

ISSUE N°

19

1st 2020

CHEETAH STRIDES

The Newsletter of the Cheetah Conservation Fund



Photo by Chris Koseff

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Recollaring

CoP13

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Cheetah
CONSERVATION FUND



DONATE

PO Box 2496
Alexandria, VA. 22301
info@cheetah.org
1.866.909.3399
www.cheetah.org/donate

VISIT

CCF's Research and Education Centre

Otjiwarongo, Namibia
open 364 days per year
www.cheetahecolodge.com

CCF's Headquarters USA

200 Daingerfield Rd.
Suite 200
Alexandria, VA. 22314
Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
www.cheetah.org

Keep up with the cheetahs
on social media!



@CCFCheetah

VOLUNTEER

Contact us to learn more
about volunteering in the
United States to help save
the cheetah across its
range in Africa.
volunteer@cheetah.org

KEY DATES

DR. MARKER'S USA FALL TOUR

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY
EXPLORERS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER
MARCH 21

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS
INDIANAPOLIS ZOO BROWN BAG TALK
MARCH 25

CALIFORNIA

SAN DIEGO
CHEETAH PARTY - AFTERNOON IN AFRICA
APRIL 4

RANCHO MIRAGE
LIBRARY LECTURE
APRIL 6

LIVING DESERT
TALK WITH DR. LAURIE MARKER
APRIL 6

SAN FRANCISCO
CHAMPAGNE FOR CHEETAHS
APRIL 18

NAPA VALLEY
CHARLES KRUG WINERY
APRIL 22

SAN FRANCISCO
WCN SPRING EXPO
APRIL 25

ARIZONA
TUSCON
REID PARK ZOO
APRIL 20

PHOENIX
PHOENIX ZOO
APRIL 21

OTHER EVENTS

MICHIGAN
DETROIT
AFRICAN SAVE THE CHEETAHS DINNER
APRIL 9

INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
INDY MINI AND 5K
MAY 2

*FOR MORE INFO AND TO SEE THE UPDATED
SCHEDULE.*

WWW.CHEETAH.ORG/EVENTS/



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR



I am so excited to share CCF's 30th anniversary with you!! Looking back over the past 30 years, it is amazing what we have been able to accomplish with your support. Together, we have been able to expand CCF's presence across the cheetahs' range. In 2020, thanks to your overwhelming support last year, we are better prepared to deliver the solutions necessary to save the cheetah in the wild.

Throughout the Horn of Africa and within the Middle East, CCF continues to build relationships with our partners in the fight against the illegal pet trade in cheetahs. The construction of our new Cheetah Safe House 2 facility in Somaliland is complete along with improvements to our current veterinary clinic and quarantine facilities and enclosures. With proper medical care and nutrition, the confiscated cheetah cubs are growing up quickly, and they will need more room to run. We are working closely with the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development (MOERD) in Somaliland to plan for long-term solutions.

I attended the Convention of Migratory Species' Conference of the Parties (CMS CoP13) with Dr. Shira Yashphe, CCF's Illegal Wildlife Trade Specialist. We were able to make important connections with NGO and governmental leaders and to develop strategies to put the cheetah onto the international community's policy making agenda.

Thankfully in Namibia, we are getting lots of rain! We began our 2020 school outreach tour with a visit and filming by CNN. CCF's education team will be busy this year meeting with students of all ages, delivering the engaging activities and lessons that CCF has become known for worldwide.

I am looking forward to coming back to the U.S. this spring to kick-off our 30th anniversary. I was honored to learn that I will be presented with the President's Award for Conservation at the Explorers Club Annual Dinner held in New York City on March 21, 2020. I hope to see you at one of our CCF events across the country to share CCF's work with you in person.

Dr. Laurie Marker
Founder & Executive Director

HELP US KEEP THE CHEETAH WHERE IT BELONGS

in the wild.



