

# *Cheetah* CONSERVATION FUND



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

# CONTENTS

## MISSION:

The Cheetah Conservation Fund's (CCF's) mission is to be an internationally recognised centre of excellence in research and education on cheetahs and their ecosystems, working with all stakeholders to achieve best practice in the conservation and management of the world's cheetahs.



## HISTORY:

The Cheetah Conservation Fund is an international not-for-profit Namibian Section 21 organisation with registered not-for-profit fund-raising partners in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands and Japan.

Letter from the director	2
About us	3
Health and reproduction	4
Ecology	6
Reintroductions	7
Ecosystem research	8
Livestock guarding dog programme	9
Model farm	10
Conservancies	10
Learning to live together	11
Community outreach	12
Sustainability: Bushblok	12
In-service training and staff education	13
Eco-tourism	14
Economic impact survey	14
Global management planning/policy involvement	15
International courses	16
CCF Namibia gala	17
Fund raising (Europe)	18
Fund raising (USA)	19
Other international events	20
Entering the virtual world	21
Awards	21
Staffing	22
Publications	23
Income and expenditure	24



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



In line with our mission, our work with all stakeholders in cheetah-range areas continued through education and public outreach, applied conservation biology and management, public policy, and science and research; however, CCF is reaching different dimensions, as you can see from the many exciting events in 2008.

One of the highlights of 2008 was the arrival in November of two black rhinos --a 6 year old male and a 3 year old female. The release of these rhinos on CCF land is the culmination of years of work and negotiations as part of our plan to restore the land to its natural state.

Beginning this year, CCF has a genetics laboratory that is set up to process scat (faecal) samples for DNA extraction and analysis. This will allow us to process samples locally, decreasing the dependence of Namibia from other countries and allowing Namibian students to be exposed to genetic research and conservation at CCF. The main planned project includes cheetah identification based on scat samples to estimate animal density.

In July, after a year of planning, CCF re-introduced five of its cheetahs into the NamibRand Nature Reserve in the south west of Namibia bordering the Namib-Naukluft Park. CCF and NamibRand have worked closely with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism

to plan this release. In August 2008 the cheetahs were recaptured due to their movement onto a livestock farm, and then released again in December. In the hope that it may encourage the males to stay more on the plains, two female cheetahs from CCF were also taken to the Reserve and placed in the 50-ha holding camp. As soon as the males are hunting regularly, it is envisioned that the female cheetahs will then be released using the same methods.

CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog Program is considered one of the most successful conservation projects in regards to human / predator challenges, and currently involves 121 working dogs. A highlight of the programme at the end of this year was the placement of one male puppy in the Mara Conservancy in Kenya to live amongst the local Masai and guard their livestock. In addition, CCF received two new breeding dogs early in 2008, thanks to the SPOTS Foundation in Holland and two generous Turkish Kangal breeders.

The need to address capacity building and training of conservation scientists, educators and agriculture officers in cheetah range countries was identified by both the Eastern and Southern African Regional Strategic Planning meetings for Cheetah in 2007. Consequently, for the first time this year, CCF held two courses on Integrated Livestock and Predator Management and Cheetah Conservation Biology for over 30 international conservationists from cheetah range countries around the world. The courses are part of a commitment to running a number of international conservation courses over a three-year period.

CCF Bush (Pty) Ltd was again inspected and approved by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for certificate renewal, and its sales nearly doubled in 2008.

Bushblok was selected from over 700 nominations to receive the 2008 Tech Award in the Intel Environment Category. I was also honoured with the first Zoological Society of San Diego's Conservation Medal of the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Gold Medal award from the Society of Woman Geographers (SWG), and had the privilege of being a finalist for the Indianapolis Prize, which was deservedly awarded to Dr. George Schaller.

Ensuring the cheetah's survival presents many challenges. Our systematic approaches have resulted in the stabilisation of the cheetah population in Namibia. However, the cheetah must survive in its entire range if we are to ensure the health of this species. Thus, we must continue to expand our efforts throughout the world, and particularly where the cheetah still exists. In the years to come, CCF will continue to focus on developing best practices in research, education and ecology to create a sustainable model from which all other endangered species may benefit, beyond our lifetimes, and on a global basis.

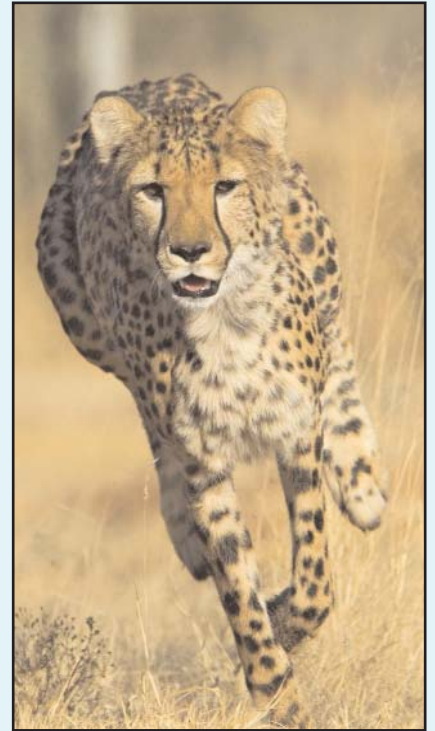


## VISION:

To see a world in which cheetahs live and flourish in co-existence with people and the environment.

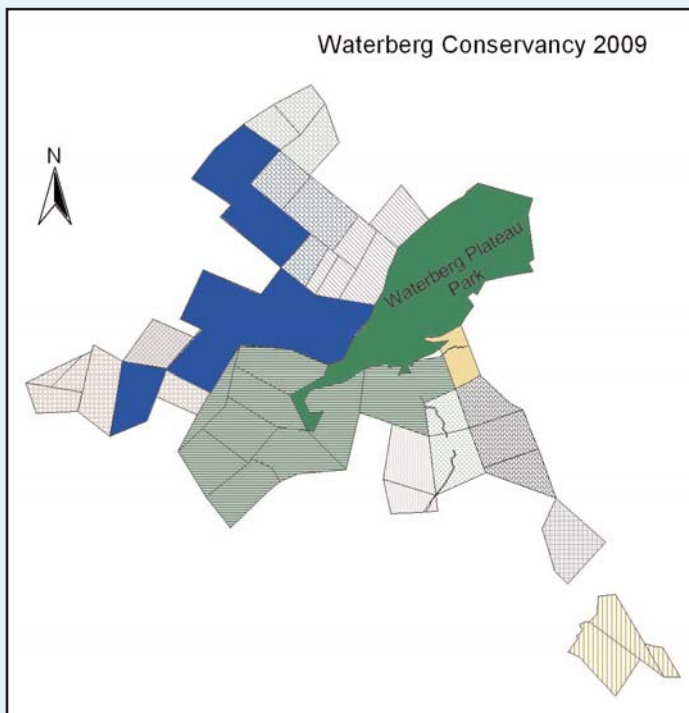
CCF is based in Namibia, home to the world's largest population of free-ranging cheetah (approximately 3,000). The cheetah's survival depends on an integrated approach: an ecological system of farmland management, prey species management and habitat stability. This approach utilises practices such as alternative land management, non-lethal predator control and relocation of problem cheetahs. CCF's Namibian focus is to work with livestock farming communities in order to develop ways to reduce conflict. This is achieved by devising a conservation plan that secures habitat for the species, while still accommodating farmers' land use and economic needs.

CCF's International Research and Education Centre is the base for all CCF activities. The Centre includes: the farms Elandsvreugde, Osonanga, Boskop (Khayam's Kopje), Cheetah View, Bellebenno and Janhelpman, totalling 39,000 hectares. Bynadar, a new 7,000-ha farm was purchased in 2008. Bynadar borders several of CCF's existing farms and the owner was retiring from farming. CCF's Centre is located in prime cheetah habitat and a wildlife-friendly area, with neighbouring farmers who believe in conservation ethics. This ensures a large prey base, which is important for the cheetah population, and models demonstrating that farmers can live harmoniously with cheetahs. In



2007, a portion of CCF land encompassing Elandsvreugde and Osonanga was turned into a fenced Rhino reserve.

CCF is an active member of the Waterberg Conservancy, which encompasses more than 175,000 hectares of private farmland surrounding the Waterberg Plateau Park - a national game park dedicated to rare and endangered species. The Conservancy's farmers cooperatively manage the wildlife for long-term sustainability, which in turn provides habitat and a prey base for the cheetah.



◀ The map shows CCF farms in blue.



## ANNUAL HEALTH EXAMS

In February/March, CCF conducted annual physical exams on their 47 resident cheetahs. Dr. Carlos Sanchez, Associate Veterinarian from the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo, and reproductive physiologist Dr. Adrienne Crosier, worked together with Otjiwarongo veterinarian Dr. Axel Hartman and CCF staff and volunteers for two weeks to anaesthetise each cat and give vaccinations and overall physical health check-ups including endoscopic exams, ultrasound and x-rays. In addition, sperm was collected from most males for ongoing studies on the preservation and thawing of cheetah sperm.

Internationally, cheetahs suffer from gastritis, an inflammation of the stomach that is caused by spiral bacteria and impacts negatively on the animals' health. Stress is implicated as one of the possible causes of this disease. Long-term research into the causes, levels and effects of gastritis in cheetah is undertaken in collaboration with Drs. Linda Munson and Karen Terio (University of California, Davis), and Dr. Scott Citino from the White Oak Conservation Centre. All CCF's animals were endoscoped to monitor presence or absence of gastritis.

