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**Dr. Laurie Marker**  
***Founder and Executive Director***

Dr. Laurie Marker is a research scientist and conservation biologist recognized as one of the world's leading experts on the cheetah. As Founder and Executive Director of Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), Dr. Marker has pioneered research, established conservation models and created cooperative alliances on behalf of the cheetah that had not existed. Under her leadership, CCF has grown into a world-class cheetah research, education and conservation institution situated near Otjiwarongo, Namibia, on a 100,000-acre, integrated wildlife and livestock private reserve. In July of 2015, Dr. Marker celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with CCF, now the longest running cheetah conservation program in the world.

Dr. Marker began working with cheetahs at Oregon's Wildlife Safari (1974-1988), where she developed the most successful captive cheetah-breeding program in North America and initiated a first-of-its-kind research project in cheetah re-wilding in Namibia in 1977. She hypothesized that a captive-born cub could be taught to hunt, and tested this theory with Khayam, a young cheetah she had raised from birth. Dr. Marker did teach Khayam to hunt, but more importantly found that livestock farmers in Namibia were killing hundreds of cheetahs per year as a perceived threat to their livestock. This set the stage for her career-long research into cheetah ecology, biology and conservation strategies to mitigate conflict.

Dr. Marker traveled back and forth from the U.S. for the next 13 years, gathering data from cheetah range countries and forming a network to begin cheetah conservation strategies. Already a species in peril because of shrinking habitat and lack of genetic diversity, as discovered during Marker's early genetic research, livestock farmers' actions were driving the cheetah even closer toward extinction and at an accelerated pace. In 1990, determined to end the conflict, Dr. Marker moved to Namibia and drove door-to-door in an old Land Rover talking with farmers. These interactions inspired Dr. Marker to develop highly effective, non-lethal predator control methods that not only benefitted the cheetah in Namibia, but also helped mitigate human-wildlife conflict involving large carnivore species in other countries around the globe. In mitigating this conflict, Dr. Marker also stabilized the wild cheetah population in Namibia and helped develop cheetah conservation programs in several other African countries and in Iran, where the last Asiatic cheetahs are found.

After more than a decade of transnational commuting, Dr. Marker made the decision to leave her post as Executive Director of the Center for New Opportunities in Animal Health Sciences at the Smithsonian Institution (NOAHS, 1988-1991), relocate to Namibia, and dedicate her life to the long-term sustainability of the species.

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Initially rebuffed by Namibians fearing change, Dr. Marker's rigorous scientific research, creative conservation programs, and unique holistic philosophy that considers all stakeholders and the livelihoods of people sharing the cheetah's habitat, have gained her the respect of an entire nation. The vital information she has assembled on cheetah health, reproduction, ecology and genetics – taken along with the nearly 1,000 cheetahs she has worked on and the 2,500-plus blood and tissue samples she has collected in the field over the past 25 years – has proven invaluable in the management of both wild and captive cheetah populations around the world.

Dr. Marker earned her DPhil in Zoology from the University of Oxford in the UK. She has published more than 80 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals and is a regular contributor to *The Huffington Post*. In 2015, she was recognized with an Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal Award, an E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Pioneer Award, and the Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation. In 2014, she was named an A.D. White Professor-at-Large with Cornell University. Dr. Marker has been awarded the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement (2010), The Tech Museum of Innovation's Intel Environmental Prize (2008), and is a two-time finalist for the prestigious Indianapolis Prize. She was named a Hero for the Planet by *TIME Magazine* and has been featured in *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic*, *Discover* and *The New York Times*, as well as on numerous television shows, including, "CNN", "The Tonight Show," "Good Morning America," "The Charlie Rose Show" and "Today."

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**Curriculum Vitae**General Information

Name: Laurie Marker, DPhil  
 Title: Founder and Executive Director  
 Date of Birth: 20 January 1954  
 Nationality: American  
 Place of Residence: Namibia

Education and Qualifications

1998-2003: DPhil, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, United Kingdom. Thesis Title: *Aspects of Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) Biology, Ecology and Conservation Strategies on Namibian Farmlands.*  
 1986-1990: Bachelor of Science, Eastern Oregon State University, La Grande, Oregon  
 1979-1980: Umpqua College, Roseburg, Oregon  
 1972-1973: Napa College, Napa Valley, California  
 1971-1972: San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California

Research areas:

Conservation Biology, Genetics, Biomedical/Health/Reproduction, Wildlife Management, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Human Dimensions/Community Based Natural Resource Management