CCF'S GENERAL MANAGER VISITS SOMALILAND AND THE UNITED STATES

At the beginning of February, CCF's General Manager Dr. Bruce Brewer traveled through Somaliland en route to the United States. While in Somaliland he and Dr. Laurie Marker toured the expanded Cheetah Safe House 2 with Senior Project Manager, James Young, Volunteer, Chris Wade and Construction Foreman, Ismail Mohammed Yusuf.

Once in the U.S., Dr. Brewer attended the 13th annual International Biomass Conference & Expo in Nashville, TN. In addition to his role as General Manager, overseeing the daily operations at CCF's Centre in Namibia, Dr. Brewer continues to grow CCF's habitat restoration project and has expanded Bushblok (CCF's clean-burning fuel log) production to include the latest developments and technologies in biomass energy. In 2018, he led the expansion of the facilities on CCF's campus with the Biomass Technology Centre, a research and development operation with education and training facilities added in 2019. CCF is focused on expanding the possibilities of biomass energy production in Namibia.

The Biomass Conference & Expo welcomed about 1000 participants involved with biomass conversion and production of electricity from biomass from around the world. It was a great opportunity for networking.

Dr. Brewer researched the latest developments in renewable energy technology - biobased power, thermal energy, fuels and chemicals - while shopping for analytical equipment for CCF's new biomass centre wood-lab. CCF's habitat restoration and research efforts are led by Matti Nghikembua, CCF's Senior Ecologist and Forest Steward, David Shipingana, CCF's Forestry and Safety Officer, and Johan Britz, CCF's Farms Manager. New analytical equipment will be used to test the feasibility of new woody fuel sources. Crucial biomass fuel tests include proximate analysis – energy, ash,

fixed carbon, moisture and other tests. Dr. Brewer also purchased a tool to grind the woodchipper blades in place, versus removing them to send to a shop. Tool upgrades like these are very useful in saving time and most importantly, saving CCF a lot of money.

While in Nashville, Dr. Brewer met up with the Nashville Zoo’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Rick Schwartz and Veterinarian, Dr. Margarita Woc Colburn. Almost ten years ago, Dr. Woc Colburn came to CCF to complete part of her veterinary residency while at Smithsonian’s National Zoo and she has continued to collaborate with Dr. Marker in CCF’s cheetah research. Most recently, she assisted for a week in Somaliland during comprehensive health examinations on all the cheetahs at the Somaliland Cheetah Safe House. Dr. Woc Colburn is the senior veterinary consultant for the health of the cheetahs held by CCF in Somaliland. Dr. Woc Colburn welcomed Dr. Brewer to the Nashville Zoo for a Brown Bag talk with zoo staff. His presentation included updates from the field both in Namibia and Somaliland.



Photos: Opposite page: Back row: James Young, Chris Wade and Dr. Brewer. Front row: Minister Shukri Ismail and Dr. Laurie Marker.

This page: (left) Dr. Brewer and Dr. Woc Colburn, (right) David Shipingana with new blade sharpener

TURKISH AMBASSADOR COMES TO CCF

The Turkish Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Mrs. Berin Makbule Tulun, visited CCF’s Model Farm, the goat creamery and the recently donated yogurt factory by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA). We were very happy to show her around CCF’s Research and Education Centre and have her meet our Livestock Guarding Dogs in the puppy pens also donated by TİKA.





CCF'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

This year is the celebration of CCF's 30th anniversary. CCF is the longest-running cheetah conservation program in existence! Dr. Marker and CCF's staff are so thankful for the support the organization has received to make this milestone possible.

On Dr. Marker's first trip to Namibia in the 1970s to conduct cheetah research, she witnessed first-hand how cheetahs were being killed preemptively to protect livestock from predation. For the next decade she traveled to many of the cheetah range countries to better understand the problems facing the cheetah in the wild. Back in the U.S., she continued researching cheetahs and searching for organizations that were working to save the cheetah in the wild. To her surprise, there were none. She decided to take action, started CCF and rearranged her life to make the move to Namibia.

