

CHEETAH STRIDES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND



WATERBERG

DOG UPDATES

B2GOLD

BIRTHDAYS



SEE YOUR PHOTO ON NEXT ISSUE'S COVER!

Find out how on pages 5 & 6.

Cheetah
CONSERVATION FUND
www.cheetah.org

HELP US KEEP THE CHEETAH WHERE IT BELONGS

in the wild.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR



It is hard to believe that we are over half way through this year, and we have so much left to do! I am very excited for this upcoming fall tour, for we have many amazing and exciting events planned.

I will be traveling for six weeks to various cities along the west coast, and then over to the east coast where I finish my U.S. tour in Florida. From there I go to the UK for a big event, then back to Africa in mid-November. I look forward to meeting so many of you during my travels and talking about our shared passion for the cheetah.

We are as busy as ever here in Namibia. We have had our share of puppies, with another litter born just a few days ago, and a new breeding male puppy that our supporters named Bolt. He just arrived, and it will be another year and a half before he will be ready to breed. There is an increasing demand for us to assist with farmer education and school outreach programs. We provide many here at our CCF Field Research and Education Centre and in our team travels to most

of the local communities throughout the country.

Education continues to be a major part of our activities. We recently hosted several groups of students from the University of Namibia (UNAM). One of the groups came in under the direction of Dr. E. Fabiano, our former PhD. candidate, now lecturer at UNAM. His group of conservation science students spent a week at CCF. We also welcomed the first class of UNAM third-year veterinary students to CCF to learn about our Applied Conservation and Veterinary Practices. The three groups of 10 vet students each stayed for a day to learn about CCF's veterinary program. I am very excited for the opportunity, because it allows us to train veterinarians of the future, ones who will continue to carry forward our Integrated Cheetah and Livestock Management program work in Namibia.

CCF's annual Namibian Gala was also a huge success! We had a great guest speaker, Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng, senior scientist from UNSECO, whom I met in Botswana at the Man and Biosphere (MAB) workshop in Gaborone in early February. This workshop brought together individuals to talk about reducing poverty and conserving the biodiversity of Sub-Saharan Africa through integrating conservation into community development. At our Gala, her talk highlighted the problems of deficient science in education in Africa and the need to also encourage young women in science and technology. I was thrilled to see all of the support we received from the Namibian government and from our own patrons. We had more than 280 guests from Namibia, as well as several CCF international friends and board members at our Gala! CCF again presented awards to cheetah conservationists, educators and business leaders for their support in helping us save the cheetah. It was wonderful to see all of these people come together to congratulate and award some of the hardest working individuals.

I look forward to seeing you all in the next months. Thank you for your time and support in helping us save the cheetah. With your help, we can secure a future for the world's fastest land animal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laurie Marker
Founder & Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DR. MARKER'S USA FALL TOUR

San Francisco, CA

October 8th
WCN Expo

Saint Helena, CA

October 9th
Lecture and Meet a Cheetah

Sausalito, CA

October 10th
Board Meeting and Cruise

Santa Rosa, CA

October 11th
Safari West Dinner and Presentation

Portland, OR

October 16th
Big Cat. Big Party.

Washington, DC

October 18th
Lecture at Smithsonian's Ripley Center

Washington, DC

October 20th
15th Annual DC Gala

Columbus, OH

October 21st
Columbus Zoo Fundraiser

Oklahoma City, OK

October 29th
Meetah Cheetah

For more info and to see the updated schedule.
www.cheetah.org/events/

DR. MARKER'S UK FALL TOUR

London, Eng

November 14th
Book Release Party and Fundraiser

GREATER WATERBERG LANDSCAPE FUTURE FARMERS OF AFRICA UPDATE



CCF is continuing and expanding our efforts in farmer training with the Future Farmers of Africa (FFA) program. Since the program began a few years ago, CCF has trained more than 5000 men and women in a wide range of agricultural topics, including integrated livestock and wildlife management techniques. Our reports indicate simply by educating Namibian farmers, livestock losses to predation can be cut by as much as 65%. Since we first began farmer education and community capacity building efforts, far fewer cheetahs and other large predators are being killed by farmers.