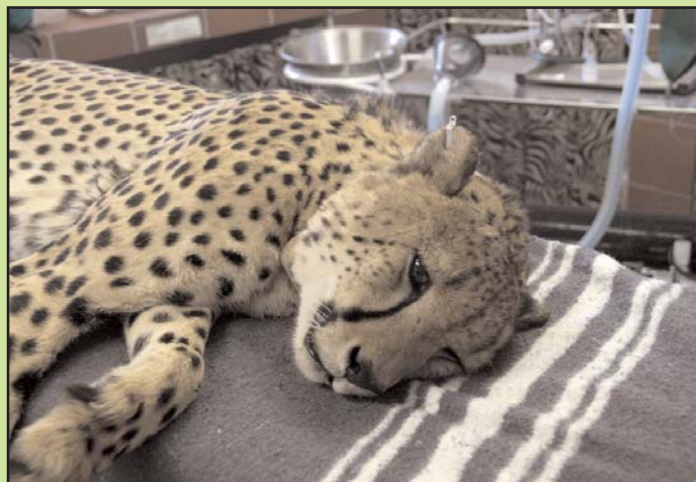
Along with the endoscopies, fourteen days of faecal samples are collected on each of CCF's cheetahs and processed and shipped to the US to evaluate Cortisol levels. This year, due to the extreme rains of the season, faecal samples were collected in June and July. CCF's cheetahs are very healthy and provide a baseline.

Jorgensen Laboratories (USA) donated the use of a second endoscope for the three weeks which was extremely helpful in performing all the gastric endoscopies and biopsies, allowing four to five cheetahs per day to be worked upon. Each cheetah takes about one and a half hours on the table, in addition to preparation, setup and cleanup. In addition, someone monitors each cat's wake-up process. Most of CCF's cheetahs were given great bills of health; however, two of the orphan cheetahs confiscated last year by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) with CCF's help, and found in appallingly poor nutritional condition (living in a garage), were diagnosed with a heart murmur, and a couple of leg bones had not developed properly.

Chest and abdominal radiographs were taken from the 15 cheetahs planned to be exported into the USA along with an in-house snap test for FIV/FeLV and samples collected for faecal corona virus PCR testing in the USA. Radiographs from limbs and pelvis were obtained on the six cheetahs with a history of juvenile rickets.

Skull radiographs were taken on 26 of CCF's cheetahs for a CCF project, and CCF staff were trained by National Zoo animal health keeper Leigh Pitsko, on the operation of the x-ray machine. In addition, 24 cheetah skulls were radiographed (3 views for each skull) by CCF staff.

Pfizer Drugs and Ft. Dodge Laboratories donated anaesthesia and other drugs and vaccines needed for the annual workups. In addition, Air Liquide donated a new liquid nitrogen tank to store all valuable samples.



During this year's exams, CCF and SI teamed together to train two veterinarians from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), along with CCF Kenya Program Director, Mary Wykstra, to prepare them for more field work on cheetahs (see left). In addition a third Kenyan veterinarian was trained later in the year at CCF. All were trained in hands-on anaesthesia protocols, anaesthesia monitoring and emergency procedures. This was supported by a grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.



## Genome Resource Bank

Since 2002, a total of 286 semen collections have been added to the CCF Genome Resource Bank (GRB) from 85 individual cheetahs. In 2008, twenty-seven samples were banked from four wild cheetahs and 22 of CCF's resident cheetahs. CCF continues to bank serum, white and red blood cells and skin samples on all cheetahs. Currently the CCF GRB holds over 1600 samples, with back up samples held at both CCF and the National Cancer Institute in Maryland, USA.

## Genetic Laboratory

In May, post-doc Dr. Anne Schmidt-Küntzel from Dr. Steve O'Brien's genetics laboratory at the National Cancer (USA) arrived to set up the new Applied Bioscience Conservation Genetics Laboratory. The laboratory which has been set up to process scat (faecal) samples for DNA extraction and analysis, is now functioning thanks to CCF's Dr. Bruce Brewer, who coordinated the construction, and Dr. Mike Helms, who helped with logistics and communications in the US. The project has been funded by the Ohrstrom Foundation and Applied Biosystems who donated PCR machines, a Sequence Analyser, and reagents. In addition, other donations of valuable equipment were acquired from private individuals and the surplus department of the National Institutes of Health including centrifuges, pipetmen, electrophoresis systems and a camera system for the visualisation of DNA, spectrophotometer, scales, glassware, and other laboratory-ware. At the end of August, an ABI technician set up the genetic analyser, and another technician came to provide training to CCF staff.



This laboratory will allow CCF to process samples locally and allow Namibian students to be exposed to genetic research and conservation on site. The projects include cheetah identification based on scat samples to estimate animal density. For this project, any cheetah sample encountered in the wild is collected, indicating date and location.

In addition, CCF is collaborating with Dr. Eduardo Eizirik's laboratory in Brazil on targeting all carnivore scat to identify the carnivore species that are present in the area. Genetic analysis of the scat using mitochondria markers will be used. In November/December, CCF's Ezekiel Fabiano, and Dr. Schmidt-Küntzel (left) spent several weeks in Eduardo's laboratory in order to do preliminary collaborative work.

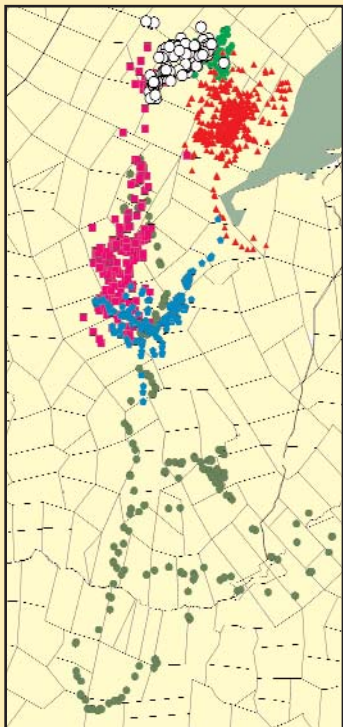


## CAMERA TRAPS

Range-wide population estimates for cheetahs are critical for their conservation, but they are particularly difficult to study since cheetahs are highly secretive with widespread home ranges. CCF continues its census research using non-invasive photographic captures via camera traps. CCF's objective is to replicate camera trap surveys for establishing the technique reliability, and to conduct surveys in other parts of Namibia to acquire further knowledge of the species abundance in the country. Two studies were conducted in 2008, one around CCF's Centre and the Waterberg Conservancy and the other in the Sandveld conservancy, 200k south.

In Sandveld a total of 3890 pictures were taken, of which 19% where cheetahs, allowing for the identification of six different cheetahs. This was a lower estimate than CCF reported in their 1st camera trapping analysis within the Waterberg Conservancy, but similar to what radio-telemetry studies showed in their earlier research.

## RADIO/SATELLITE COLLARS



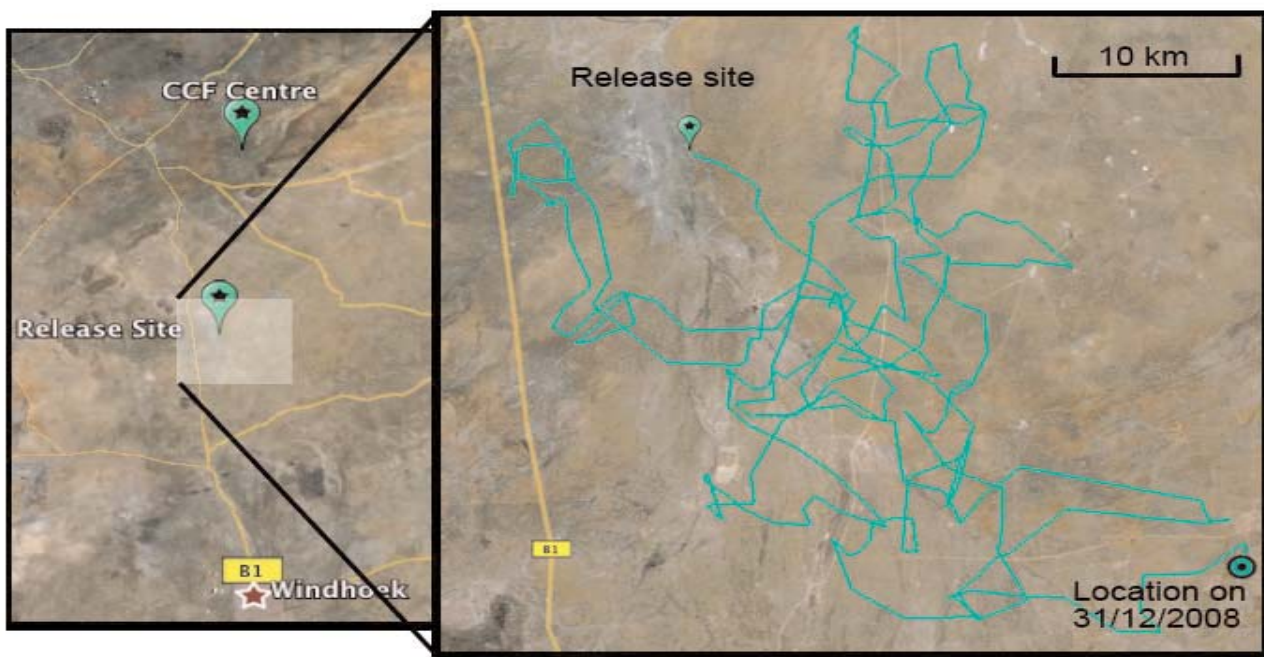
Beginning in 2007, CCF collared several cheetahs in its core research area with GSM (cell phone) radio-collars. The mobile phone technology used has not been good enough and data could not be retrieved on a regular basis.

Four male cheetahs were initially collared in 2007, two of which died (one shot by a farmer, and the second one gored by a warthog). These two collars were then placed on two new individuals. In the early months of 2008, CCF set trap cages at known play trees to try to re-catch the cheetahs and retrieve the collars. All but one of the collars have now been retrieved and the data downloaded (see map on left - the Waterberg ). Future research will be carried out with different models of radio-collar.

In March, two wild male cheetahs began frequenting the female holding pens near CCF's main Research Centre and moved in the area around CCF's staff quarters and kitchen. They were trapped, examined, and released with a VHS collar on one in order to track their movements in the area. They are seen regularly.

A female cheetah with two cubs was released back onto the farm she'd been caught on, to the south of Otjiwarongo, with the assistance of the farmer who caught her. She is now being tracked via satellite collar and regular movement updates are shared with the farmer in question (see map below).

