped CCF to become established in Namibia in 1991 and provided its first base of operations. Mr. Grellman is a dedicated conservationist and has been a leader for ethical hunting in Africa; he serves on a number of conservation tourism and educational boards where his vast experience is of great value.



Mr. Volker Grellman (left), Cheetah Conservationist of the Year.

Mr **Johannes Damaseb**, farming near Otjiwarongo, received the Farmer of the Year award. Johannes represents the indomitable spirit of the Namibian farmer. He has attended courses, taught himself the necessary skills and has implemented new ideas to raise a quality herd of cattle. He serves as a role model for other re-settled farmers and is proof of what can be done when the will is there. His management systems are conducive to promoting a harmonious relationship with the environment he is farming in. The words "I can't" do not feature in his vocabulary.

The award for Outstanding Achievements in the Field of Cheetah



Mr. Johannes Damaseb (middle), Cheetah Conservation Fund Farmer of the Year.



A selection of generously donated items at the silent auction.

Conservation went to Ms. **Josephine Henghali**, until recently a CCF Senior Research Assistant. Josephine was involved with 23 CCF training courses, the Livestock Guarding Dog Programme and

the management of orphaned cheetahs at CCF. While at CCF Josephine graduated Cum Laude with a Master's degree with the University of Namibia and was awarded the Chancellor's Medal for the best student in the Faculty of Science. Josephine has now joined the Scientific Services staff of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism where she continues her efforts in carnivore conservation.



Ms. Josephine Henghali (left), Outstanding Achievements: Cheetah Conservation.

Awards were presented by CCF's International patron Dr. Sam Nujoma.

CCF's Matti Nghikembua Disney Wildlife Conservation Hero



Another highlight on the evening of CCF's gala fundraiser was the announcement that CCF staff member Matti Nghikembua's efforts in cheetah conservation have received international recognition; he has been awarded the Disney Conservation Hero award.

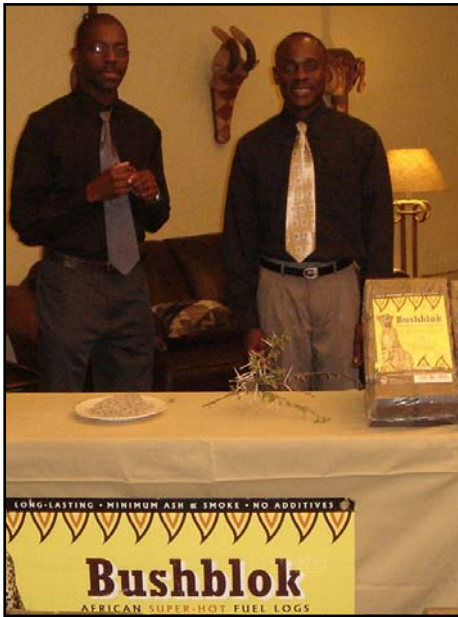
Matti Nghikembua, Senior Research Assistant and Education Officer was named a Conservation Hero by the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund (DWCF). This award recognises Matti's outstanding commitment to environmental education in Namibia, and the important contributions he has made researching cheetahs and their habitats. To honour his work the DWCF presented a cash award of US\$500. The DWCF helps ensure the survival of wildlife and wild places in all their beauty and diversity and the award salutes those who make significant contributions to conservation in their communities.

Matti has supervised more than 30 students from the Polytechnic of Namibia as part of CCF's in-service training. His ability to apply knowledge to practical tasks enables him to incorporate the experience gained from this training into CCF programmes. He has been involved in using GIS to make cheetah home-range maps, is actively involved in CCF's cheetah census research and has gained insight into cheetah biomedical research.

"This Award will inspire me to work harder and to continue reaching Namibian youth in saving our environment and the cheetah," said Matti upon learning about his award and added, "To the sponsors, sup-

porters and staff at Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, keep the fire burning. Your assistance is a giant step in the right direction."

Dr. Laurie Marker submitted Matti's nomination to DWCF. "We have many heroes amongst CCF's staff, and are very proud that one of them was selected to receive this prestigious honour," said Laurie. "Education is key in CCF's efforts to teach people who live in cheetah range countries. Matti is a hero to CCF and to the cheetahs he has helped to become better understood through his outstanding dedication and commitment."