Over the past two years CCF's educational activities in the Greater Waterberg Landscape (GWL) communal conservancies have risen significantly as we drive our capacity building program forward. The GWL is made up of the commercial Waterberg Conservancy and the Eastern Communal Area known as Hereroland, which consists of four communal conservancies; Ozonahi, Otjituuo, African Wild Dog and Okamatapati.

The increase in CCF's educational efforts last year were supported by a grant from the European Union (EU). The majority of Namibia's population makes their livelihood in agriculture and there is significant disparity of monetary income between the highest and lowest earners. Support from the EU grant supplemented by CCF donors allowed us to conduct educational workshops throughout the GWL bringing CCF trainings in FFA subjects, including integrated livestock and wildlife management techniques, to rural farmers.

Farming represents 78% of the total land usage in Namibia, and over 70% of the farmers are subsistence farmers, raising food for themselves and their families. CCF's training promotes sound business strategies and tools in integrated wildlife and livestock management. These workshop-style courses cover a variety of topics that include; kraaling (keeping animals in a fenced enclosure) grazing management,

record keeping and finances, human-wildlife conflict, and basic veterinary care (see paravet article pg.5 for more info on veterinary training). The trainings also cover non-lethal predator control options, including the use and care of a CCF Livestock Guarding Dog.

As part of CCF's EU Grant, follow up evaluation surveys were conducted across the four conservancies. Survey participants from the villages and surrounding area were asked to determine if information provided during CCF's training was helpful to them, and if it had spread beyond the

Continued on page 5

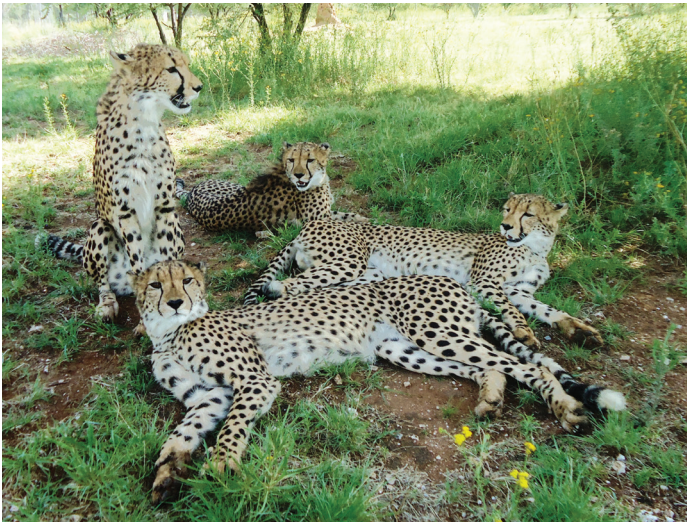
NEW OFFICES FROM B2GOLD ARE 2GOOD 2BTRUE



B2Gold, a Canadian-based mining company, donated four prefab office buildings to the four Greater Waterberg Landscape (GWL) communal conservancies within the Eastern Communal Area. CCF's community liaison, Matt Renninger, an architect by training, designed the construction plans and managed the building project. The offices will serve as community meeting places and will be open-to-the-public, staffed by conservancy volunteers. The building of the offices was done by Namplace, a United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as a part of their support of the GW. CCF's Dr. Laurie Marker, Matti Nghikembua and Richard Sciririka and Sheri Lytle from B2Gold's CSR program did a site visit to two of the conservancies to see the buildings and meet with conservancy management teams. B2Gold recently completed construction of a large-scale mining operation in Otjikoto, to the north of Otjiwarongo, and has been investing back into the economy of Namibia. The company has been supportive of CCF's Future Farmers of Africa program and their further investment in creating these offices will have a positive, long-term impact on the local community.

*photo top: Future Farmer training in GWL
bottom photo: Site visit to check out offices in Eastern Communal Areas.*

**AMBASSADOR UPDATE
CCF CELEBRATES AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**



For the past six years at CCF, the astrological sign Leo has been more closely associated with the cheetah than the lion. Peter, KhayJay, Senay and Tiger Lily, our Okakarara cheetah ambassadors, all turned six on August 16th. They were just three weeks old when they came to CCF from Okakarara (the place they were found in the Eastern communal area). These four were hand-raised by humans, making it impossible for them to be released into the wild. Although their contribution to help their wild cheetah cousins is seen every day. As ambassadors for their species at CCF headquarters in Namibia they intrigue CCF visitors daily during feeding and during their regular exercise, chasing the lure at the cheetah run. Sometimes seeing these cheetahs in action is essential to enhancing people’s connection to the species as whole.