Satellite collars have also been used on the cheetahs released at NamibRand Nature Reserve. Further information on this can be found in the "Reintroductions" section.





## CHEETAHS

In July, after a year of planning, CCF re-introduced five of its cheetahs in the NamibRand Nature Reserve in the south west of Namibia bordering the Namib-Naukluft Park National Park. Working closely with MET to plan this release, five male cheetahs (AJU 1326, 1327, 1347, 1350, and 1353) that were held at Amani Lodge were taken to NamibRand in July and released in August. All five cheetahs were radio-collared, three with VHF collars and two with satellite collars.

This is CCF's third reintroduction project, although this was the first time a structured re-introduction was attempted in a non-fenced reserve. The cheetahs stayed in the group of five the entire time of this first phase of the release conducted until the 22nd of August 2008. The males explored the area, covering huge distances daily, and after three weeks, caught one kudu. However, they travelled over the mountain range and onto a livestock farm where they killed two rams, and had to be re-captured. The farmer was compensated. Cheetahs need large, uninhabited areas, which is a challenge due to the extent of land under livestock production. NamibRand is ideally suited for this long-term re-introduction project. However, it is recognised that re-introductions are not simple. It's very important to closely monitor the behaviours of individual cats to ensure their health and adaptation to their new environment.



It's very important to closely monitor the behaviours of individual cats to ensure their health and adaptation to their new environment.

A second release of the five male cheetahs was conducted on the 5th of December. To encourage the males to stay more on the plains, the central area of the reserve, two female cheetahs from CCF were taken to the NamibRand and placed in the 50-ha holding camp after the release of the males.

The males are doing well and have started to hunt.

The picture on the left shows data received from the satellite collars over a four-day period.

## BLACK RHINO



In October, CCF received the first two black rhinos, as part of the Namibian Government's Stewardship Program. The 23,000-hectare rhino reserve was set up in conjunction with CCF's neighbour and fellow Conservancy member; Harry Schneider-Waterberg. It is hoped that the reintroduction of this formerly widespread species will help reduce the levels of bush encroachment in the area. The two animals - a six year old male and a three year old female - are radio-tracked four times a week to ensure their continued good health and to provide data for future studies.

Additional rhinos are expected early in 2009, and it is hoped that they will eventually breed here.

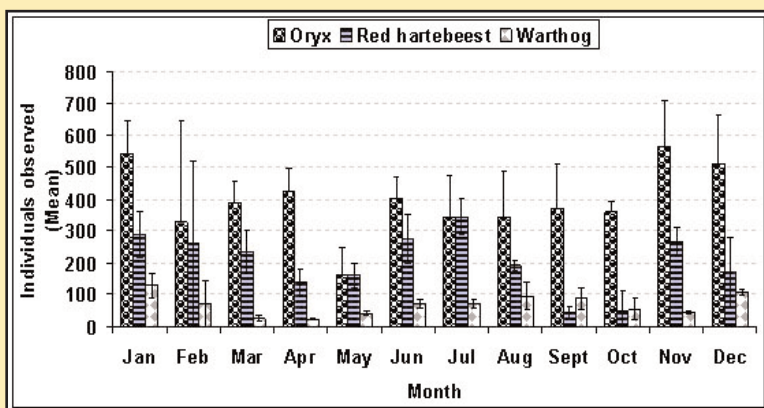




## GAME MONITORING

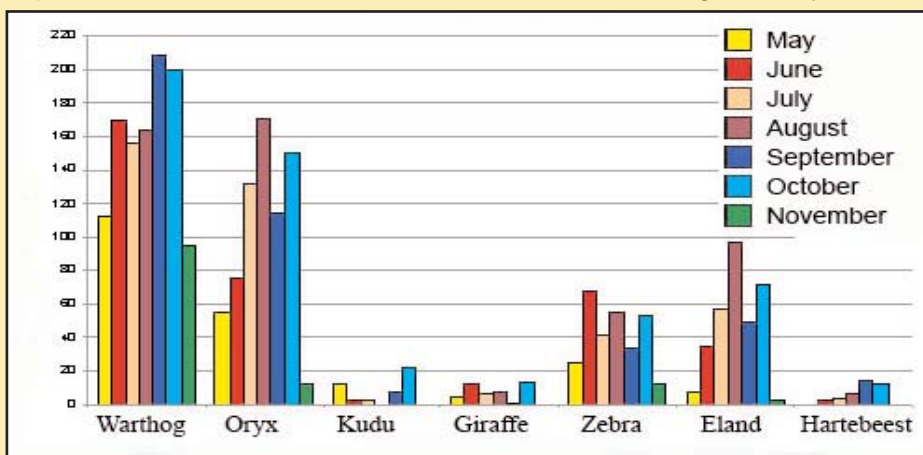
CCF's long-term wildlife monitoring programme continues and is designed to understand patterns and trends of game density, movements, demographics and habitat utilisation. Earthwatch volunteers, students and staff assist with this on-going research. The monthly monitoring involves visual road counts, tracking and counting spoor, categorising vegetation, densities, and distributions. This information is correlated with data collected on rainfall and temperature.

CCF's Big Field, know also the "Little Serengeti," is an old cultivated land of 1492ha. The field, one of the largest open areas in north central Namibia, attracts a high number of free-ranging game. This area provides an ideal case study to monitor ecological successional trends. Apart from being a high prey density area for cheetahs and leopards, this area has huge potential for eco-tourism. CCF has been conducting monthly counts since 2004. Overall, the density of common wildlife on the Big Field showed a slight increase by 7.15% as from 2007 - 2008 periods.



This area provides an ideal case study to monitor ecological successional trends. Apart from being a high prey density area for cheetahs and leopards, this area has huge potential for eco-tourism. CCF has been conducting monthly counts since 2004. Overall, the density of common wildlife on the Big Field showed a slight increase by 7.15% as from 2007 - 2008 periods. The figure on the right shows the average numbers of common wildlife species during 2008.

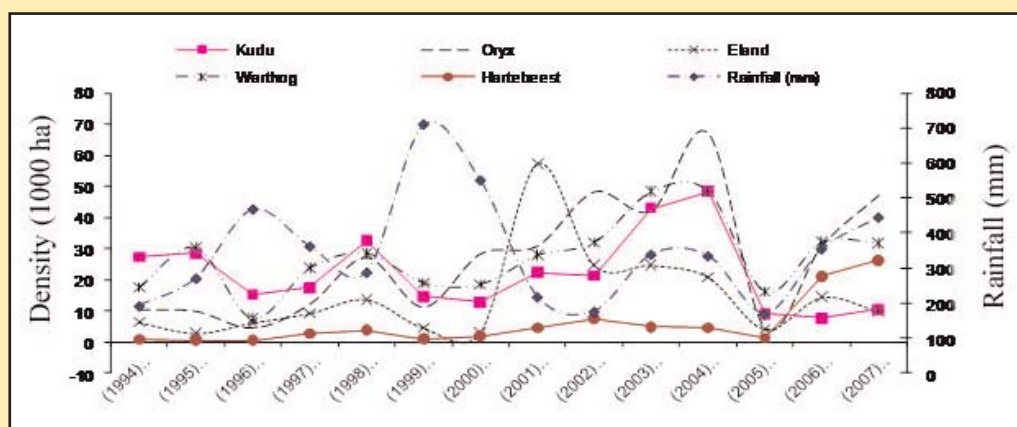
To assist development of a management plan for the 3,000-ha game-fenced Bellebenno camp, CCF has also begun monthly 12-hr waterhole counts assisted by Earthwatch and other CCF volunteers. The results from May through November are shown in the figure (left).



## WATERBERG CONSERVANCY WATERHOLE COUNT

For the past 14 years, CCF and the Waterberg Conservancy have conducted waterhole counts on an annual basis. These counts are a pre-requisite for conservancy registration and a part of management plans for the Conservancy Association of Namibia (CANAM). The first weekend of August brought together more than 80 volunteers to conduct the Waterberg Conservancy 14th Annual Waterhole Count. Volunteers were stationed at 25 waterholes (spread over seven farms). CCF continues to be responsible for conducting volunteer orientation, preparing record sheets/identification guides, and for transporting volunteers. Assisting with the count for the third year were Earth Expedition teachers from Miami University (USA), Earthwatch and Peace Corps volunteers, as well as CCF's Namibian and international interns.

The figure (below) shows the annual densities based on the waterhole counts conducted during the past 14 years. Densities and rainfall have fluctuated over time with populations showing an increase after one or two years of good rains. It can be observed that all species appear to have increased since the 2006 rainy season. Overall average density for the five species in 2007 ( $21.13 \pm 10.53/100\text{km}^2$ ) was slightly lower than that for 2008 ( $25.05 \pm 15.60/100\text{km}^2$ ).



# LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOG (LSGD) PROGRAMME

## SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA

Research and treatment continues on several dogs that have been diagnosed with Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) on the tongue. Liz Lester, CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog manager, with the support of Dr. Axel Hartman from the Otjiwarongo Veterinary Clinic, conducted an investigation into an economically viable, effective treatment under field conditions to prolong the working lifespan of dogs affected by the disease. Early results from 10 confirmed SCC cases have shown that repeated intra-lesional injections of a combination of 5-fluoro-uracil and methyl-prednisolone have slowed or halted the disease progression and in two cases, oral administration of piroxicam as adjuvant therapy to the chemotherapy was used. A paper was presented at the 2008 Veterinarian Association of Namibia Congress.

The Livestock Guarding Dog Programme at CCF is considered one of the most successful conservation projects in regards to human / predator challenges. As of December 2008 there were 151 dogs alive of which 121 are working dogs and 31 are retired or pets. Of the working dogs, 75 are on commercial farms, 28 on emerging commercial farms, and 17 on communal farms.

CCF received two new breeding dogs; Spots (male) and Cazgir (female) early in 2008, from the SPOTS Foundation in Holland and two generous Turkish Kangal breeders. These new bloodlines will help the programme grow. CCF thanks Air Namibia and the Amersfoort Zoo for their support with transport costs. Both of these dogs are already over 30 kg, and although they will be in training throughout this first year, they are proving to have excellent prospects for the future.