Bush Encroachment Biodiversity Studies and CCF Bush (Pty) Ltd

Senior Research Assistants Ezekiel Fabiano (left) and Matti Nghikembua represent Bushblok at trade fairs.

CCF's Bush project staff has had a very busy few months. Under the direction of CCF's General Manager Dr. Bruce Brewer, Senior Research Assistant Matti Nghikembua and Namibian Polytechnic interns began implementing the CCF Bush Management Plan. Last year CCF and CCF Bush received certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for Forest Management and the harvest, packaging and sale of biomass products. Operating within FSC guidelines, CCF has surveyed and begun harvesting bush on several farms. Prior to harvesting, biodiversity surveys and environmental impact assessments are conducted which include identifying tree & shrub density and determining biomass yield for encroaching species; other species such as birds, mammals, and grasses are also monitored.

After sustainable bush harvesting is done, chips are transported to CCF's processing plant in Otjiwarongo where firelogs are made using an extrusion process. So far this year CCF Bush has shipped to the UK, South Africa and Germany, negotiated contracts for over 2,000 tons of BushBlok for 2006 and provided raw woodchip to two other local biomass initiatives (composite wood and biomass co-firing). A market survey on sales of BushBlok to a local market was conducted by a team of students from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute of the USA through the Polytechnic of Namibia.

Work is underway to double production in 2007; to observe potential new markets and products Dr. Brewer travelled to Sweden to attend the World Pellet Conference and visited two European manufacturers of wood briquette extrusion presses.

Cheetah Rehabilitation – Shiraz and her cubs

We reported in the last newsletter that Shiraz and her four cubs were undergoing rehabilitation with a view to releasing them. Following release, she stayed close to her enclosure for the first few weeks moving an average of 500 metres a day. After three months she began exploring more, travelling about 1.2km daily.

After three and a half months, Shiraz made her first known kill, an old female harthebeest (pictured right). After this, they began moving greater distances and were observed killing juvenile kudu and duiker.

Due to this success, in July Shiraz and her four cubs were relocated to the Erindi Ranch near Omaruru. Shiraz has been in captivity most of her life making her unsuitable for farmland release, however this same behaviour has ecotourism benefits in a protected area such as Erindi. Within an hour after release at their new home, they made their first kill.



Shiraz was being tracked by staff at Erindi and visited regularly by CCF staff to monitor her well being. She became a very successful hunter. Unfortunately, in November CCF received a call from the farm manager informing us that he had found Shiraz dead. We don't know what happened as her body had deteriorated too much to perform a necropsy.

Shiraz's cubs are now 16-months old, since cheetah cubs usually stay with their mother for 18 to 22 months of age, CCF staff were concerned that the cubs would not be

able to hunt for themselves. However, since Shiraz and her cubs learned to hunt together, CCF believe that the cubs will be able to take care of themselves. They were found feeding on an impala the same day

Shiraz was found dead. They have shown to be successful hunters and will remain at Erindi Ranch. CCF will radio collar them for regular tracking to ensure that they are doing well.

International Cheetah Studbook

CCF manages the International Cheetah Studbook. Through the support of CCF UK the 2003 & 2004 Studbooks have been finalised and distributed to all participating facilities. The 2004 captive cheetah population numbered 1,387 (708

male, 673 female, 6 unknown). They were housed in 238 international facilities in 47 countries. The 2003/2004 Studbook is the 14th edition and can be viewed on CCF's web page, www.cheetah.org.

Trapping Cheetah with Cameras

CCF recently completed a three-month trial cheetah population survey in a 600km² area within the Waterberg Conservancy using 28 remote triggered cameras at 14 stations. Over 350 rolls of film were shot and a capture history database is being compiled using the 390 cheetah photos taken. When the database is complete CCF will have a better understanding of cheetah density within the study area.

The photos are currently being identified, using the spot patterns of the various different cheetahs photographed in the study area. Initial screening has identified 15 individual cheetahs. This data is being put into a mark recapture database where cheetah density will be analysed. Camera trapping will continue in 2007 and will also be conducted in other study areas in the country in cooperation with other conservancies.