Our Livestock Guarding Dog (LGD) ambassador Herkul (Hercules) celebrated his first birthday August 8th. Like a typical Leo, he’s a real charmer, and he likes the attention he gets from the people he meets at CCF, especially the ladies. He is growing fast and is already

a big boy like his father Firat, CCF’s primary breeding male. We keep him busy with his training and his job as ambassador, helping school groups, tourists and visitors understand what CCF’s LGD program is all about.

LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOG UPDATE

CCF’s Livestock Guarding Dog (LGD) program experienced some setbacks over the past couple months. One of our female breeding dogs, Heidye, developed a uterine infection known as pyometra and had to undergo an emergency sterilization. Pyometra can happen suddenly in unaltered female dogs of any age and can escalate rapidly. If left untreated, pyometra may result in death. Heidye is recovering nicely, but unfortunately will no longer be contributing to our LGD program.

Two of our male dogs have also been recently taken out of the breeding program. We retired our 11-year-old male named Amos. He enjoyed a very successful career as a breeding dog in the LGD program, where he sired 16 litters and a total of 142 puppies. Although he is now retired, he still goes out with our goats. A younger male dog named Nesbit, three years-old, has never been able to breed successfully. He underwent reproductive testing and unfortunately it determined he is sterile. This has set us back, as our only other breeding male, Firat, is related to some of our female dogs.



In order to keep up with demand for our LGDs, we needed to introduce a new male into our bloodline. We were lucky to again work with Taylor Farms in Texas to bring a new male Kangal dog puppy to Namibia. Named Bolt (after Olympic champion Usain Bolt, the world’s fastest man), the new dog descends from first generation Turkish bloodlines. The cost to purchase and bring Bolt to Namibia was approx.

\$5,000. In order to offset some of this expense, CCF created a naming contest using gold medalist names from the summer games in Rio and one special guest name from Sochi 2014: Phelps, Daniyar, Veight (Anna Fenninger's new surname), Leducky, and the winning name Bolt, which received the most donations.

We continue expanding our LGD breeding program at CCF, breaking ground on three new dog pens. Naming rights are still available. For more information on how you can participate, contact beth@cheetah.org.

EIGHT ORPHANED CUBS AT CCF

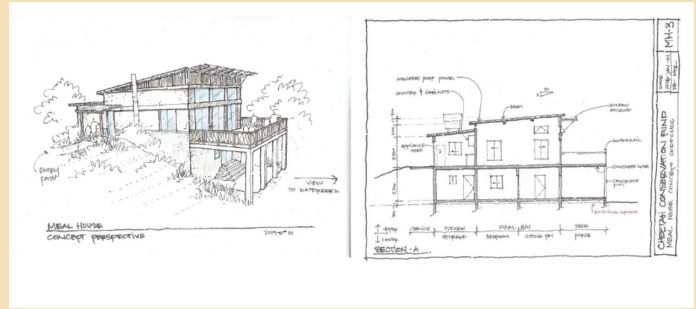
There are currently two groups of orphaned cubs being cared for at CCF. The first group was retrieved from a game farm north of Waterberg on August 1st. Their mother had been shot while hunting wild prey within the boundaries of a privately owned game farm. Game farms are increasingly a part of the Namibian landscape, and are places where wild hooved stock is raised among high fences to stop their migration. While the farm's owners did kill the mother, thankfully they captured the five cubs and called CCF. These cubs have been given a full veterinary work-up and are in exceptionally good health. Initially they were very tired and very fearful, which is a good indicator for re-wilding potential. If we can minimize their contact with humans, they may be able to be released back into the wild.