In 2008, CCF successfully bred and placed 42 Anatolian and Mongretolian ( $\frac{3}{4}$  Anatolian  $\frac{1}{4}$  mongrel) puppies. Another pup, "Isha," has been placed at the CCF director's house as a pet and left intact for possible future breeding. She is also being trained to detect cheetah scat.

Dog check-ups remained a priority for the year. Each dog is visited after its adoption, at 3 months, and again at 6 months. Thereafter, the dogs are checked annually. While on these dog visits, the LSGD staff provides vaccinations, de-worming tablets, veterinary supplies for minor injuries, topical anti-parasitic agents, and dog food for purchase. Bringing these items along helps insure that the dog's health is a priority even if the owners are not as responsible as hoped. Follow-up calls to farmers are made throughout the year.

A highlight of the programme at the end of this year was the placement of one male puppy in the Mara Conservancy in Kenya under the direction of Dr. Asuka Takita. This puppy will live amongst the local Maasai and guard their livestock. Dr. Takita, a Kenyan veterinarian, spent two weeks at CCF on one of the international conservation training courses, during which she learnt about CCF's LSGD programme. The puppy, called Iseiya, was taken to Kenya by CCF's Liz Lester in November and received a warm reception. She has settled in well.

Two of CCF's oldest Guarding Dogs died in 2008. Zanta (below left), one of the matriarchs of CCF's breeding programme, was humanely euthanised after having a debilitating spinal cord injury from a slipped lumbar vertebral disk. Zanta was thirteen years' old and had given birth to over 50 offspring before being retired last year. In November, Zanta's sister Koya (below right) - CCF cheetah ambassador Chewbaaka's constant companion - was also euthanised due to age related weakness in her legs and spinal cord.





# MODEL FARM

CCF's farm provides the opportunity to practice and experiment with the optimum methods of livestock and non-lethal farm management practices, especially acting as a showcase model of success. CCF's cattle, goats and sheep continue to increase.

Under the direction of Johan Britz, CCF farms manager, CCF actively manages over 400 cattle. A small herd of cattle is also kept for use with CCF's farmer livestock training courses. CCF also maintains a goat and sheep herd as an essential part of

the livestock guarding dog programme. Raising puppies amongst small stock is the main objective. Herd management is implemented by CCF's herder Armas, supported by CCF's animal care staff and farm management. The goat and sheep herd were used several times during the year for demonstrations during various training programmes.



At the end of 2008, CCF's small stock is in excellent condition due to early rains and the good conditions of the veld/pastures. CCF staff is waiting in anticipation for the lambing season to commence in mid-January 2009. At the end of 2008, CCF's Boer goat herd and Damara sheep flock had 85 and 63 head, respectively.

CCF pastures donkeys and horses for feeding resident captive cheetahs. Approximately 370 animals were slaughtered in 2008 (about 30 animals per month) to this end. Most of these animals are purchased by CCF from the Okakarara area in the Eastern Communal area, and are animals in very poor condition or very old. Therefore, by buying them, CCF provides a humane service while providing income to this poor community.

CCF hayed approximately ¼ of its Big Field producing sufficient hay for the year for its livestock, and yielding about \$5,000 in revenue.



## Greater Waterberg Complex and the Waterberg Conservancy

The Greater Waterberg Complex plan is advancing. A logo has been designed and a draft constitution drawn up. Over 300 head of wildlife were re-introduced into one of the Eastern Conservancies and CCF has been asked to assist with game monitoring as well as hosting a workshop on the subject in 2009. The Waterberg Conservancy held its Annual General Meeting (see right). CCF's Dr. Bruce Brewer was again elected Treasurer. The Conservancy's main activities for the year were the 14th annual waterhole count and the development efforts around the Greater Waterberg Complex.



## Conservancy Association of Namibia (CANAM)

For the 5th year, Dr. Laurie Marker was voted as the CANAM Chairwoman. During the year, she attended ~8 meetings and helped plan the General Annual meeting in April.

CCF's main focus was the development of a CANAM Commercial Conservancy publication, advocacy with MET toward recognition of free-hold conservancies, and the continued cooperation between communal and commercial conservancies.

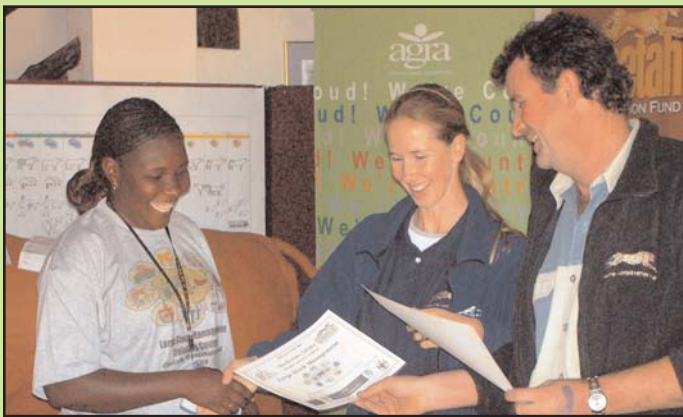
Dr. Marker was invited to make a presentation at the quarterly Namibian Association of Community Support Organisations (NACSO) meeting and was invited to participate in the National Resource Management meeting. CANAM and CCF were also a part of a meeting with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Namibian Nature Foundation, and NASCO led by the WWF Great Plains group from Montana, USA, the Prairie Foundation, and the Grasslands Foundation USA). The group visited many areas in Namibia including a full day at CCF.

# LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER

## FARMER TRAINING

CCF remained involved in the agricultural (livestock) sector development and continued to participate in various events, which included farmers' days, public lectures, workshops, student groups, partnerships and formal training courses.

Altogether nine training courses were presented by CCF at its Research and Education Centre, which were attended by 157 participants. This included two courses on livestock management targeting illiterate farm workers and two courses on integrated livestock and predator management tailored to the needs of high school learners. Most of the learners and farm workers were sent by farmers who previously attended CCF's training courses. These courses were sponsored by the First National Bank of Namibia Foundation and the Agra Co-operative.



The other five courses were presented under the EU-funded Emerging Commercial Farmers Support Programme (ECFSP), jointly coordinated by the Namibian National Farmers Union and the Namibian Agricultural Union. CCF has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the ECFSP to present twelve training courses until May 2009. Six courses have been presented to date, with another six scheduled for the first quarter of 2009. Three Large Stock Management Courses and three Financial Farm Management Courses were also presented this year, while Small Stock Management and Mechanical Farm Maintenance are on the agenda for next year.

## PRIMARY TO HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

Organised education programmes at CCF are designed mainly for groups accommodated at CCF's tented Camp Lightfoot. CCF hosts school and community groups, exposing them to different environmental education activities including a Nature Trail, team-building activities, games and other environmental awareness activities. In 2008, 21 groups, totalling 708 individuals, participated in this programme.

## COLLABORATIONS

Visiting international university groups included students from Rhodes, Emory, Dartmouth, and North Carolina universities.

During February and March, CCF hosted 10 students from the University of Florida (USA), enrolled in an accredited field course. Under the leadership of Aletris Neils - a former 2002 CCF intern, the students learned field research techniques, African wildlife management, Namibian culture and conservation.

For the third year, the Travelling School visited CCF, bringing 18 high-school girls and their teachers. They spent three days learning about what CCF is doing to conserve the cheetah and also participating in some volunteer work.





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Agra Co-operative, in partnership with CCF, hosted four public lectures in Gobabis, Windhoek, Tsumeb and Opuwo. The lectures that reached nearly 200 farmers covered various livestock farming-related topics, with CCF addressing predator-livestock conflict and sustainable approaches to meet the challenge. CCF staff Elizabeth Lester and Anne-Marie Stewart also attended a farmers' day organised by the Oos-Kalahari Farmer's Association and talked about CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog Programme.

Polytechnic of Namibia visited CCF with 35 final year agricultural students as part of their practical exposure tours. The group was accommodated at Cheetah View, where they conducted practical sessions on rangeland management. In addition, they spent two days at the CCF Centre, attending lectures by CCF staff and a practical session on small stock husbandry.

The Cheetah View training facility was more efficiently used in the current year by availing it to third parties to conduct CCF independent courses. Earthwise Enterprises and Boscia Training rented it to facilitate farmer development programmes, for which they are extremely suitable. CCF benefited by exposing course participants to CCF's programmes and sourcing some funds to maintain the facility.

Finally, CCF actively participated in four workshops addressing farmers' development at strategic levels. These consisted of a workshop on the Country Pilot Partnership Programme for Integrated Sustainable Land Management, the Annual Rangeland Forum, the Post Settlement Land Conference, and a Strategic Planning Workshop of the Otjizondjupa Emerging Commercial Farmers Forum.

As one of the in-country hosts of the Leadership for Conservation in Africa (LCA) organisation, Dr. Marker assisted in planning a workshop of 60 conservation authorities and business leaders from 26 African nations. After a presidential meeting of over 200 business leaders and members of the Namibian parliament, Dr. Marker travelled with them to the conference site in Etosha National Park, as an advisor. The group ended their Namibian travels at CCF where staff hosted a day presenting CCF's programmes (see right).



## Supporting Local Communities to Help the Cheetah

Humans must co-exist with cheetah if the world's fastest cat is to survive in the wild. The following progress has been made on one of CCF's activities that assure the economic well being of people living within the cheetah's range and provide resources to support CCF's long-term activity.

### Bushblok



CCF was again inspected this year by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for certificate renewal. Approval was received in March. The triennial meeting of the FSC held in Cape Town, offered CCF's general manager; Dr. Bruce Brewer; an ideal opportunity to network with the attendees and to learn more about the global operations of the FSC.

CCF Bush (Pty) Ltd. nearly doubled its Bushblok sales in 2008 from 473,000 tons versus 235,000 in 2007. 2008 sales also included an additional 212 tons of processed woodchip sold to a Windhoek company producing composite wood products such as doors. Bushblok orders were predominately for South Africa, with the year ending on a very positive note as a container headed for sales in the Netherlands.