A cheetah triggers the cameras during the afternoon in the Waterberg Conservancy.

Waterberg Conservancy Full Moon Waterhole Count



Volunteers settling in for the 24-hour waterhole count

For the 11th consecutive year the Waterberg Conservancy conducted its full moon waterhole count in August, coordinated by CCF. Nearly 100 volunteers including youth groups from Otjiwarongo and Khorixas,

CCF international and Namibian students, Earthwatch volunteers and teachers from Miami University's Earth Expeditions, monitored 47 waterholes. The data is undergoing analysis at CCF.

Earth Expeditions participant Marissa Hirsh said that besides the exciting experience of being out in the bush counting game, meeting and learning about Namibians from Beauty, her Namibian team mate, was the highlight of the waterhole count.

She said that when no animals were around they quietly talked and exchanged information about their homes, school, family and goals. It was a

unique opportunity to learn first hand from Beauty about her life in Namibia, to learn about her family, what school was like for her, and what she hopes for herself (she wants to be a nurse).

Marissa said that she felt lucky to be able to share this amazing experience with Beauty. The time that they spent together is one of her most vivid memories of her experience in Namibia.



Kudu taking a much needed drink at a waterhole.

Waterberg Carnivore Project Namibia

Since the last newsletter, the Waterberg Carnivore Project Namibia has made progress evaluating the interactions between leopards and brown hyaenas and their prey.

In September 2005 a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) collar was



GPS collared adult female leopard.

secured to an adult female leopard. This collar recovered 4 locations per day which assisted with intensive tracking and presented information about kill site locations and therefore diet, kill site characteristics, scavenging rates from hyaenas and kill rates. This information proved useful in determining that 77% of all leopard kills available for hyaenas were scavenged. Combining these facts with the similarity in regional leopard and brown hyaena diet as determined from faeces, leopards may prove to be a major source for brown hyaena food items.

At the end of the wet season, prey surveys were conducted within the study area to assess prey availability. Under the direction of University of Massachusetts PhD. candidate Andrew Stein, Eben

Tjiteere, a nature conservation student from the Polytechnic of Namibia, carried out the surveys and analyzed the results which showed, as expected, that leopards are opportunistic and seem to target prey in proportion to their availability.

Lastly, a large carnivore population survey was done within and surrounding the Waterberg Plateau Park. This survey was designed to calculate population estimates particularly for leopard and brown hyaenas within the area using motion sensor cameras and hair snares. After 7 weeks, 65 pictures of a minimum of 8 leopards were taken and detailed analysis of these results will be ongoing for several months.

After 3 years, Andrew has now left CCF to write his PhD thesis

Namibian Cheetahs Participate in Global Reproductive Research

The Cheetah Conservation Fund is dedicated to the conservation of the wild cheetah. Necessary activities include an integrated approach to human-conflict resolution, education and research. Understanding the basic biology of the cheetah is also a major part of CCF's collaborative research. In July, a group of four researchers from the Smithsonian Institute and the University of California visited CCF and conducted a joint research project targeted at the reproductive biology of captive female cheetahs, of which little is known.

CCF arranged the cheetahs into age brackets that include younger, middle-aged, and older animals to determine differences in ovarian function, oocyte (egg) quality and uterine health among the age groups. Using hormones to artificially induce oestrus, the team used ultrasound to examine the reproductive organs and then performed egg extraction, a task that requires precision timing, immediately before the female ovulates.

The team, under the direction of the Smithsonian's Dr. Adrienne Crosier, also extracted semen samples from CCF's male cheetahs for in-vitro fertilisation (IVF). IVF is the fusion of egg and sperm outside of the female reproductive tract. Joined by Dr. Arthur Bagot-Smith, CCF's veterinarian who specializes in cattle reproduction, the team performed cheetah IVF at CCF's reproductive laboratory and tracked the development of the embryos in an incubator. This was the first time that this intricate research has been conducted.

Reproduction is a difficult feat for captive cheetahs. The species suffers from loss of genetic variation due to a population bottleneck that occurred approximately ten thousand years ago. The global population was reduced to just a few breeding pairs, meaning that every cheetah today descends from just those few cats. Because of this evolutionary phenomenon, all cheetahs are genetically similar and are more vulnerable to ecological and evolutionary changes. This lack of genetic variation is one of the principal reasons for the cheetah's susceptibility to disease and poor sperm quality.