A second group of cubs was rescued by CCF staff when their mother, Zinzi, was killed by a leopard. Zinzi was a cheetah that CCF released in 2014. Normally, if her cubs had been older, CCF would tag, collar and monitor them in the wild. However, Zinzi's cubs were much too young to be able to fend for themselves. Zinzi gave her life defending her cubs so it is now our responsibility to make sure that they continue to thrive. Hopefully, like their mother, they will be able to return to the wild again someday.



photos opposite page: top left: OK cubs
 bottom left: Livestock Guarding Dog Ambassador Hercules
 right: Bolt the Livestock Guarding Dog
 Photos this page: left: Group of five orphaned cheetahs
 top: Planning drawing of new guest houses
 bottom: Newly constructed greenhouse

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Ecolodge – Be a Permanent Part of CCF Namibia

CCF's new ecolodge is on target for completion in 2017 and we would like to put your name on one of our beautiful guest rooms. There are a total of five new rooms available for naming, plus a dining facility. Please contact beth@cheetah.org for more information on pricing availability.



Greenhouse Project Completed

One of CCF's goals is to increase sustainability on a local level. We grow grapes that are processed into wine and we make our goats' milk into cheese sold both on-site at CCF and throughout Namibia under our Dancing Goat label. We embrace opportunities to buy from and promote local growers in Namibia. Last year, CCF Trustee Candice Clough donated toward the effort of making CCF sustainable by providing funds to build a greenhouse. We recently completed the project and are growing onions, carrots, eggplants, zucchini, tomatoes and cucumbers for fresh salad.

To sponsor a Livestock Guarding Dog visit www.cheetah.org and view 'Sponsor a Dog' under 'Donate'. You can also choose to sponsor one of CCF's non-releaseable resident cheetahs.

GREATER WATERBERG LANDSCAPE FUTURE FARMERS OF AFRICA UPDATE

Continued from page 2

individuals who received the initial training.

Participants indicated they had all gained knowledge in multiple areas, and were able to identify areas in which they could increase their personal income, and in turn, help alleviate poverty within the community, the overall objective of the project. The majority of participants said that they now see the need to vaccinate, feed and provide supplements, treatments and licks to their livestock. In addition, they desired to put this knowledge into practice as they recognize it will lead to healthier, fatter livestock that will bring a higher price per kg at auction. Practicing good record keeping and financial planning were also recognized as important to increasing income, both over the short and long terms, and as well as being critical to helping achieve higher prices for their products. The survey provided valuable insights into behavioral and attitude changes among the farmers before and after the workshops.

Integrating economics, ecology, conservation, animal health, feeding, treatments and many other topics meant that participants gained knowledge across a number of fields. These fields are recognized by CCF as being critically important in order for the communities to develop their livelihoods while peacefully coexisting with large predators, especially cheetahs. After attending the workshops, one participant stated he had 'gained knowledge on how to treat livestock well and keep them healthy' and another stated that 'In addition to livestock management I learned about financial management, birthing and teething problems with livestock.'

The majority of participants labeled themselves as low in knowledge at the start of the training. After the workshops, they identified as either medium or high in knowledge among the various topics covered. Of all the participants, nearly half felt that cheetahs and wild dogs could bring economic value

to the area if viewed as tourist attractions and could bring in alternative revenue to the community. The participants also said that they had the ability to put into place ways to manage livestock that would allow for wild game and predators to exist alongside their livestock.

Results also indicated that farmers gained the educational and practical experience required to reduce livestock losses attributable to predation, CCF distributed its Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Management resource guides to all participants, an invaluable tool to support the trainings made possible by the EU funding. The guides were translated into Otjiherero, a Bantu language commonly spoken in this region of Namibia.

PARAVETERINARY PROGRAM

Plans are underway to begin a paraveterinary (paravet) training program focusing on improving the health of Namibian livestock, people and ecosystems. Paravets are individuals trained to assist veterinarians and may carry out certain animal health procedures independently or



CCF PHOTO CONTEST - One winning photo will be chosen to be printed on the cover of our next issue of *Cheetah Strides* 13.

Deadline to submit photos is November 1, 2016.

We LOVE cheetah photos, so send yours TODAY!

STEPS:

1. Click!

Go take some pictures; **cheetahs**, either in the wild or in an accredited zoo, **are always photogenic!**



2. Select!

Choose your favorite cheetah photo & remember, **the photo must be your own.**



semi-independently. CCF plans to train people in remote villages to serve as paravets for their local communities, administering basic veterinary care, such as providing vaccinations and performing minor procedures such as hoof trimming cattle and dehorning calves.