Stopping the widespread killing of cheetahs was CCF's first step. In order to develop human-wildlife conflict solutions that could help people live with cheetahs, Dr. Marker traveled hundreds of miles going from livestock farm to livestock farm to gather data directly from the farmers. It was important to understand the farmland ecosystem, the livestock, wildlife and rangelands, as well as the level of conflict with predators. It was necessary to have concrete numbers in order to help develop programs that could protect the



farmers' livelihoods and also protect the cheetah through predator-friendly farming practices. Dr. Marker had the burden of proof, to convince people that responsible natural resource management wasn't in opposition to prosperous, family-run and communal businesses.

Since those first years, CCF has grown into a worldclass research, education and conservation institution. The people of Namibia have embraced the cheetah as a positive part of their national identity. Otjiwarongo, the closest town to CCF, calls itself the 'Cheetah Capital of the World' because of the success of our programs. This reflects quite a paradigm shift – as opposed to 'vermin', the cheetah now has 'value.'

Over the past 30 years, CCF has become a driving force in conservation. Our programs now serve as the model for predator conservation programs everywhere. CCF's and Dr. Marker's work has been awarded and recognized around the world for providing a holistic conservation approach that carefully balances the needs of both people and wildlife sharing the same ecosystems.

Help us celebrate the cheetah this anniversary year. Together we can save the cheetah in the wild.

Donate - Visit - Volunteer. #Cheetah2020 #SaveTheCheetah



Photos: Opposite page: Top: Aerial photo of one of CCF's buildings and the Waterberg Plateau, Building remodel, Original CCF truck.

This page: Dr. Marker and farmer education, farmer captures cheetahs, cheetah release.



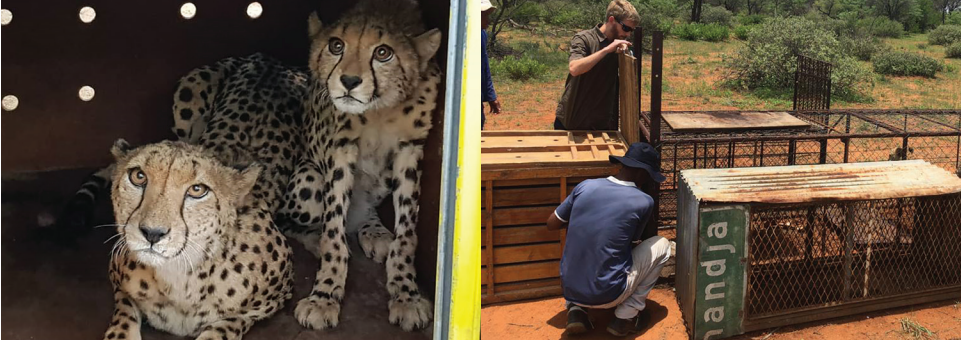
GRACIE AND A WILD MOTHER WITH CUBS RELEASED

GRACIE - In December, a farmer in the Gobabis District of Namibia captured a wild female cheetah. CCF was called by Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) to collect and relocate the female. After a full medical workup, the cheetah (named Gracie by staff) was fitted with a satellite tracking collar. In January, she was released in Erindi Private Game Reserve and so far she is doing well.

WILD MOTHER - At the beginning of this year, CCF assisted MET with the collection of five trapped cheetahs from a farm in eastern Namibia. The female cheetah and her four cubs were caught, as a perceived threat to livestock. Luckily, the farmer contacted MET to arrange collection of the cheetahs and MET called us. At CCF, the cheetahs received full medical exams and the mother received a satellite tracking collar. All the cheetahs had good bills of health, but the mother had a broken canine. CCF's dentist in Otjiwarongo, Dr. De Haas, volunteered to repair the tooth for us. Had the tooth not been fixed, it could've caused her trouble later on in life.