"Older females do not reproduce well in captivity and we know that reproduc-



Dr. Pierre Comizzoni (left) & Dr. Adrienne Crosier (second from right) from National Zoological Park, Dr. Tomas Baker (second from left) & Dr. Autumn Davidson (third from left) from University of California-Davis, CCF staff member Marianne de Jonge (third from right) and Veterinarian and CCF Namibia's Board of Trustees Chair, Dr. Arthur Bagot-Smith (right) with one of CCF's resident cheetahs participating in the study.

ive efficiency declines in these females at around 8 years of age. This project will determine if the drop in reproductive capacity is due to a problem with ovarian function, poor quality eggs or uterine pathologies that prevent pregnancy," said Crosier.

"In the world's zoos, there is an abundance of older female cheetahs that carry valuable genes that are underrepre-

sented in the gene pool. This study will help develop methods of impregnating the females and thus conserving their valuable genes," says Dr. Laurie Marker, CCF's Founder and Executive Director.

Although saving habitat is the ultimate goal in saving the species, understanding all aspects of the cheetahs' biology and physiology is one of CCF's key objectives.

Algeria's Cheetahs



In November, Dr. Laurie Marker (second from the right) attended the 2nd meeting of the OGRAN (the North African Region Cheetah Organisation) in Tamanrasset, Algeria. During the three day meeting, cheetah specialists discussed the status of the North African cheetahs and conservation strategies in Algeria. The workshop highlighted data collection, census techniques and training and education that could be implemented to conserve these highly endangered populations of cheetahs in Northern Africa. After the meeting, the group conducted their second field trip into the D'Hoggar National Park which is inhabited by cheetahs.

Livestock Guarding Dog Puppies Born

In early August Tylee and Uschi, two of CCF's working Kangal LSGD's produced 16 puppies between them, each litter just a week apart. This was Uschi's first litter and she took her duties extremely seriously to the point of chasing everyone out of her pen for the first two days! All 16 puppies are doing well having been placed with their new owners at eight weeks of age.

Puppies that are to work as livestock guarding dogs need to be raised and trained according to a set of golden rules. First and foremost, is that the puppy must be placed with livestock by eight weeks of age. The critical bonding between the puppy and the livestock it will protect for life occurs between 6 and 16 weeks.

During the bonding period it is particularly critical that the puppy always remains with livestock. Preferably younger livestock are left with the puppy during the day and mingle with the herd during the night, but they must have a 'safe' place to retreat to when threatened by aggressive ewes or nannies. Many livestock guarding dogs go through a 'play behaviour' stage that can result in injured or dead livestock. It is important that owners distinguish between aggressive behaviour (not to be tolerated) and play behaviour which can be controlled by putting the dog on a run-wire for the duration of the phase, usually around the age of 8-12 months. For more information, please contact CCF.



Tylee patiently nursing her litter



These pups have the potential to grow up to be some of the finest guarding dogs anywhere in the world.

Effective Micro-organisms vs. Drastic Deadline

As part of his requirement for the fulfilment of a Bachelor of Technology Degree in Agricultural Management, Paulus Amaambo, a fourth year student from Namibia's Polytechnic conducted research on CCF's goat herd. The aims of the study were to evaluate the effectiveness of a biological product called 'Effective Micro-organisms' (EM) versus

a chemical product called 'Drastic Deadline™' on the control of external parasites and to identify different types of ticks found on CCF goats. Effective Micro-organisms derivatives (EM5 and EM3in1) were found effective towards the control of ticks on the goats. By using environmental friendly products, farmers could contribute significantly to the realisation of organic farming.

mediaNEWS

A French film crew visited in February to make a documentary on CCF and Namibian cheetahs for European countries. They also produced a new introductory video for CCF's Education Centre.

While in Namibia to report on the birth of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's baby a CNN news team spent an exciting day at CCF. During their visit they were fortunate to film newly rehabilitated cheetah Shiraz on her first kill. They also learned about CCF's dog programme and the work with farmers to support their efforts in farming with good management through the Cheetah Country Beef initiative.