Professional Experience

1990 to present: Founder and Executive Director, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia, Africa  
 1991 to present: Research Fellow, NOAHS Center, National Zoo, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC  
 1988-1991: Executive Director, NOAHS Center, National Zoo, Washington, DC  
 1980-1988: Director, Marketing and Education, Wildlife Safari, Winston, Oregon  
 1977-1988: Cheetah Curator, Wildlife Safari, Oregon  
 1976-1980: Veterinary Clinic Supervisor, Wildlife Safari, Oregon  
 1974-1976: Veterinary Clinic Assistant, Wildlife Safari, Oregon  
 1973-1988: Co-Owner, Jonicole Vineyards and Winery, Oregon

Work-Related Activities:

2012 to present: Steering Committee, Natural Resource Department, Namibia University of Science and Tech.  
 2011 to present: Steering Committee, Greater Waterberg Complex, Namibia  
 2010 to present: Adjunct Professor, University of Omaha, Nebraska, USA  
 2008 to present: Board Member, Oregon Cougar Action Team (ORCAT)  
 2008 to present: Cat Advisory Council Member, Panthera  
 2002 to present: Adjunct professor, Purdue University, Indiana, USA  
 2001 to present: Core Group Member, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group -  
 Chair, Large Carnivore Management Association of Namibia  
 1997 to 2012: Conservancy Assoc. of Namibia, Executive Committee (Vice Chair 2000- 06, Chair 07 – 11).  
 1996 to present: Executive Committee, Waterberg Conservancy  
 1996 to present: Veterinary Association of Namibia  
 1995 to 2002: Cheetah Species Coordinator, African Preservation Programme of the African Association of Zoological Gardens and Aquaria (PAAZAB)  
 1995 to 2001: Co-Chair, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group  
 1993 to present: Namibia Professional Hunting Association, Rare Species Committee (1994-2000)  
 1991 to present: Member, IUCN/SSC, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group  
 1988 to present: Member, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group  
 1988 to 2000: Advisor, Cheetah Species Survival Plan (SSP), Propagation Committee, Association of Zoos and Aquariums

1987 to present: Founding International Cheetah Studbook Keeper  
 1987-1988: Species Coordinator Cheetah SSP  
 1984-1988: Founding Member, Cheetah SSP, Propagation Committee,  
 1982-1998: Founding North American Regional Cheetah Studbook  
 1977-1978: Re-introduction Research of Cheetah in Namibia

Related Organizations:

2010 to present: Cosmos Club (Washington DC)  
 2007 to present: Explorers Club (New York)  
 1990 to present: Society of Women Geographers  
 1985 to present: World Conservation Union (IUCN)  
 1982 to 2010: American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums  
 1974-1992: American Association of Zoo Keepers  
 1975-1992: National Pygmy Goat Association  
 1979-1991: National Pygmy Goat Judge  
 1979-1986: Board of Directors, National Pygmy Goat Association  
 1985-1987: Judges Training Committee National Pygmy Goat Association  
 1986-1991: Breed Standard Committee National Pygmy Goat Association

Honors:

2015 Ulysses S. Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation  
 2015 E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Pioneer Award  
 2015 Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal Award  
 2013 International Conservation Caucus Foundation Good Steward Award  
 2013 Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large, Cornell University  
 2013 Distinguished Alumni, Eastern Oregon State University  
 2011-2012 Rainer Arnhold Fellow  
 2010 The Explorers Club Lowell Thomas Award  
 2010 Indianapolis Prize Finalist  
 2010 Tyler Prize for the Environmental Achievement Laureate  
 2009 BBC World Challenge Finalist  
 2009 St Andrews Prize for the Environment Finalist  
 2009 International Wildlife Film Festival Lifetime Achievement Award  
 2008 Tech Museum Intel Environmental Award  
 2008 San Diego Zoo Lifetime Achievement Conservation Award  
 2008 Society of Women Geographers' Gold Medal  
 2008 Indianapolis Prize Finalist  
 2005 Living Desert's Track's in the Sand - Conservationist of the Year  
 2003 Chevron-Texaco Conservationist of the Year  
 2002 Audi Terra Nova Awards Finalist, Southern Africa  
 2001 Humanitarian of the Year, Marin County Humane Society  
 2001 Paul Harris Fellowship, Rotary Club International, Windhoek, Namibia  
 2000 Burrows Conservation Award, Cincinnati Zoo  
 2000 Hero for the Planet, Time Magazine  
 1997 Distinguished Leadership Award, American Biographical Institute  
 1992 Conservationist of the Year, African Safari Club, Washington, DC  
 1988 White Rose Award, Oregon's Top Ten Women  
 1985 Outstanding Young Women of America  
 1981 Oregon's Young Careerist, Business and Professional Women, for Roseburg,  
 Southern Oregon Division and State of Oregon