Once the family of cheetahs was fully recovered, CCF released them back into the wild in a private reserve. The cheetahs were fed a very large carcass and they remained inside the holding boma within the reserve for the entire day and night. Despite the gates being left wide open, they simply ate and rested. Early the following morning, our camera traps showed the cheetahs departing from the enclosure to start with their second chance at a life in the wild.

Since their release, the cheetahs have moved deeper into the reserve. We wish all the best for this family, and we will be watching over them using data received from the satellite collar on the mother.



MIERS GETS A NEW COLLAR

CCF works closely with Erindi Private Game Reserve to reintroduce cheetahs onto their nearly 200,000-acre property. Each released cheetah is collared and monitored to collect information on their life in the wild and to allow for emergency intervention if necessary. All of our satellite collars have a battery lifespan of about two years, unless they become damaged and unresponsive. When possible, CCF chooses to fit the cheetahs with replacement collars to extend the research on individuals over a longer period of time.

Miers is an adult male cheetah rescued, collared and released into Erindi back in 2018. After nearly two years of successfully living in the wild, the battery on his collar was reaching the end of its lifespan. Since we could still determine his whereabouts, we re-collared him. The procedure went very smoothly. New satellite collars cost about \$2,000 each.

We were accompanied by a film crew from CNN's *Inside Africa* who filmed the recollaring procedure. The episode featuring CCF is scheduled to be broadcast Friday, March 6. Check local listings for the airtime.



Photos: Opposite page: 'Wild Mother and cubs in holding pen pre-release
This page: Top: (left) Mother and cubs arrival at CCF (right) Eli Walker boxing the trapped cheetahs. Bottom: Miers getting a workup and a new collar.



NEWEST ARRIVALS AT CCF'S CHEETAH SAFE HOUSE IN SOMALILAND

At the beginning of February, CCF'S Associate Veterinarian Dr. Mussa Saed Jama accompanied staff from the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development (MOERD) in Somaliland for a confiscation of two cheetah cubs. After a 14-hour round trip drive to the southeast of the country and back, the cubs arrived at the Cheetah Safe House. The tiny two-week-old cubs were examined by CCF's Veterinarian Karina Pineda Floreset, and put under the intensive 24-hour care of Veterinary Intern, Vendula from Czech Republic. Dr. Laurie Marker arrived the next day to provide support and advise. Minister Shukri, of MOERD continues to be very involved in all activities at the Safe House.

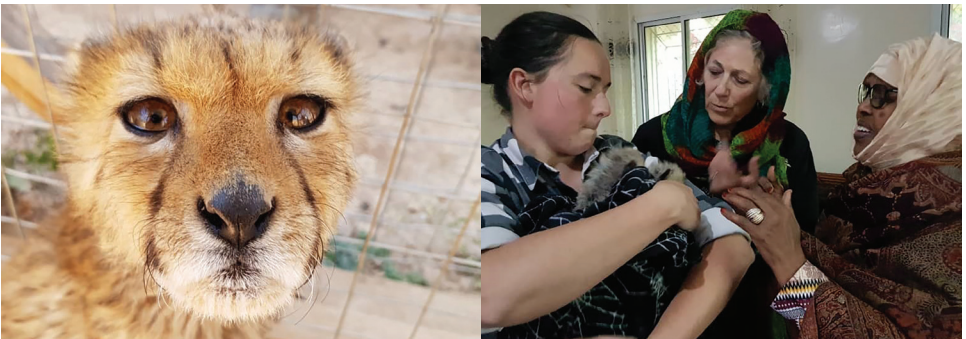
A few days later Dr. Jama was back on the road again, travelling throughout the day and returning in the middle of the night with a six month-old female cheetah cub. The cub had been living with rural farmers for five months before it was turned over to MOERD and CCF. While in captivity, she was not fed a proper diet or the critical vitamin supplements required for a growing cub. As a result of her poor diet and a lack of calcium, the cub is stunted in growth and is most likely experiencing pain in her bones. She will be placed on a special diet to help treat her deficiencies and hopefully her condition will improve over time.