The CCF Bush team demonstrated harvest techniques to several groups of interested farmers. Consultations were also given to groups wishing to establish biomass power plants. Contact was made with the owners of a cement factory under construction to discuss the use of biomass, while Dr. Brewer continued to liaise with the Charcoal Producers' Association and the Department of Forestry. He was also involved in the government's continuing efforts to formally establish a Woodland Management Council.

In November, the Bushblok project won the prestigious Intel Technology Award in the environment category, after being chosen from over 700 entrants. More information on this milestone award can be found in the Awards section.



# IN-SERVICE TRAINING AND STAFF EDUCATION

CCF provided six months of in-service training to four Namibian students.

Kaino Sakana (on right) and Ndeshi Shivia were second-year nature conservation students from the Polytechnic of Namibia conducting studies respectively on the effects of grazing and mowing on the diversity and cover of grasses on CCF's Big Field, and the distribution and activity patterns of two populations of cape ground squirrel (*Xerus inauris*) at CCF. Lazarus Nuuyoma and Johannes Andreas were final year agricultural students. Their studies respectively examined the correlation between chest circumference and weights of Boer goats (CCF's goat herd), and the design and testing of a visual catalogue assisting farmers to determine forage availability on their farms. Lazarus subsequently joined the CCF team as a general assistant after the completion of the in-service training.

CCF Education guide, Gabriel Angala, graduated with a qualification in travel & tourism from the International College of Namibia. Gabriel has been part of a working internship program for the past 2 years. CCF choose another intern this year from the same college, Priscilla Nepela, who is also doing well.

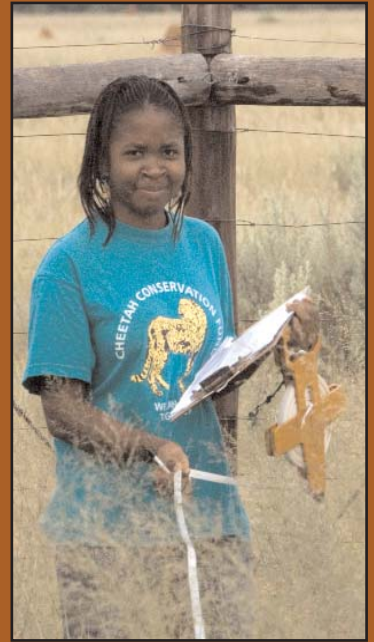
Research Assistant Ezekiel Fabiano began his literature review for submission of a proposal for his Doctorate degree. Fabiano and CCF's Post doctoral, geneticist, Dr. Anne Schmidt-Küntzel, travelled to Brazil through a collaborative grant from Dr. Eduardo Eizirik. They will be working in his laboratory to begin calibrating predator scat, gearing up for genetic work in CCF's new genetic laboratory. Fabiano has applied to a Brazilian university, to work with Dr. Eizirik and is scheduled to begin his PhD in March 2009 with a scholarship from the Wildlife Conservation Network (USA).

Senior Research Assistant Matti Nghikembua completed his Masters degree in Development Studies with the University of the Orange Free State. Matti received the Sidney Byers Scholarship for Wildlife Conservation towards his studies. Matti also completed an intensive 2 year Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL) program aimed at "fostering leadership and innovation in wildlife conservation".

In December, CCF was given a grant by ESRI for Matti to attend more GIS training in ArcGIS Desktop II. CCF uses GIS in order to understand the spatial organisation, movement, behaviour and density of free-ranging cheetah on Namibian commercial farmlands and to estimate densities at a large scale due to variations in climate, landscape, habitat, land use, and management regimes.

Günther Roeber, CCF's Agricultural Training and Development Officer, continued working on his Masters degree in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of Free State.

CCF Kenya continued efforts to improve understanding of cheetah distribution and the differences in behaviour in the varied regions of Kenya. To this end, and as part of CCF's research programme in Kenya, Senior Research Assistant Cosmas Wambua completed his Masters degree with a thesis on wildlife density, distribution and abundance with emphasis on cheetah prey in Machakos and Makueni districts.



## Bayesian Statistics Workshop

In early June, CCF hosted a Bayesian Statistics Modelling workshop for cheetah researchers in Namibia to use the present knowledge to predict cheetah survival for the future. Members of CCF staff, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (Josephine Henghali) and two biologists from the Zoological Institute of Berlin (Jorg Melzheimer and Dr. Betina Wachter), joined in the three-day workshop conducted by Prof. Kerrie Mengersen and Doctoral candidate Sandra Johnson from the School of Mathematical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology.





CCF continues its eco-tourism activities. Beginning in 2003, Nuevas-Ideas, a Windhoek-based booking company, has been acting as CCF's agent and CCF continues to see an increase of visitors to its *Open to the Public Field Research and Education Centre*. During 2008, CCF hosted 5500 international visitors, many of whom pay extra fees to watch one of the special activities offered at CCF: cheetah run (600 people), guided safari to see female cheetahs in CCF's 64-hectare Bellebenno enclosure (270 people), the new Elandsvreudge cheetah drive (1000 people), Little Serengeti guided tour (75 people). In addition, about 50 tour groups visited CCF Centre for specially guided tours.

In 2008 CCF began to sell lunches at its small café daily, and employed a hospitality coordinator to train CCF staff in tour guiding and hospitality. In addition, CCF's exclusive Babson House had several paying guests as well as tour operators interested in booking visits to CCF.

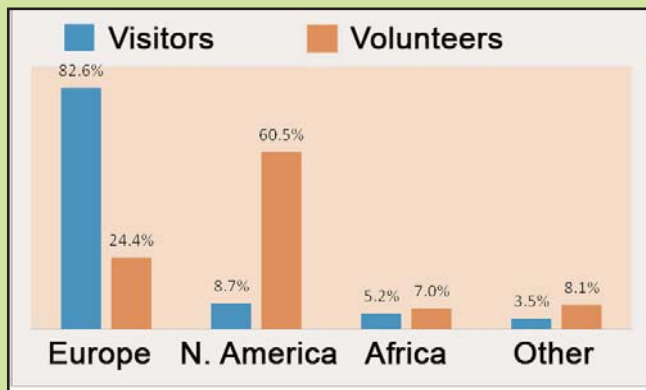
In August, CCF hosted the Orvis Travel Group for the second year. The group of nine people stayed with CCF for three days and then travelled with Dr. Marker for an additional four days.

The CCF Cheetah Museum panels have been translated into German, French and Spanish, and are currently being translated into Italian.

## SPECIAL GUESTS AT CCF

CCF hosted many extra special guests during 2008, including Claudia McMurray, US Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Environment and Science, who spent a couple of days at CCF and joined Dr. Marker for meetings with CCF Namibia's Board Members, former Namibian Ambassador to the US, Leonard Iipumbu, and Tangenyi Erkana. Meetings were also held with the new US Ambassador to Namibia, and the Minister of Environment of Tourism. Other visitors to CCF included the UK High Commissioner, H.E. George M. Liswaniso; the US Ambassador Dennise Mathieu; the Indian High Commissioner, Tsewang Topden; and the Rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia, Dr. Tjama Tjiukua. In addition 57 members of Leadership for Conservation in Africa (LCA) visited in September.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEY



In the process of raising funds, constructing facilities, operating its programs, employing staff, hosting visitors and volunteers, and conducting its various other activities, CCF has an economic impact on its surrounding area and on the national economy of Namibia.

CCF asked economists at the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (USA) to prepare an assessment of the economic impact of CCF's operations. The study team collected data on CCF's direct expenditures; it assisted CCF in conducting a survey between June and December, 2008, of visitors and volunteers to CCF; and it collected various

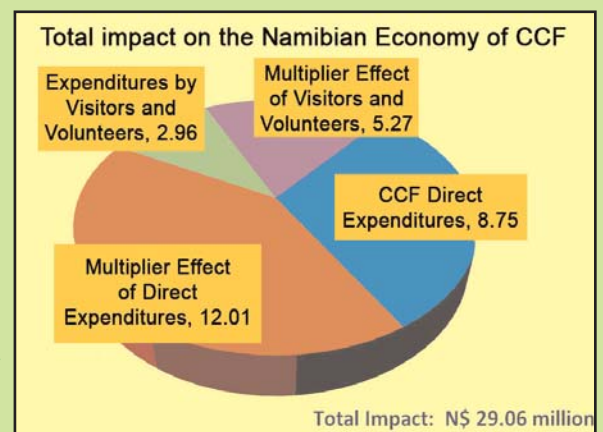
other information needed for the study.

The study measured the economic impact of CCF due both to on-site spending that supports research, conservation, and education, and to off-site spending throughout Namibia by visitors and volunteers coming to CCF. This spending created an economic impact because much of the spending is supported by international funds attracted to Namibia by CCF. CCF receives a substantial share of its funding from the United States and Europe, and it mainly attracts its visitors and volunteers from these regions as well.

The findings of this study indicate the following.

The overall economic impact of CCF on Namibia in 2008 was N\$29.1 million overall. This figure includes the impact from CCF and visitors spending and does not capture impacts from improved conservation and land management. There are 166 jobs associated with this impact.

The largest portion of this impact from spending is due to the operations of CCF itself in terms of research, conservation, education and agriculture. This result reflects the key role that research, conservation and education can play in generating an economic impact for Namibia.



# GLOBAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING/POLICY INVOLVEMENT

CCF assists in international programme development and adapts model programmes developed in Namibia for use in other countries, distributing its materials and information throughout Africa and the rest of the world.

## INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

### *International Endangered Large Carnivore Seminar - Cameroon*

Dr. Marker attended this seminar in Maroua, Cameroon, hosted by CEDC, WWF and University of Leiden (Netherlands). The Conference was attended by biologists from West African countries where small cheetah populations are still found, including Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger - which shared a population in the W Park.

Dr. Marker presented a paper entitled: Global cheetah population overview, with particular reference to West and Central Africa and Namibian solutions to cheetah conservation.



