



PATHWAYS

for People & Predators

The Annual Report of
Cheetah Conservation Botswana

April 2012 - March 2013

Contents Page

Managing Director's Review	3
Staff Organogram	4
Board of Directors	5
Research Review	6 - 7
Community Outreach Review	8 - 9
Education Review	10 - 11
Marketing and Promotion	12 -13
Supporters and Donors	14
2012 - 2013 Financials	15 -37

Project Vision

A healthy cheetah population nationwide for posterity.

Mission Statement

To maintain populations of free ranging cheetah and other predators, in coexistence with communities, as an integral part of ecosystems of Botswana.

Project Goal

Cheetah Conservation Botswana aims to preserve the nation's cheetah population through scientific research, community outreach and conservation education, working with rural communities to promote coexistence with Botswana's rich diversity of predator species.

Managing Director's Review



Dear All,

Greetings to all our wonderful supporters around the world and are various partners in Botswana and beyond. In 2013 we celebrate our decade of existence as CCB. It has been an incredible journey for us all involved with the project over the last 10 years! I feel very fortunate that a few concept notes on a piece of paper have evolved to become the project it is today. We have some wonderful people to thank for making it possible, including our staff, volunteers, donors and supporters. It has certainly been a team effort!

We can feel proud that the message of cheetah conservation is alive and well in Botswana. Through our Community Outreach and Education programs, CCB has totalled over 100 farmers' workshops and 200 school visits, reaching more than 2000 farmers and 10000 school children around the country. Through our Research program, we have contributed to knowledge of cheetah population numbers, distribution, home ranges, movements, diet, genetics and disease. We are honoured to be a well-respected partner to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks in Botswana, as well as having the opportunity to work with a range of stakeholders throughout the country and within the region. We are increasingly aware of our impacts as more and more farmers turn to improved methods of livestock management to reduce human wildlife conflict.

It is with excitement that we move into the next decade with an ongoing commitment to work with communities to ensure that best practices in range, livestock and wildlife management spread far and wide across the magnificent Kalahari landscape. We thank you all for joining us in this exciting mission to conserve Botswana's cheetahs and their wilderness home.