If left in the wild cubs will nurse until they are about three months old. At about six weeks old, cubs would be eating with their mother on a diet of meat - including bones and fur. To replicate their wild diet, rescued cubs that reach five weeks old are started on a diet of ground meat mixed with kitten milk replacer and vitamin supplements. They are weaned off of milk at about three months old.

Sadly, one of the older cubs named Sunshine has died. She was confiscated in early 2019. Another of the older cubs named Veepee is very sick. CCF's vets think it is a chronic wasting disease but we are currently waiting to hear back from the pathologist. The total population of cheetahs at our Safe House now stands at 36. CCF staff, volunteers and interns work around the clock to care for the cheetahs, so the improvements being made to facilities are helping make their workload easier to manage.



During Dr. Marker's visit to the Centre in Somaliland, she dropped off two crates and four suitcases full of critically needed medical supplies including an x-ray machine and ultrasound F10 veterinary disinfectant and Chl Hex veterinary antibacterial/antifungal and lots of gauze and bandages. In addition, she took 40 lbs of Predator Powder (a critical calcium powder supplement), Protexin Probiotics, supplements and surgical supplies like needles, syringes and gloves. We also sent a mechanical cheetah lure, like what is used to exercise the resident cheetahs at CCF's Centre in Namibia, except smaller for cubs. Most of all these supplies have been donated and are a great benefit to CCF's work. Many of our zoo and veterinary supporters have been incredibly generous by sending supplies that can be difficult or impossible to get when working in places that lack the infrastructure necessary to care for wildlife.



Photos: Opposite page: Six month-old cub at CCF's Safe House

This page: Top: Sunshine, Bottom: (left) six month-old cub, (right) Vet intern Vendula from Czech Republic shows Dr. Marker and Minister Shukri the two week-old cubs.



CMS COP13 INDIA - VIA ETHIOPIA, SOMALILAND AND THE UAE

Dr. Laurie Marker travelled to India with Dr. Shira Yashphe, CCF's Illegal Wildlife Trade Specialist, for the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13). To enhance the impact of the trip, the pair chose to prepare their journey, with a stop in Ethiopia to attend meetings at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

With, Drs. Marker and Yashphe visited the town of Jigjiji on the border of Ethiopia and Somaliland with Daniel Pawlos, Director of Illegal Wildlife Trade for the Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), and Fetene Hailu Buta, Regional Project Coordinator, Legal Intelligence for Cheetah Illicit Trade (LICIT), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) East Africa. They were introduced to members of the Somali State Regional Illegal Wildlife Trade Task Force and over an informal dinner, the group shared the challenges they face in the field and discussed strategies for combating the illegal wildlife trade. The following day they held a formal meeting with the Task Force and gave formal presentations on the illegal wildlife trade issues in the region and on CCF's work with EWCA and IFAW through the Legal Intelligence for Cheetah Illicit Trade (LICIT) grant we received in 2019.

Dr. Marker then visited the United Arab Emirates for a presentation at Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL) to update the veterinary community on issues in Somaliland. The presentation focused on CCF's work fighting the illegal pet trade, and was hosted by longtime cheetah conservation friend, Corina Berners, a taxidermist at the CVRL. Dr. Ulrich Wernery, CVRL Scientific Director, was in attendance and offered his

support and assistance in the ongoing work in the region. Following several meetings over the next couple of days with various cheetah friends Dr. Marker gave a public talk organized by one of CCF's former veterinarians Dr. Hollis Stewart, who continues to provide veterinary assistance and medical supplies at our Cheetah Safe House.