The paravet training, a part of CCF's Future Farmers of Africa program, requires funding to initiate. Once up and running it will focus primarily on the villages within the Eastern Communal Area of the GWL. Paravets will be supplied with minor veterinary equipment and supplies, such as hoof and horn trimmers, needles and syringes, as well as bulk livestock vaccines.

CCF hopes to improve emergency response to animal health issues by better preparing villagers to be first responders. If veterinary issues can be dealt with locally and immediately the overall health of livestock will improve. Healthy livestock are less likely to become targets of predation, which in turn helps mitigate human-carnivore conflict and reduce the killing of cheetahs and other predators.

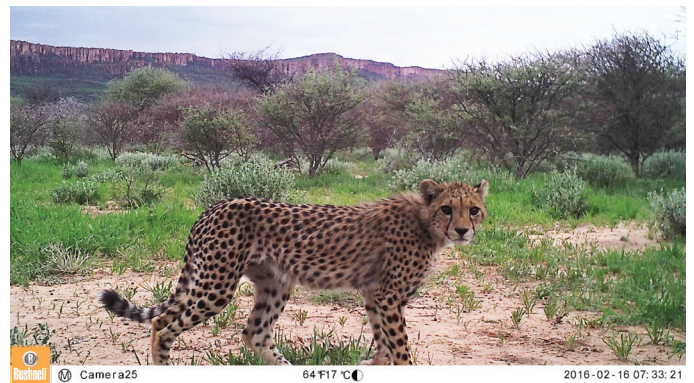
SURVEY SAYS...

With the support of Namibia's Go Green Fund, CCF is currently conducting a three-year Greater Waterberg Landscape (GWL) survey looking at carnivore distribution, carnivore abundance and human-carnivore conflict hotspots. The surveys cover an area of approximately 250 square-miles and include areas in both the communal and commercial areas of the GWL. Beginning in January 2016, CCF scientists placed camera traps to gather key information on wildlife populations. So far more than 400,000 images have been taken and have captured all known carnivore species from cheetah to striped pole cat and serval, as well as a wealth of herbivore species. A total analysis of the landscape data will not take place until CCF researchers have collected information during all seasons and across all areas.

In addition to camera trapping, in cooperation with communal conservancy representatives and the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism

(MET), CCF is conducting community meetings in the Waterberg area. The meetings help determine the location of human-carnivore conflict hotspots and assess the extent of livestock losses in order to determine where education services are needed the most.

By the end of the three-year study, CCF will be better able to predict cheetah presence and target known conflict hotspots on both commercial and communal land. CCF staff will also mitigate conflict in these hot spot areas during the survey period. By mapping conflict zones, educational resources can be delivered to the most at-risk areas, thereby helping secure a long-term future for large carnivores across the GWL. Additionally, CCF will be able to create a comprehensive species list to be shared with the relevant government departments, conservation organizations, conservancy managers and their respective communities, the Large Carnivore Management Association of Namibia (LCMAN), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



To learn more about CCF's camera traps visit our blog: www.cheetah.org

photo opposite page: Tyapa Toivo CCF's Small Livestock Manager trims the hooves of one of CCF's dairy goats.
photo this page: One of the 400k photos taken by camera traps. This photo from February 2016 shows a young cheetah.

RULES

- Only photos with cheetahs as subject matter will be considered.
- Only photos taken in the wild or at an accredited zoo will be considered. (AZA or ZAA)
- Only photos with correct file-naming will be accepted. (see instructions below)
- Only original photos will be accepted, no Google images please.

3. Name It!

Save your file with **YOUR NAME & WHERE PHOTO WAS TAKEN** like this: **my_name_otjiwarongo_namibia.jpeg** or **my_name_someplace_zoo.jpeg**.

4.

EMAIL TO CCF!



INFO@CHEETAH.ORG





CRAFT WORKSHOPS

CCF held fifteen craft workshops between November of 2014 and August 2016, training a total of 165 artists. The workshops covered topics such as: leather dying, stitching techniques, assembly, leather trimming, utilizing natural resources, beading, bead making, value adding, packaging and quality control.

The main goal is to teach participants the process of putting together a marketable, hand-crafted product from beginning to end. CCF has since developed a line of crafts and a label that links buyers back to the community where cheetahs live and provides income for the local artisans.