Film makers from the BBC visited CCF in July to

document innovative research into assisted reproduction methods used to breed cheetahs in captivity. This will be aired on the popular scientific documentary series Horizon.

The South African production house Homebrew Films, filmed in May for broadcast in July. The 24 minute show included coverage of the Livestock Guarding Dog Programme.

There are about 50 cheetahs remaining in Iran, which represent the last population of Asian cheetahs and is also the only cheetah population found outside Africa today. Fortunately their conservation is being addressed on various fronts and has recently received a boost; Mani Mirsadeghi and Saeideh Akhkan are producing a film

highlighting the plight of the Iranian cheetah intending to raise awareness and motivate people to act to save this valuable population. Mani and Saeideh (pictured below) spent time at CCF filming Namibia's cheetah conservation efforts soon to be shared back home in Iran.

Author and wildlife photographer Bob Wallace spent a

week at CCF in March photographing cheetahs for his latest book 'The Cry of the Cheetah'.

Photographer Martin Harvey spent three days photographing CCF's cheetahs, and generously donated some of his prints for the silent auction at this year's CCF Gala Dinner.



Environmental education in the form of training courses for farmers, teachers, health officials, conservation and agriculture extension officials, learners and members of the public from all over the world is at the heart of fulfilling CCF's mission.

During 2006 more than 5,000 people attended the CCF Centre based educational programmes. In the same period CCF staff visited 27 schools reaching nearly 7000 students. Thirty local and

international groups visited CCF and enjoyed the educational programmes presented by CCF's educational staff while day visitors numbered 4,200; almost three times the number for last year.

In August, 21 educators from the USA visited CCF to study community-based conservation. The programme, an Earth Expeditions course through Miami University and Cincinnati Zoo, included educators from first grade teachers to university professors. The Earth Expeditions educa-



2006 Earth Expeditions teachers from Miami University, Ohio, USA



Some of the many people who have visited CCF this year

tors participated in the Waterberg Conservancy 24-hour waterhole count during which they were paired with Namibian youths to count game. The group also participated in a youth art day at the Otjiwarongo Arts Centre during which educators and youths worked together to express their views of nature

through art.

By studying CCF's model of community involvement in conservation, the educators have returned to the USA with a greater understanding of the diverse issues facing cheetah conservation, from land-use management to public perceptions and attitudes.

CCF Staff Education & In-service Training

Senior Research Assistant Josephine Henghali completed her Master's thesis entitled 'Conservation Attitudes and Patterns of Biodiversity Loss in Ohangwena and Oshikoto Regions of Namibia' through the University of Namibia (see Gala Dinner).

Research Assistant Mandy Schumann completed her Master's thesis 'Predator Conflict Resolution in

Namibian Conservancies' through the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa. Mandy graduated Cum Laude in March.

Research Assistant Ezekiel Fabiano submitted his Master's thesis through the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Fabiano analysed CCF's spoor counts and data from CCF's radio-tracking research to produce a compar-

ison in census techniques between the two methodologies.

Senior Research Assistants Matti Nghikembua and Bonnie Schumann have both registered to study for their Master's thesis; Matti with the University of the Orange Free State and Bonnie with the University of Technology, Cape Town.

CCF Kenya Research Assistant, Cosmas Wamba



(above), has enrolled in a Master's Degree programme at the University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.



Under the direction of CCF's Bonnie Schumann (right), Josephine Henghali (second from right), Günther Roeber (centre), Selma Nangulah (second from left) and Maria Newaya (left), a student from the Polytechnic of Namibia, taught 300 farmers in 12 training courses in 2006.



Gabriel Angala (left), a Travel and Tourism Diploma student at the International Training College Lingua in Windhoek and Monika Shikongo (right), a final year Nature Conservation student at the Polytechnic of Namibia completed their 6 month in-service training at CCF in December.

CANAM celebrates 10 years

The Conservancy Association of Namibia (CANAM) held its tenth annual general meeting (AGM) in Windhoek in May under the chair of Dr. Laurie Marker. Over the last ten years CANAM has supported and promoted all aspects of conservation in Namibia, working closely with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and other stakeholders.