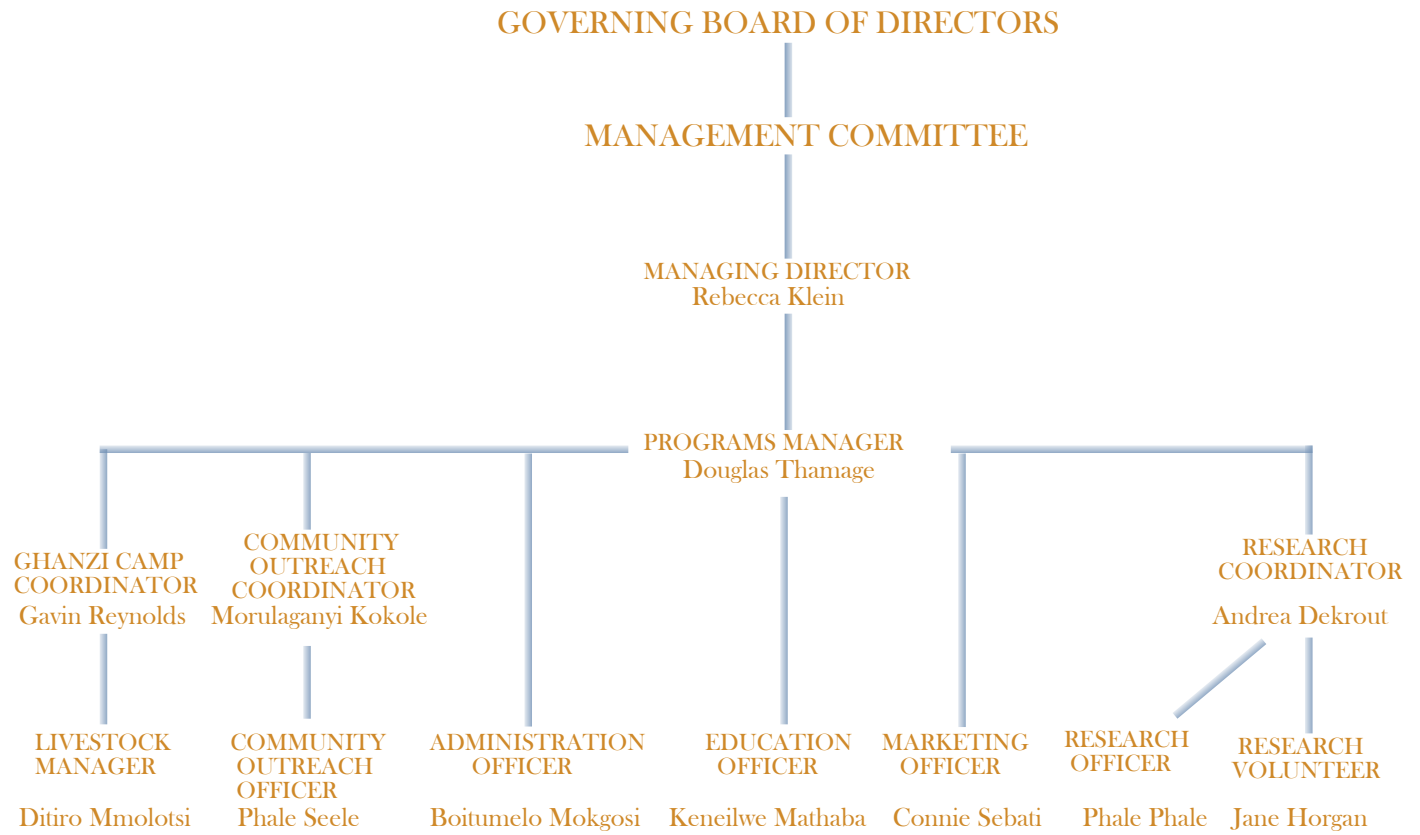


Rebecca Klein

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Klein".

Managing Director

Staff Organogram



Rebecca Klein



Douglas Thamage



Gavin Reynolds



Andrea Dekrout



Morulaganyi Kokole



Boitumelo Mokgosi



Phale M. Seele



Ditiro Mmolotsi



Jane Horgan



Keneilwe Mathaba



Phale Phale



Connie Sebati

Board of Directors



Rebecca Klein

Managing Director
Cheetah Conservation Botswana



Sedia Modise

Chairman
Peace Parks International



Douglas Thamage

Programs Manager
Cheetah Conservation Botswana



Dr. Gabotsewe Sekgororoane

Board Member
University of Botswana



Nancy Kgengwenyane

Board Member
CCB Lawyer



Felix Monggae

Board Member
Kalahari Conservation Society



Ian Johnson

Board Member
Mokolodi Nature Reserve



Kamwenje Nyalugwe

Board Member
CCB Legal Advisor



Harold Hester

Board Member
Birdlife Botswana



Michaela Powell-Rees

Board Member
CCB Treasurer



Operating Bases



Dr. Cyril Taolo

Board Member
DWNP



Moses Selebatso

Board Member
Researcher

Programme Review

Scientific Research Review

Crittercam Study

The Cheetah Crittercam project has given a new insight into cheetah behaviour using groundbreaking technology. CCB partnered with National Geographic's Remote Imaging Program to put video cameras on wild cheetah. The study took place in May 2012 and it was aimed to better understand how cheetahs use heavily bush encroached areas like the Ghanzi Farmlands. It is very hard to observe cheetah in scrubland, so it is necessary to use a device such as the Crittercam to understand how they live in this environment. CCB's Research team worked with Kyler Abernathy and Greg Marshall from National Geographic to capture, collar and release 4 cheetahs with the Crittercam units. Footage retrieved from the drop-off collars have shown us how cheetahs have to search for surface water in the dry Kalahari and showed them feeding on free ranging kudu, their top choice of prey in that area.

This initial pilot project was extremely successful, allowing us to record some amazing and interesting footage. National Geographic will make some small improvements to the collars before returning to Botswana early in 2014 for a larger deployment of collars. A new partnership between CCB and the Royal Veterinary College in London will see them joining the Crittercam team in Botswana to also place advanced, light, low-power GPS/motion detection collars on cheetahs from the Ghanzi District. The combination of video, GPS and advanced motion detection collars will yield us fascinating information about cheetah behaviour including how fast they run, how successful their hunts are, what sizes their home ranges are, how they are hunting in the thick bush and what they are primarily eating, just to name a few.



Cheetah collaring in Ghanzi with National Geographic.



Cheetah released after being collared.