### *9th Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group (SSIG) Meeting - Abu Dhabi, UAE*

CCF presented a paper entitled: Unifying Regional Approached for Savings Cheetahs, which resulted in SSIG sending a cheetah conservationist from Niger to one of CCF's International Conservation Courses in August.

### *Large Carnivore Conference - Czech Republic*

Dr. Marker was one of three international carnivore specialists who presented lectures on their work at this conference hosted by the Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic. The Zoo has had success over the years in breeding cheetahs in captivity. Thirty people from throughout Europe and the UK attended the workshop

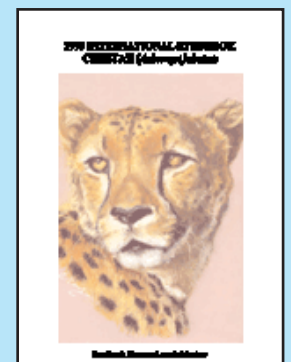
### *2008 Pathways to Success Conference - Colorado, USA*

Dr. Marker lectured at the Human Dimensions in Wildlife Management - 2008 Pathways to Success Conference held at Colorado State University in Estes Park, Colorado, where she also moderated a session on Human-Wildlife Conflict with over 400 global specialists attending the conference.

## INTERNATIONAL CHEETAH STUDBOOK

The 2006 International Cheetah Studbook was published and mailed to participating institutions and is available on CCF's web site. The 2007 Studbook was also completed and will be published in early 2009.

	2006	2007
<b>Captive Population</b>	1395 (717M.669F.9U)	1414 (730M.679F.5U)
<b>Facilities/Countries</b>	255 / 51	254 / 48
<b>Births/Litters</b>	70 (36M.28F.6U) / 22	95(52M.40F.3U) / 30
<b>Deaths</b>	89 (37M.46F.6U)	88 (45M.40F.3U)





# INTERNATIONAL COURSES

## Integrated Livestock/Predator Management, and Conservation Biology

CCF, in cooperation with the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, has committed to running a number of international conservation courses over a three year period, bringing together conservation managers, scientists and community extension officers from cheetah-range countries around the world. Such a gathering will help to promote a unified and systematic approach to cheetah conservation including research, monitoring and wildlife-conflict mitigation measures. The need for training of this nature was identified by both the Eastern and Southern African Regional Strategic Planning meetings for the Cheetah in 2007.



These international courses aim to address capacity building and training of conservation scientists, educators and agriculture officers in cheetah-range countries, and to provide information and practical skills focusing on building broad-based capacity to conserve cheetahs, their ecosystems and their associated biodiversity.

The courses were held between August and October, when more than 50 international conservationists from cheetah-range countries around the world learned about Integrated Livestock and Predator Management, and Cheetah Conservation Biology. They were also joined by Cosmas Wambua and Lumumba Mutiso of CCF Kenya.

The training received by participants, who came from countries as diverse as Iran, Benin, Niger, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, southern Sudan, Kenya and Namibia, focused on building capacity to conserve cheetahs and their ecosystems. Lectures included talks on the role of conservancies in achieving conservation goals, as well as the use of various techniques for estimating and monitoring cheetah populations. Namibia is an example to other countries when it comes to integrated livestock and wildlife management, and the formation of conservancies to benefit both people and wildlife. In this regard, the participants got to put theory into practice when they conducted rapid ecological surveys in three communal conservancies, the Khoadi //Hoas and Anabeb Communal Conservancies in Damaraland, and Nyae Nyae in Bushmanland, staying at conservancy run camps to get an idea as to how the communities run their businesses. They also spoke to local farmers about human-wildlife conflict issues in the areas. The findings from this field trip have been finalised in reports, the first which was presented to the Khoadi-//Hoas conservancy committee at their AGM.



Overall, the courses presented this year were a huge success, judging from feedback received from course participants. CCF will be hosting the courses again in 2009, and it is hoped that more participants from Namibia will attend along with the international contingent. It is so important to get all key players working off the same page; these courses are addressing this, and will continue to do so for the next two years.

The photographs above show course participants with CCF staff on the October (top) and August (bottom), Conservation Biology courses.



# FUNDRAISING: NAMIBIA ANNUAL GALA

For the tenth year, CCF held its Celebration of Speed and Elegance: "Reflections," on July 26 in Windhoek. This year's theme, Keeping Cheetahs Wild and Free, highlighted CCF's efforts to ensure the survival of Namibia's cheetah. 300 guests enjoyed a candlelight dinner, live music, and a silent auction of items donated by the local business community.

CCF presented a series of awards at the dinner. Dr. Ian Player, one of the significant mentors in the establishment of CCF and this year's dinner guest speaker, was presented the Cheetah Conservationist of the Year Award for his lifetime of achievements, often against fierce odds, in the conservation movement around the world. The Cheetah Conservationist Farmer of the Year Award was presented to Andronicus Tjituka, an emerging farmer in the Hochfeld region, for his commitment to conservation farming. Finally, a special award in recognition of pioneering cheetah research in Namibia was presented to the late Friedrich 'Friedel' Gaerdes. His wife and children received the award on his behalf.



Clockwise from bottom left. Dr. Bruce Brewer with the Minister of Environment and Tourism; Mrs. Netumbo Nandi-Ndeitwa; and Colonel Ndeitwa (NDF). Board members Mary Kruger, and Jane Katjavivi, with Wes Kruger and Ambassador Peter Katjavivi. Dr Laurie Marker and Sir Ian Player. Dr. Marker with CCF's farmer of the year; Andronicus Tjituka. Dr. Marker with the family of the late Friedrich 'Friedel' Gaerdes. Musician Jackson Kaujeua.



# INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING (Europe)

CCF's presence continues to expand in Europe with new and potential fundraising partners. This year, Dr. Marker toured five countries and thirteen cities and also lectured at seven zoos in four countries. The tour was made possible by CCF's fundraising partners CCF UK, SPOTS Foundation, Associazione ASN, by CCF Namibia's Board Member Jane Katjavivi, and the Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic.

## UK

Dr. Laurie Marker attended CCF UK Trustee meetings during both her May and November trips. After nearly ten years of leadership, on 19th May, CCF UK's Chair Andrew Mitchell stepped down, passing the leadership on to CCF trustee Noel Boyd.

Friends of Conservation (FOC) organised 'The Really Wild Picture Show' fundraising event held over two evenings at The Gallery at The Trobadour. FOC supporter, Debbie Iliffe, hosted Dr. Marker in May, and in November her fundraising event was at the store of world-famous silver sculptor, Patrick Mavros with approximately 50 guests.

CCF UK donors Nigel and Jennifer Whalley hosted a champagne dinner (see right) to benefit CCF at their Mansion at Albury Park near Guildford. Dr. Marker was joined by over 130 guests, including His Excellency, the Namibian High Commissioner to the UK; George Liswaniso (see photo on right); and the United States Deputy Chief of Mission in the UK, Mr. Richard Lebaron. The event was filmed by Channel 4 TV.

Dr. Marker returned to Chester Zoo for a second time, to present to 250 people, and was able to make suggestions for the cheetah exhibit. She also visited Paradise Wildlife Park for the first time to lecture before an audience of 100 zoo supporters. The Zoo presented CCF with their second donation of the year.



## NETHERLANDS

During her visit to the Netherlands, Dr. Marker met with SPOTS' donors and cheetah sponsors. Dr. Marker gave a lecture to an audience of over 150 attendees, and spent time with Turkish dog breeder Abdullah Cakir, who donated two Kangal Livestock Guarding Dogs to CCF earlier this year. Dr. Marker also met with VibroGym, a company that manufactures sports equipment based on the principle of vibrations produced by the cheetah purr. VibroGym has supported CCF for the last two years. Simone Eckhardt, head of SPOTS, organised various meetings with potential business partners for CCF's Bushblok and Cheetah Country Beef initiatives, including BMR Travel, a high-end eco-tourism travel agency, as well as Air Namibia representatives in Holland. BMR plans to include CCF in its itineraries.



Dr. Marker also visited Arnhem Zoo, Amersfoort Zoo and Beekse Bergen Zoo (left), meeting directors and discussing present and future donations and education initiatives.

## GERMANY AND ITALY

Dr. Marker also visited Italy and Germany where she presented a number of lectures and talks. In November, CCF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Action Campaign for Endangered Species (ACES), a German non-profit conservation association. ACES will help CCF educate people, raise funds and expand its donor base in Germany.

# INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING (USA)

## FEBRUARY/MARCH

Dr. Marker commenced her 11-state, 18-city US tour with a special cheetah workshop held in Tucson, Arizona in February for the Howard G. Buffett Foundation (HGBF). The results of this conference provided funds specifically for CCF's international training programs. The Field Museum in Chicago then hosted a double lecture series for Dr. Marker with standing room-only crowds that heightened the membership levels in Chicago and created additional awareness of the 1st Annual Run for the Cheetah held on 6 April 2008. Dr. Marker completed her tour as a guest at the White Oak Conservation Center's annual Members' Weekend that highlighted cheetahs and CCF's work in Namibia.



The tour overall helped broaden the membership base and strengthen high-end donor interest in the cities of Phoenix (AZ), San Francisco and Woodside (CA), Lexington (KY), Seattle(WA), and Atlanta (GA).

## APRIL

Matti Nghikembua, CCF's Senior Research Officer, returned to the USA in April. He gave a talk to staff at the Disney Animal Kingdom and then attended a week-long Endangered Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL) Training Session at the White Oak Conservation Center. Matti ran in the Chicago Run for the Cheetah on 6 April and then headed to Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, where he was a featured speaker for the Conference towards Global Excellence in the 21st Century. Matti proceeded to Ohio where he talked at the Columbus Zoo alongside their ambassador cheetahs, took a trip through the WILDs, and the Cincinnati Zoo. His final stops were the San Francisco Zoo and finally Phoenix to participate in the Phoenix Run for the Cheetah on the 26th April. Matti was back in the US in December to attend the graduation from the EWCL training and also a two-week training course through ESRI in both Boston and California.

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Dr. Marker started her second US tour in Washington, D.C., where she attended CCF USA's Board meeting.