Coinciding with the AGM, CANAM hosted a Game Utilization Workshop dedicated to technical aspects of game management. Speakers from MET, the Polytechnic of Namibia, University of Namibia, the venison industry and members of the Game Translocation Association shared their expertise with

CANAM Workshop Brings Synergy Between National Parks, Communal and Commercial Conservancies

In Namibia today, there are many initiatives dealing with wildlife and conservation, but there is little coordination. It's important to determine how these stakeholders can work towards coordination and identify areas of cooperation and synergy between these organisations working in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. In May, CANAM hosted a workshop entitled 'Building Synergy Between National Parks, Communal and Commercial Conservancies Towards Improved Game Management', and brought organisations together to brainstorm how the stakeholder groups could work together towards a national strategy in partnership. The

workshop included more than 25 people from 14 organizations and identified four sectors in the wildlife industry: Communal Conservancies, Commercial (freehold) Conservancies, National Parks, and the Venison Industry. The agricultural sector was included as an important partner since agricultural land supports wildlife and natural resource management.

As much of Namibia's biodiversity falls outside of protected areas, the efforts of all stakeholders will be needed to ensure that these resources are managed in a sustainable way to support Namibia's growing human population. CANAM will continue its initiative to bring all stakeholders together to ensure that this happens.

As a result of this workshop a forum-like institutional body is envisioned where a stronger partnership with MET could be developed to assist in managing Namibia's natural resources. A follow up workshop will be held in 2007.

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Farmer and Community meetings

Senior Research Assistant and farmer liaison officer, Bonnie Schumann, accompanied by agriculture and conservation students attended four regional information meetings organised by the Farmer's Support Services liaison in Otjiwarongo. Information days held by the Kalkfeld and Okahandja-Osire Farmer's Associations were also attended. Presentations on CCF's conservation research highlighted the training courses available to farmers and farm workers. Subsequently, several of the farmers attended training courses held by CCF in May and June.

In March two CCF staff members attended a Windhoek-based workshop titled 'Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Policy (HWCM)', a follow-up to last year's workshop by Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET).

The objectives of the workshop were to evaluate the results of human-wildlife conflict surveys, to review the draft HWCM policy and to solicit stakeholder inputs for refinement. The proactive approach taken by MET is very encouraging and much progress was made since last year's workshop.

CCF staff also attended the Gobabis Cattle Country Meat Festival and the Otjiwarongo, Grootfontein and Windhoek shows. They staffed CCF exhibits and distributed free books, newsletters and other CCF literature for farmers. The Otjiwarongo Show celebrated the towns 100th year and highlighted the city as the "Cheetah Capital of the World".

Dr. Marker attended the Black Nossob Conservancy's annual community gathering, attended by over 150 conservancy members and their farm staff. Discussions included the value of conserving wildlife (including predators) and the important role that conservancies have to play in Namibia's economic and social development.

with artists from the local community to develop their skills.

Martin Scott from Otjiwarongo Art Centre has been conducting weekly arts and crafts training courses for CCF farm staff and their families, while Christian Pilard of Eco-Sys assisted both CCF Kenya and CCF Namibia in project planning for their craft programmes.

Cheetah Country Beef

Former CCF staff member Dave Bell completed a six month contract with Namibia's meat export company, MeatCo, to investigate the viability of marketing Cheetah Country Beef (CCB) in the UK and to draft a business plan. Dave is well known to Namibia's Conservancy farmers, the partners in this project. In May, Dave delivered his report to MeatCo and attended the CANAM AGM, the major partners of this project. The report indicates that nearly 60% of people interviewed would purchase meat that was raised without harm to either the environment or wildlife and nearly 50% would pay a premium of over 20% for the meat.

Art for Conservation



Wildlife artist, Carol Barrett (second from left), shows one of her cheetah prints to local artists at CCF.