Conflict Mitigation Studies

The Kacgae community in the western Kalahari was chosen for this study to measure how successfully predator-friendly management tools (namely livestock guarding dogs and kraals) can mitigate the conflicts occurring between low-income subsistence farmers and predators. Community consultation was carried out to ensure good relationships and to help ensure long-term sustainable changes within the farming community. CCB is monitoring 10 farmers who were by the community and have each received materials to build livestock kraals for each farmer, a guard dog, a kennel, veterinary services and food for the dog for one year.

Follow-up visits are continuing to be conducted at two weekly intervals to ensure the conflict mitigation activities are being used in the right way and farmer questionnaires are conducted every three months to monitor livestock losses, perceptions and problems. This study will continue for 3 years to monitor the long-term effects of these mitigation methods and to thereby measure the sustainability of these tools.



Puppies ready to work after being introduced to their herds in the Kacgae project.



Jane collecting cheetah scat at a marking tree in Ghanzi.



A scat detection dog with its handler at work in the Ghanzi area.



A cheetah caught on camera by CCB research team.



A cheetah at a marking tree at a farm in the Ghanzi area.

Scat Analysis

The analysis of scat to identify preferred prey species and genetics is on-going in combination with several other CCB research activities. Scat collected up to 2012 is currently being analysed by former CCB research coordinator and PhD student Lorraine Boast and CCB's research officer, Phale Phale. It is yielding some interesting preliminary results, including the small proportion of livestock in a cheetah's diet and how they preferentially take certain species such as hares while avoiding livestock and certain wildlife species. Information gained from scat is important for farmers to understand the frequency of livestock predation, and know which wild species to encourage on their farms to avoid losing livestock to predators.

Scat Detection Dogs

Conservation detection dogs can be trained to locate scats from threatened species like cheetahs and African wild dogs. Scats are a valuable tool in research as they can be analyzed for diet analysis and genetics work and can be used for population studies. The use of a scat detection dog was offered to CCB from the Working Dogs for Conservation group and was used in conjunction with San trackers to test whether they can be effective at finding cheetah scats. The pilot study indicated that the scat detection dogs were not very effective in the Ghanzi farmlands as the heavy bush encroachment coupled with the Kalahari heat restricted the performance of the dog. However, the trackers were very effective as they managed to find not only scat but also cheetah marking trees and kills.

Camera Trap Survey

Motion-detection cameras are being used in a variety of CCB projects, including monitoring cheetah-marking trees to optimise live trapping of cheetahs for our mass collaring project in 2014. As a result, a constant stream of cheetah photos are being obtained which will enrich our research into cheetah demography as well as contributing to our Cheetah ID Book which has identified a surprising number of cheetahs in the Ghanzi Farmlands alone.

Marking Trees

Cheetah Conservation Botswana's official marking tree study came to an end in April 2012 and the data is currently being processed and analysed. The information gained from this study was very crucial for our Crittercam project, as we will use the trees to catch the cheetahs during that study.

Use of game and cattle farms

Cheetah Conservation Botswana initiated a camera study to analyse how different species use private game and cattle farms differently. Six motion camera stations were set up on a cattle farm and a game farm in the Ghanzi Farming District for six weeks in the wet season of 2011 and six weeks in the dry season in 2012. Results from the study indicate that animals do in fact use the farms differently, with cheetahs and caracals preferring to subsist on the game farms.

Community Outreach Review

Workshops & Site Visits

CCB's community outreach team helps farmers come up with solutions to their problems by assessing which predators are causing problems and how best the farmer can change his management to protect his livestock from the predation. Site visits are made to provide support to farmers experiencing conflict and they are advised on which methods to employ. The team has done over 40 farmers' workshops and mobile workshops, with 70 site visits to discuss the simple predator control methods that farmers can use to protect their livestock. User friendly reading materials are also given out to farmers and stakeholders to read for themselves and use in the future.

CCB continues to work with other stakeholders around the country in hosting and being invited to workshops to spread the word of conservation and predator-friendly farming. Some organisations and groups that we have worked with this year include the Small Stock Farmers' Associations, Farmers Syndicates, Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), Department of Animal Production (DAP), Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), Department of Labour and Home Affairs (DLHA), Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Department of Water Affairs (DWA) and the Botswana Police.



CCB with Department of Wildlife and National Parks conducting a farmers workshop.



Max Seele holding a site visit in the Kgalagadi area.