### Other events included the following:

A private fundraising party in *The Plains, Virginia*, also attended by CCF's General Manager, Dr. Bruce Brewer; the Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo, John Berry; and key Smithsonian Scientists.

A donors' dinner in the crucial San Francisco Bay Area - a key area for many CCF stakeholders.



The *Annual Big Cat Party* in Portland (OR), held the night before the 4th annual *Run for the Cheetah*.

The Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) weekend in Woodside, CA, and WCN Expo in San Francisco. In addition to lecturing as a WCN Fellow, the event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with key donors and other global conservationists.

Lectures were given at the University of California at Berkeley to Environmental students, and the Laguna Blanca Private School in Santa Barbara in California.

Safari West annual lecture, attended by over 125 guests.



# OTHER INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

## RUN FOR THE CHEETAH

CCF chapters in Chicago, Phoenix and Portland each organised highly successful "Run for the Cheetah" events this year.

CCF USA's Chapter in Chicago, directed by CCF trustee Jayne Bazos, organised the first A-Market Run for the Cheetah on 6th April, with nearly 700 runners, which brought in almost \$12,000 for CCF. Mayor Richard M. Daley, the event's Honorary Chair and Host, was presented with the 2007 Conservation Leadership in America Award. CCF's Matti Nghikembua attended the Run. The Run for the Cheetah, Chicago is sponsored by National Geographic and Midtronics.

The 4th Annual Run for the Cheetah in Phoenix on 26th April was a great success. With over 600 runners and help from CCF's Matti Nghikembua and David Bluestein, the volunteer Race Director, the Run for the Cheetah raised over \$7,000 to support CCF's programmes in Namibia.

Dr. Marker made a short visit to Portland before the 4th Annual Run for the Cheetah with CCF Trustee Teresa Delaney and CCF Chapter Head John Van Allen. Dave Bell and CCF volunteers successfully organised the Saturday morning Run for the Cheetah on October 11th with about 200 runners participating at the Oregon Zoo.



**Cheetah Conservation Fund Kenya (CCFK)** completed their National Cheetah Survey and the resulting report is awaiting peer review. Monitoring of cheetahs and their ecosystem answers some of the issues of cheetah movements in recently sub-divided areas. CCFK began utilising community scouts to improve data collection for cheetah monitoring and conflict mitigation in the MWF community areas, while cheetah monitoring in the Samburu region was carried out in collaboration with the Ewaso Tracking Project. Tsavo, Samburu and Salama studies were approved by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Ministry of Education and Technology.

Education efforts continued throughout the year with three community meetings (barazas). Partnerships to improve CCFK's education programmes were formed with EcoSys Action (Hong Kong), independent field officer (Wallace Isaboke, Kenya) and Wana Duma Children's Project (USA). EcoSys Action supports programmes in tree planting and cultivation, bee keeping and hand crafts, resulting in the planting of 1900 trees at four schools and two cattle dip areas.

During 2008, a three-year commitment of support for sustainable development of four Community Livestock Dips in the Kiu-Salama region continued as part of CCFK's monitoring of community development activities, while snare removal exercises with international and local community volunteers were undertaken in cooperation with the KWS Community Officer for the Machakos/Makueni/Kajiado region.

**Cheetah Conservation Fund Canada** put up a table at a cat show in Kitchener in May. Plans included a stop at African Lion Safari to drop in and have a look at the newborn cheetahs at that facility.

**Cheetah Conservation Fund Japan (CCFJ)** has been active in promoting cheetah awareness and representatives lectured at the Tamagawa Academy to about 90 students from three groups. The school's Headmaster may make this an annual event, plus CCFJ may participate in the school's summer school courses. CCFJ has also been asked to join the school group at the Tama Zoo and assist with introducing the cheetah to the students. CCFJ is planning to send leaflets to other primary schools offering lectures to spread the word about the cheetah.

**In France** a new group called "Amis du Guépard" (Friends of the Cheetah) is in the process of being formed by CCF's supporters and is planning to translate the CCF web page into French.

**In Australia**, Inga Yandell, Chief Editor of Australian (women's) magazine, Bare Essentials, chose CCF as one of two 'Wildlife Ambassadors' that will receive 20% of income from subscriptions. Inga organised the first-ever Children's Run for the Cheetah event at a school in the La Trobe area in November, raising awareness about the endangered cheetah and funding. Additionally, Inga negotiated a promotion with fitness personality, Jari Love where proceeds from online sales of one of Love's fitness videos were donated to CCF. Other CCF supporters may also found a CCF Australia chapter.

## SIFAKA WORLD SUPPORTS CCF



A special evening fundraiser in Cambridge, MA, was hosted by Sifaka Productions with Deb Moore and Roberta Pasternack to meet CCF friends and members. This was the first introduction of Sifaka World to the public to discuss this new online virtual world of wildlife educational programmes and the benefits that it will bring to CCF.

Sifaka World marries the best in virtual world technology with fantastic art, original characters, and a socially responsible corporate mission. Sifaka members assume wildlife themed avatars to explore a virtual world; chat with other Sifaka avatars and play wildlife themed games and activities either on their own or with others.

Sifaka World is currently launching paid memberships that include donations to wildlife preservation. Initially all membership donations will go to the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF). Starting in March 2009, Sifaka World will include stories from CCF that bring to life the wildlife conservation work being done by them. Sifaka members can send in questions and comments to the Sifaka's wildlife organization partners. The result is an on-going relationship between the wildlife conservationists and their Sifaka supporters.

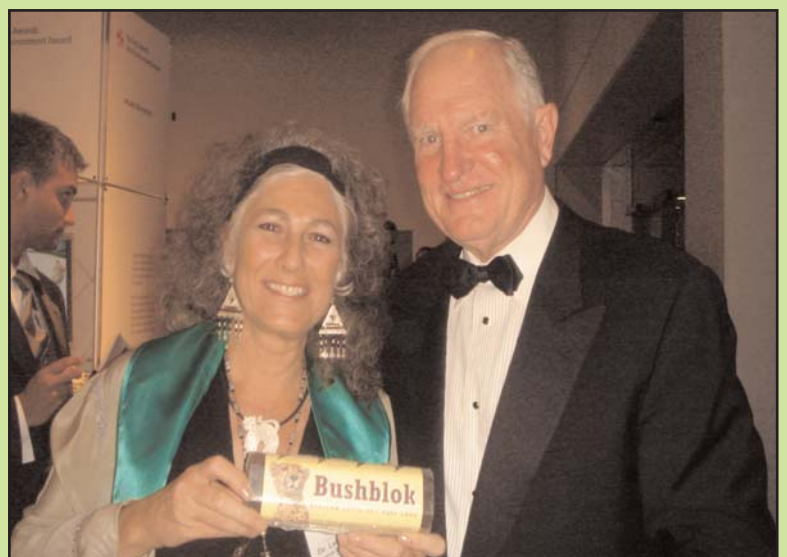
## AWARDS

For the first time in the history of the Zoological Society of San Diego, a \$10,000 monetary award was given to the recipient of the Conservation Medal of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Marker was the honoured recipient of this award on May 16th for her 30 years of work with the cheetah and for her efforts in Africa to help ease local community conflicts with the cheetah. Past recipients have included: Jane Goodall, Sir Richard Attenborough, Dr. Ian Player, and E.O. Wilson PhD, to name a few.

Dr. Marker returned to Chicago at the end of May to receive the Gold Medal award from the Society of Woman Geographers (SWG) at their Triennial Banquet on 26th May. The Society's President Kimberly Crews bestowed SWG's highest honour to Laurie Marker for her innovative and pioneering contribution in the scientific field of cheetah research and survival. Past Gold Medal winners include Dr. Mary Leakey, Amelia Earhart, Dr. Jane Goodall and Rachael Carlson.

Dr. Marker made a special stop in Indianapolis, Indiana for the Indianapolis Prize celebration and Gala, for which she was a Finalist this year. Dr. Marker shared this honour with other finalists and long-time friends Drs. Iain Douglas-Hamilton and Rodney Jackson, and the 2008 Indy Prize winner, Dr. George Schaller.

In November, Dr. Marker attended the annual Tech Awards in San Jose, California as one of five selected Laureates for the prestigious Intel Environmental Awards. The Tech Awards is about Technology Benefiting Humanity and is one of the premier annual humanitarian awards programmes in the world and recognises technical solutions that benefit humanity and addresses the most critical issues facing our planet and its people. The awards programme honours 25 scientists and innovators annually alongside the recipient of the Global Humanitarian Award. From over 700 nominations from 68 countries, CCF's Bushblok project was chosen and was the over-all winner of Intel Environmental award announced at the Gala dinner, and received a US\$50,000 cash prize.





## FULLTIME STAFF

Dr. Laurie Marker - Founder/CEO

Patricia Tricorache - Assistant Director, International Programmes, Webmaster, Database (USA)

### CCF Namibia:

Dr. Bruce Brewer - General Manager

Johan Britz - Farm Manager

Engelhardt /Awaseb - Assistant Farm Manager

Laura Linn - Operations Manager

Tanya Britz - CCF Bush Book-keeper

Monique Escurat - CCF & Janhelpman Accountant

Hilda du Preez - Part-time Accountant Assistant

Matti Nghikembua - Senior Research Assistant & Education Officer

Anne Marie Stewart - Volunteer Coordinator and Ecologist

Christopher Gordon - Research Assistant and Ecologist

Ezekiel Fabiano - Senior Research Assistant

Elizabeth Lester - Veterinary Technician

Anne Schmidt-Künzel - Post-doc Geneticist

Günther Roeber - Agricultural Training and Development Officer

Gebhardt Nikanor - Education Officer

Gabriel Angala - Education Officer

Kate Echement - Animal Care Manager/Cheetah Keeper

Matthew Cleverley - Cheetah Keeper

Bessie Simon - Janhelpman Supervisor

Max Simon - Maintenance Supervisor

Heike Stackmann - Public Relations Officer and CCF Gala dinner organizer

John Hurter - Dog Programme Assistant

CCF Namibia also employs 20 Namibian farm workers and domestic workers.