Carol Barrett, the artist whose artwork was used during this year's gala, spent three weeks at CCF as artist in residence. Promoting conservation through her work, she also worked

ccfKENYA

In July and again in December, Dr. Marker, travelled to work with CCF Kenya Programme Manager, Mary Wykstra (pictured below), on strategic planning. CCFK works closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service and collaborated with the East African Wildlife Society (EAWS) on a national cheetah census. The results of the census will assist in identifying areas for long-term cheetah conservation programmes and will also help guide policy decisions. Interns, Milkah Njoki Kahiu and Wallace Isaboke, from the EAWS with CCFK Research Assistant, Cosmas Wamba, assisted with the census. Radio-tracking and habitat research are ongoing as is work with the Kiu community, collecting data on livestock husbandry and predator tolerance. CCFK has recently developed a project to assist the Kiu to improve their livestock dips while monitoring livestock health and learning more about wildlife and predator issues in the area where they have radio-collared cheetahs.

The education programme continues to grow with material development, presentations and event participation. A teaching workbook and activity pamphlet for Kenyan schools is being developed with the help of Amanda Perret, Alex Joji and Cheryle Robinson, who are also assisting with fundraising activities.



Hanneke Louwman (pictured left), one of CCF's sponsors from the Wassenaar Wildlife Breeding Centre in the Netherlands, visited CCF to talk about new Cheetah Friends Europe which will be focusing on helping CCF Kenya.

Wildlife Issues in Ethiopia

Dr. Laurie Marker travelled to Ethiopia in July and again in December and worked with stakeholders to investigate methods to conserve their remaining wild cheetahs. During the visit, meetings were held with the Wildlife Conservation Department, the Melca Foundation, the African Parks Foundation, the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme and United States, Namibian and Dutch Embassy representatives. Ethiopia has just four wildlife sanctuaries (1.14% of the country) and nine national parks (2.7%), two or three of which may have cheetahs. The biologists indicated that their department would be interested in assisting with a survey of cheetahs and other large carnivores throughout the country.

The high incidence of illegal catching of young carnivores such as those pictured opposite, as well as the sale of products of animals (most likely illegally killed),



are some of the challenges facing conservation in Ethiopia. CCF would like to thank the Born Free Foundation for funding the trip to Ethiopia.



Carnivore dewclaws photographed in a craft market in Ethiopia.

Dr. Marker travels to the US, UK and Ireland

In April, CCF's Executive Director, Dr. Laurie Marker, travelled to the US, UK and Ireland where she lectured at several universities, zoos and schools and conducted business meetings. She also attended EarthWatch Institute's 35th Birthday and Earth Day Celebration at the American Museum of Natural History and met with a wide variety of CCF supporters.

While in Scotland and the UK, for the annual "Cheetah Week" in May, two wonderful wildlife artists conducted fundraising events. Dr. Marker's travels ended with a grand 60th birthday party for CCF supporter Noel Boyd, who contributed birthday donations to CCF.

In September and October, Dr. Marker travelled again to the US where she visited over 20 cities and 12 states raising awareness for CCF's international programmes.

In addition to lectures, CCF's "Run for the Cheetah", organized by Teresa Delaney (centre right) with CCF Run Patron, former Oregon Governor Dr. John Kitzhaber (left), Dr. Laurie Marker and CCF USA Director, Lynda Gearheart (right), took place in both Phoenix, Arizona and Portland, Oregon for their 2nd years, doubling their number of runners and increasing the donations to CCF. More runs are scheduled in 2007. Visit our website, www.runforthecheetah.org.



thankYOU

Thanks to the following cheetah friends for their support...

Joan Adam
Miette Albert
Gabriel Angala
Sandy Ball
Eveline Balmer
Peter Barber
Carol Barrett
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Frans Beekman
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CCF's training courses were made possible by the support we received from the following partners: AGRA, Emerging Commercial Farmer Support Programme, an effort by the Joint Presidency Committee of the Namibia Agricultural Union & Namibia National Farmers Union, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, RISE, The Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Seaworld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund and The Smithsonian Institution.

You Can Help

If you are in Japan or the Netherlands please remember to visit our new CCF Chapters: CCF Japan (www.ccfjapan.org) and Stichting SPOTS (www.stichtingspots.nl). These organizations, along with all of CCF's US chapters, CCF UK and CCF Canada (cheetahscanada@sympatico.ca) are working hard to support our work to save the cheetah.