Livestock Guarding Dog Program

A workshop was hosted at Botswana College of Agriculture (BCA) in Gaborone North in September 2012 for members of CCB's LSGD network. The workshop aimed to bring together members of CCB's Livestock Guarding Dog (LSGD) network and map a way forward to effectively carry out network activities. As well as planning future activities, the objectives of the workshop included providing knowledge of improved rangeland management methods, livestock management, herd health, fertility and techniques to reduce livestock losses. Currently, the network has over 150 members across the country, which we intend to meet with every year to discuss the needs of the network and way forward. Other stakeholders were invited to present at the workshop included DWNP, Botswana Police's stock theft section, veterinarians and BCA personnel. The workshop was well attended and new exciting ideas were shared among participants.



Media Relations

Community Outreach Coordinator, Mr. Morulaganyi Kokole conducted an interview with Christopher Modibedi of Botswana Radio Station 1 (RB1) about the workshop and the importance of farmer training to facilitate healthy veld management and predator-friendly farming. CCB also had its chance to speak to the public on Botswana Television (BTV). CCB was featured on BTV's Molemwa Kgang social issues programme and it was a very exciting time for us all. We invited other stakeholders to discuss the issues of wildlife conservation, poaching, illegal hunting and the use of LSGD's, such as DWNP, Botswana Police, farmers associations, LSGD farmers, wildlife conservation students, NGO's and the civil society.



Mr. Kotsedi's dogs relaxing with goats inside the kraal at his farm.



The CCB goatherd with their guarding dogs.



Ditiro Mmolotsi at the kraal demonstrating maintenance and upkeep to visitors.

CCB Demo Farm

The CCB Demo Farm has maintained its progress and is running successfully. Ditiro Mmolotsi, as the new demonstration farm livestock manager, has been doing excellent work in caring for and monitoring our herd and keeping our livestock guarding dog's (LSGD's) working well. We have had no losses to predators, but lost a female due to a snake bite in early 2013. The farm has been put to good use for demonstration purposes, including herder trainings and bush camps for participants to observe more predator friendly farming techniques. In June 2012, CCB held its first herders workshop at the demo farm. Herders were brought together to discuss the problems they encounter in their roles and share information on the best herding practices. Currently the demo farm has 32 adult goats and 35 kids. Recently weaned males are ready to be sold with money raised from sales going towards tools, equipment and animal medications needed to run the farm. Our aim is to have the demonstration farm making a profit that can be fed back into other CCB LSGD program activities.

The demonstration farm is host to a new and exciting community research project where we are training new livestock guarding dog puppies for placement with underprivileged farmers. There is a great demand for LSGD puppies, however some people struggle to obtain healthy puppies or cannot afford them. The first few months of the dog's life are crucial in terms of proper training and for health reasons (with their first vaccinations and deworming necessary in their first few months). CCB has begun bringing in puppies to raise and train at our demonstration facility where they are given the perfect start to their LSGD careers. After a few months, the puppies are then placed with needy farmers, already spayed with their first vaccinations and all the initial training in place. It is generally thought that LSGDs need to be raised and trained with the livestock that they will live with and protect. However initial reports are showing that this new technique is working very well for the dogs and the farmers. So far 4 litters have been raised at the demo farm, with a total of 16 dogs being placed with farmers and the vast majority are doing very well. Ongoing research will determine if these dogs grow to be successful long-term guardians, but for the mean time CCB is very happy and excited about this new training discovery and the chance for us to provide more farmers with LSGDs.

Vet Clinics for Livestock Guarding Dogs

This year, free veterinary clinic for LSGD owners were held in collaboration with Maun Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) and independent veterinarians, Dr. Mark Bing and Dr. Segwagwe, around the country. All together, a total of 70 dogs were treated. The clinics also served the puppies placed with the 10 farmers at the Kacgae conflict mitigation studies. For a working dog to do its job well, good health is necessary. CCB is very grateful to MAWS and individual veterinarians for their continued support.



MAWS veterinarians carrying out medical services for livestock guarding dogs in the Ghanzi area.

Conservation Education Review

School Talks

CCB aims to educate school children about the importance of predators and the environment through regular school talks around Botswana. Each school receives a package of educational resources, including posters, books, activity guides and Spirit of the Kalahari DVD. For this financial year, CCB hosted 13 school talks in collaboration with Mokolodi Nature Reserve at their education centre and 1 bush camp for Itekeng Junior School at the Tiisano Education Centre at CCB's Ghanzi Base. The topics covered in the school talks and bush camps included wildlife conservation, human-wildlife conflict, mitigation methods and climate change.