### CCF USA:

Kat Powers - Director, Operations

Lynda Gearheart - Fundraising Programmes Manager

Paula Martin - Executive Assistant/Outreach Coordinator

Allison Rogers - Grants Administrator

Laurie Payne - Fundraising Project Manager

Maura Biasi - Membership Coordinator



## VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are the backbone of CCF. CCF has been working with Earthwatch since 1996 with up to six volunteers participating monthly for a two-week period. During 2008, 66 Earthwatch volunteers and a further 52 independent volunteers assisted CCF. Among these were five Namibian volunteers, 22 international working-guest volunteers and 25 national and international student volunteers. CCF capitalises on professional specialities and interests of all volunteers, which adds to the volunteer's experience.

## PAPERS

Marker, L.L., Dickman, A.J., Mills, M.G.L., Joo, R.M., Macdonald, D.W. Spatial Ecology of Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) on North-central Namibian farmlands. *Journal of Zoology*, London. 226 274 (2008) 226-238, 2008.

Marker, L.; Pearks-Wilkerson, A.J.; Sarno, R.J.; Martenson, J.; Breitenmoser-Wursten, C., O'Brien, S.J.; Johnson, W.E. Molecular Genetic Insights on Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) Ecology and Conservation in Namibia. *Journal of Heredity* 2008 99(1):2-13. 2008.

Marker, L.L. Cheetah Survival Strategies in Namibia. *Wild Cat News (The Cougar Network)*. Vol. 4, Issue 1, pp3-8. Spring 2008.

Marker, L., Fabiano, E., & Nghikembua, M. The Use of Remote Camera Traps to Estimate Density of Free-Ranging Cheetahs in North-Central Namibia. *Cat News*. Autumn 2008. 22-24

Fabiano, E.C., Nghikembua, M. T., Marker, L.L. Do non-target species remote camera trap datasets have any value? A case study using a non-target dataset from a cheetah study conducted in Namibia. *Mammalia* (submitted).

Stein, A.B., Fuller, T.K., Damery, D. T., Marker, L.L. Can Commercial Livestock Farmers and Predators Co-Exist? - An Economic Analysis of Leopards in Namibia. *Animal Conservation* (submitted).

Stein, Andrew B., Fuller, T.K., DeStefano, S., Marker, L.L. Leopard population and home range estimates in north-central Namibia. (in prep).

Marker, L., Forsythe, K., Dickman, A. Notes on the results of a conditioned taste aversion trial on wild-caught leopards. (in prep).

Fabiano, E., Nghikembua, M. and Marker, L. Evaluating the use of remote camera traps to estimate cheetah abundance and density over two seasons. (in prep).

## BOOK CHAPTER

Marker, L., Dickman, A., Mills, G., Macdonald, D. Cheetahs and ranchers in Namibia: a case study. *Felid Review*. University of Oxford Press. (in press).

## THESIS

Nghikembua, M. 2008. Quantifying farmers' perceptions and willingness; as well as availability of encroaching aboveground Acacia bush biomass on CCF commercial farmlands in north central Namibia. Masters Degree Thesis, University of the Free States, South Africa

Stein, A. (2008). Ecology and Conservation of the Leopard (*Panthera pardus* Linnaeus 1758) in NorthCentral Namibia. PhD Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation. Dissertation. University of Massachusetts Amherst.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

Marker, L.L. Cheetah Conservation Strategies in Namibia - A Model for the Future. African Wildlife Conference Proceedings. Zoo Dvur Kralove (Czech Republic). May 6-11, 2008.

Marker, L. (2008) Global cheetah population overview, with particular reference to West and Central Africa and Namibian solutions to cheetah conservation. International Endangered Large Carnivore Seminar in Maroua, Cameroon,

Marker, L. (2008) Cheetahs and Ranchers in Namibia - Managing Conflict. Pathways to Success. Human Dimension in Fish & Wildlife Conference - Estes Park, Colorado

Croisier, A.E. Wildt, D.E.d, Baker, T., Davidson, A., Howard, J., Marker, L., Comizzoli, P. (2008). Ovarian and Follicular Metrics are Useful for Predicting Oocyte Quality in the Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Annual Conference on Reproductive Physiology.

Sanchez, C. R. Murray, S. And Marker, L. (2008) Use of the Alpha-2 Agonist Dexmedetomidine for the immobilization of cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*). American Zoo Vet Association conference

Lester EM, Hartmann AM, Schmidt-Küntzel A: Lingual Squamous Cell Carcinoma In Working Dogs In Namibia; Investigation into the incidence, predisposing factors, causes and treatment options; Preliminary Results of a Pilot Study. Veterinary Association of Namibia Congress Proceedings, Swakopmund. 2008

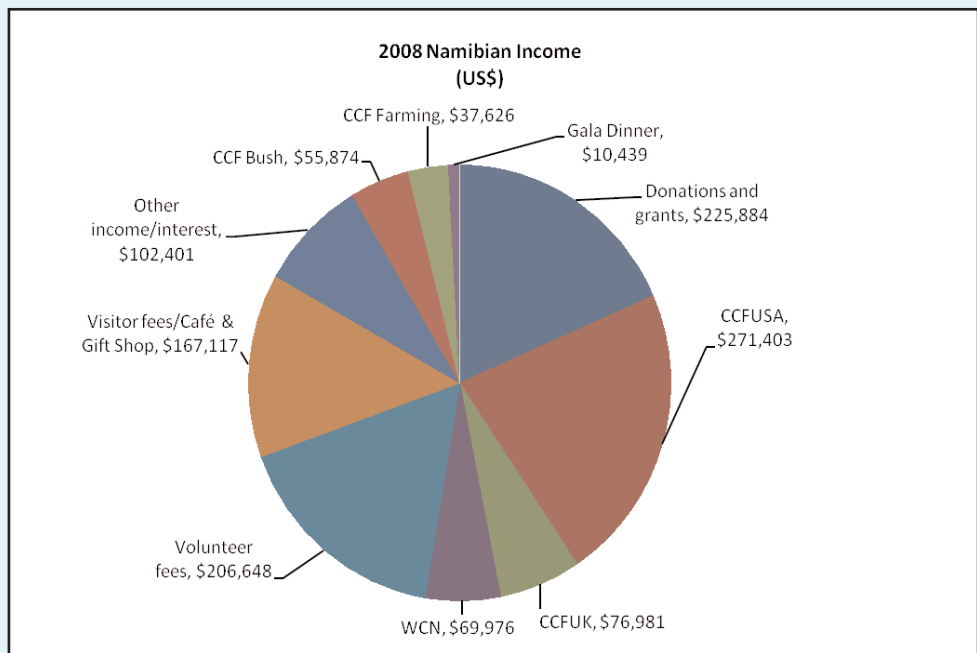
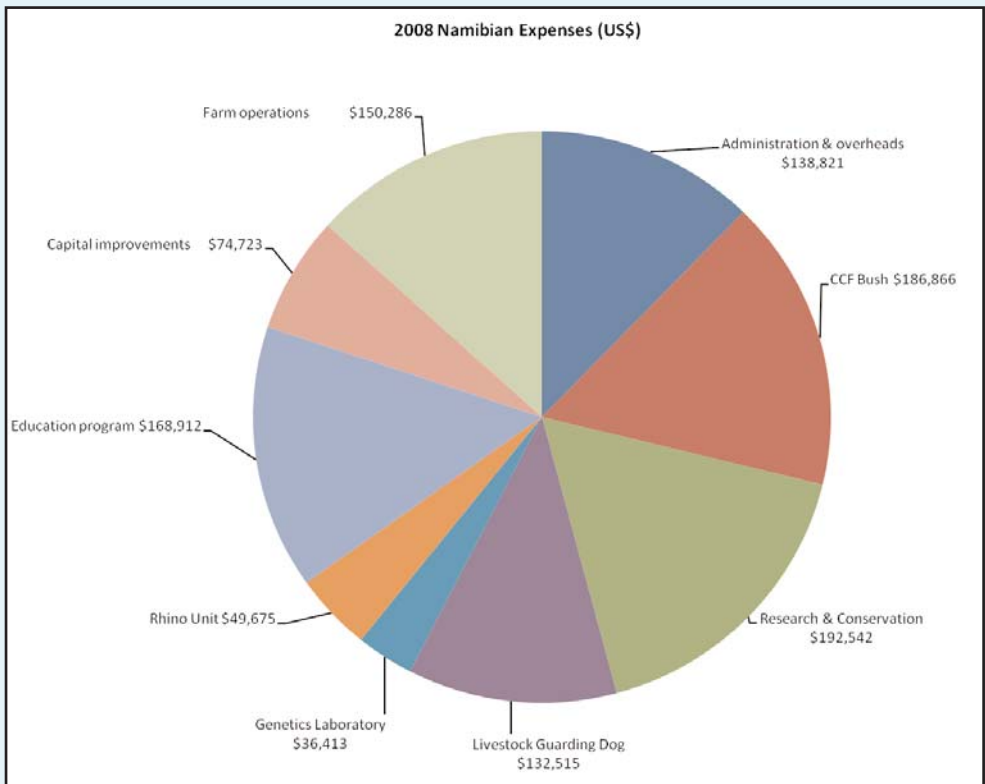


# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

CCF is pleased to note that almost half of the income for CCF Namibia was raised in-country. The greater part of that (about 30% of the total income) is from programmes that involve our visitors and/or volunteers (both through Earthwatch and through our own CCF visitor programme). CCFUSA continues to be the most important single source of income, accounting for 42% of the grants and 22% of total income.

Basic overheads of Center operations and staff expenses account for half of the expenses of CCF Namibia. When the overheads are apportioned to the programmes as in the chart, we see that the major programmes rank in the following order according to cost:

Research and Conservation (which includes the cost of cheetah care), CCF Bush (which includes the costs of FSC accreditation for the entire CCF Research Facility), Education (including publications), Farm Operations (including basic groundskeeping for the Centre), and Livestock guarding dogs.





**Cheetah Conservation Fund**

P.O. Box 1755

Otjiwarongo, Namibia

[www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org)