There are many orphan cheetahs at the CCF Centre. You can help CCF by sponsoring one of them, please visit 'www.cheetah.org' in the US or 'www.cheetah.org.uk/sponsor.html' for the rest of the world.

Support CCF

To join the Fund in its efforts, just mark the category of support and fill in your name and address in the form below. *Please tick the amount donated and circle the currency.*

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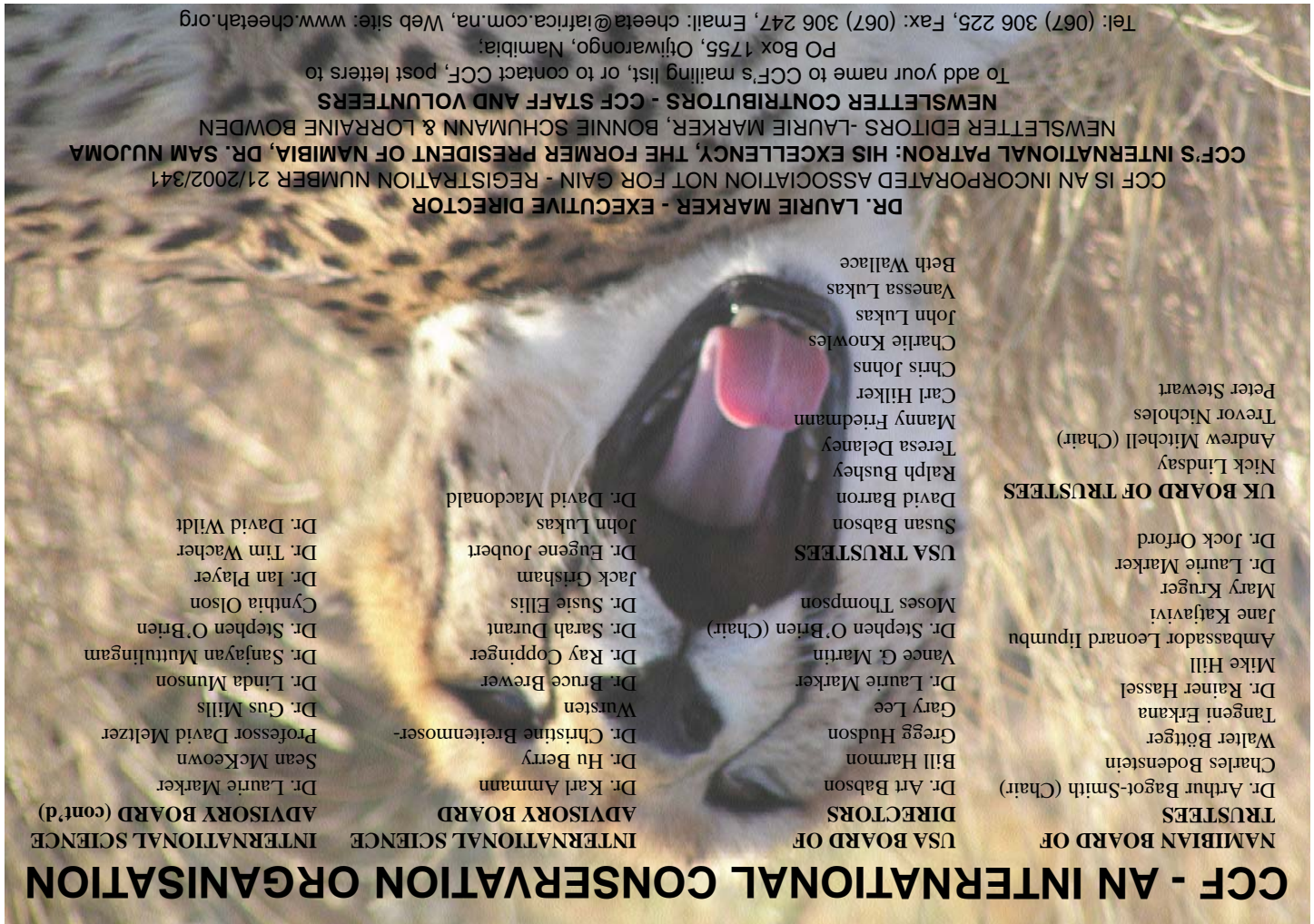
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