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

1. **Marker, L.L.:** 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 North American Regional Cheetah Studbook, Wildlife Safari, Winston, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987
2. **Marker, L.L.:** North American Cheetah Studbook Questionnaire Survey, Wildlife Safari, Winston, 1985.
3. **Marker, L.:** International Cheetah Studbooks, Smithsonian Press, Washington, DC, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013.
4. **Marker-Kraus, L.:** International Cheetah Studbook Questionnaire Summary, Smithsonian Press, Washington DC, 1990.
5. O'Brien, S.J., Roelke, M.E., **Marker, L.**, Newman, A., Winkler, C.A., Meltzer, D., Colly, L., Evermann, J.F., Bush, M., and Wildt, D.E. Genetic basis for species vulnerability in the cheetah. Science 227: 1428 - 1434, 1985.
6. **Marker, L.L.**, and O'Brien, S.J. Captive breeding of the cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) in North American zoos (1871 - 1986), Zoo Biology. 8: 3-16, 1989.
7. Heeney, J.F., Evermann, J.F., McKeirnan, A.J., **Marker-Kraus, L.**, Roelke, M.E., Bush, M., Wildt, D.E., Meltzer, D.G., Colly, L., Lucas, J., Manton, V.J., and O'Brien, S.J. Prevalence and implications of coronavirus infections of captive and free-ranging cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Journal of Virology. 64(5): 1964-72, 1990.
8. **Marker-Kraus, L.**, and Kraus, D. Investigative trip to Zimbabwe and Namibia. Cat News. 12:16-17. 1990.
9. **Marker-Kraus, L.**, and Grisham, J. Status of the North American Cheetah Population, Zoo Biology, 12:5-18, 1993.
10. **Marker-Kraus, L.**, and Kraus, D. History of cheetah in Namibia. SWARA Nov/Dec. 1993.
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14. **Marker-Kraus, L.**, Kraus, D., Barnett, D., and Hurlbut, S. Cheetah Survival on Namibian Farmlands. Cheetah Conservation Publication, Windhoek, 1996.
15. Berry, H., Bush, M., Davidson, B., Forge, O., Fox, B., Grisham, J., Howe, M., Hurlbut, S., **Marker-Kraus, L.**, Martenson, J., Munson, L., Nowell, K., Schumann, M., Shille, T., Stander, F., Venzke, K., Wagener, T., Wildt, D., Ellis S., and Seal, U. (Editors) 1997. 1996 Population Habitat Viability Assessment for the Namibian Cheetah and Lion. IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group.
16. **Marker-Kraus, L.** and Kraus, D. Conservation Strategies for the Long-term Survival of the Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* by the Cheetah Conservation Fund. International Zoo Yearbook, 35: 59-66, 1997
17. **Marker-Kraus, L.** Captive History of the Cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus*, in the World's Zoos 1829-1994. International Zoo Yearbook, 35: 27-43, 1997.
18. **Marker, L.** The Role of the South African zoos in the survival of the cheetah. Proceedings of the Annual Pan African Association of Zoos, Aquariums and Botanical Gardens Conference, May 1997.
19. Munson, L., and **Marker, L.** The impact of capture and captivity on the health of Namibian farmland cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Proceedings of the 50th Namibian Vet Congress, Sept. 1997.
20. **Marker, L.** Morphological abnormalities in Namibian cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Proceedings of the 50th Namibian Vet Congress, Sept. 1997.
21. Munson, L., **Marker, L.**, O'Brien, S.J., Everman, J.F., and Spencer, J.A. Prevalences of antibodies to viral diseases in Namibian farmland cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Proceedings of the 50th Namibian Vet. Congress, Sept. 1997.
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23. **Marker, L.** Lymphosarcoma in a captive Namibian cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), a case study. Proceedings of the 50th Namibian Vet Congress, Sept. 1997.
24. Muroua, D. and **Marker, L.** The Cheetah Conservation Fund's Mission: To Ensure Long-term Survival of Cheetah and their Ecosystem. Proceedings of the National AZA Conference, Sept. 1997.
25. **Marker, L.** Current Status of the Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Cheetah Symposium, South African Vet Association, 1998.
26. **Marker, L.** and Schumann, B.D. Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) as problem animals: Management of Cheetahs on Private Land in Namibia. Cheetah Symposium, South African Vet Association. 1998.
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49. **Marker, L.L.**, and Dickman, A.J. Notes on the spatial ecology of caracals (*Felis caracal*), with particular reference to Namibian farmlands. African Journal of Ecology. 43: 73-76. 2005.
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57. Schumann, M., Schumann, B., Dickman, A., Watson, L.H and **Marker, L.** Assessing the use of swing gates in game fences as a potential non-lethal predator exclusion technique. South African Journal of Wildlife Research 6(2): 173-181. October 2006.
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62. **Marker, L.L.**, Dickman, A.J., Mills, M.G.L., Jeo, R.M., and Macdonald, D.W. Spatial Ecology of Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) on North-central Namibian farmlands. Journal of Zoology, London. 226-238, 2008.
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