Once in India, Dr. Marker rejoined Dr. Yashphe for the opening of CMS COP13. In cooperation with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Zoological Society of London (ZSL), CCF hosted a successful, standing room only side event entitled Racing Extinction: Challenges in Cheetah Conservation and the African Carnivores Initiative.

Speakers included: Dr. Laurie Marker, Sarah Durant - Senior Research Fellow ZSL and WCS, Co-Founder Range Wide Conservation Program for Cheetah and Wild Dog, Mr. Kumara Wakjera - Director General of the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, Mrs. Patience Gandiwa - International Affairs Manager at Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, HE Mr. Hany Muhammed Ali Tatwany - Vice President of the Saudi Wildlife Authority, Mr. Soumitra Dasgupta - Inspector General of Forests at the Ministry of Wildlife and Forests, and Dr. Sue Lieberman - Vice President International Policy at WCS.

We had great news on February 23, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the African Carnivores Initiative and is dedicated to protecting the cheetah. CCF worked closely for the past six months with various partners including WCS, IFAW, Born Free, ZSL, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to support this important initiative.

ABOUT AFRICAN CARNIVORES INITIATIVE

November 2018, delegates from 31 range states met in Germany for the first meeting of the African Carnivores Initiative (ACI). The discussion focused on four iconic African carnivore species that are in decline across the continent: the African lion, cheetah, leopard, and African wild dog. The species all share similar threats to survival due to habitat loss and fragmentation, human-wildlife conflict, scarcity of prey animals and illegal wildlife trade. The ACI was put within the CMS and CITES programs of work.

CCF's Dr. Shira Yashphe the second ACI meeting in November 2019, at the CMS Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.

Through initiatives like the ACI, CCF joins with other NGOs to create a bigger presence for predators in international policy discussion and to help draw attention to the plight of the cheetah in the wild.

Photos: Opposite page: Dr. Marker and Dr. Yashphe with Christopher Nyce, Regional Environment Officer for East Africa at U.S. Department of State and Yeneneh Tekla, Regional Environmental Specialist with the U.S. Department of State Regional Environment Office for East Africa.



Kids

CORNER



STORIES FEATURING THE WORK OF CCF'S YOUNG SUPPORTERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.



Amory participated in a school craft fair recently and pledged a donation to CCF with a portion of her proceeds. She made an informative sign and some hand knitted scarves called “Crazy Cat Creations”. They look so soft and comfy.



Layla and her neighbor Capucine LOVE cheetahs. They raised money selling lemonade and donated it all to CCF. The girls sold out of their tasty beverages twice but quickly made some more and went right back to their booth. Capucine’s brother Gaspard was on hand to help too!



Abby saves her pennies all year-long. At the end of each year she chooses a charity to make a donation. This year she chose CCF! She also spends lots of time reading up on cheetahs at the local public library and her favorite comic book villain is The Cheetah. Go Abby!

Do you have a story about a young supporter that you would like to share? Send us an email including a short description and some photos and we will include it in an upcoming issue of *Cheetah Strides* or on our website!

Email: info@cheetah.org



SCHOOL OUTREACH SEASON BEGINS

CCF's 2020 educational outreach season has begun with visits to 20 of Namibia's primary and secondary schools. At the beginning of every talk/presentation, a pre-talk survey was handed out to every learner, and a post-talk survey at the end of the talk. This is to test what learners know before and after the program to measure impact, and how much they have learned. Teachers were also given an evaluation to assess our program. In the photo above, Maria Lazarus presents to the students of Paheye Primary School.

CHEETAH STRIDES CHALLENGE

CCF 30th Anniversary Quiz

Visit www.cheetah2020.org to test your CCF knowledge.

As a thank you for your continued support, all quiz participants will get a downloadable high resolution cheetah photo, perfect for printing and framing!



Photos courtesy Susan Janin

BECOME A CCF SPONSOR

CCF's Resident Cheetahs and Livestock Guarding Dog Program need your support. For more information visit www.cheetah.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/sponsor/



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