A class of Itekeng CJSS during a bush camp in Ghanzi.



Phale Phale carrying a presentation on human wildlife conflict mitigation methods to Itekeng CJSS.

Staff Trainings and Workshops

CCB's Communications Officer, Connie Sebati, attended a week long educator's course on Circle of Inquiry hosted by Elephants for Africa and Chicago Zoological Society in Moreomaoto village library on the 21- 25 May 2012. The workshop was designed to train participants in the use of the cycle of inquiry to become better facilitators of learning in nature. Inquiry-based learning focuses on the process of asking and answering questions relevant to the students through direct experience, rather than the teacher transmitting information by providing answers to his/her own questions.



Connie with the Circle of Inquiry participants in Moreomaoto village.

CCB's Programs Manager, Douglas Thamage attended the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) course in Economic Tools for Conservation and Infrastructure Planning in the Albertine Rift, from June 11-22, 2012 in Kasese, Uganda. With capacity building support from Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN), CCB undertook fully sponsored week long training in Financial Management Training by UK institution, MANGO (Management of Non Governmental Organisation) in Pretoria, South Africa. The training was attended by Administration Officer, Boitumelo Mokgosi and Douglas Thamage.



Douglas at the CSF training in Uganda.

CCB's Education Officer, Keneilwe Mathaba and Connie Sebati attended the National Environmental Education Committee (NEEC) planning workshop which took place in February 2013. All NEEC members presented their 2012 progress reports and also presented the 2013 plan of activities. Keneilwe also attended the Africa Environment Day launch. This day will be commemorated every year on the 3rd of March and it will address the key environmental issues in Botswana. Some of the pressing key issues in Botswana include among others, endangered species, biodiversity loss and poverty eradication.



Keneilwe Mathaba in Maun attending the 2nd National Environmental Education Conference.

Ms. Keneilwe Mathaba attended the 2nd National Environment Education Conference (NEEC) that took place in Maun the week of 23rd - 27th July 2012. The conference was organized by Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Education Skills and Development in partnership with SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme (SADC REEP). The conference theme was "Striving for Environmental Change in the 21st Century and beyond". The theme focused more on Change Projects that aimed at promoting best environmental practices for sustainable development and capacity building. The conference was well attended, informative, educative and fun.

Community Regional Environmental Education Programme (SADC REEP) training is an annual event targeting environmental practitioners from the government sector, private sector and civil society. This two week intense training took place in Ghanzi from the 3rd-14th December 2012 and was attended by CCB's education officer Keneilwe. The main objective of the course was to train environmentalists from all the sectors who will be able to disseminate environmental education information in their workplaces and beyond. There were excursion trips to D'kar village, Edos Rhino Camp and CCB's Ghanzi camp, with visits to our demonstration farm and education centre. CCB Camp Coordinator, Gavin Reynolds conducted a presentation on the importance of Energy Use and Conservation.



Gavin sharing how CCB utilises energy to SADC - REEP participants at CCB Ghanzi camp.



SADC - REEP participants learning from Gavin and Max about the use of LSGD's at CCB demonstration farm.

Marketing and Public Relations Review

World Migratory Bird Day is a global awareness campaign day, celebrated to highlight the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. CCB attended the celebrations organised by Birdlife Botswana in April 2012.

CCB participated at the World Environment Day (WED) celebrations on June 5th, 2012 in Mokhomma, Mabutsane Sub District. The theme was “Green Economy: A Way to Go”. CCB was there as an exhibitor and to disseminate information and the day was a great success. Connie Sebati was chosen as one of judges for the exhibitions at the event as CCB is a member of the NEEC, under the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

CCB attended the Ghanzi Agricultural Show in 2012 with a stall showcasing our education and community outreach programs, as well as showcasing our achievements in research this year. The event provided opportunities for interaction with community members and farmers. The general response from the farmers was very encouraging with more farmers coexisting happily with predators without any livestock losses.

Botswana’s Consumer Trade Fair is one of the biggest trade fairs in Botswana and it attracts a lot of people especially from Southern Africa. The 2012 fair in July attracted more than 450 exhibitors and over 60, 000 visitors making it the biggest platform for exhibitors to disseminate information, sell products and services to improve their brand visibility. In the competition for the most impressive stalls, CCB won the first prize in the NGO category. It was indeed a true reflection of the hard work that CCB put into the fair throughout the week. The event was attended by Admin Officer, Ms Boitumelo Mokgosi, Marketing Officer, Ms Connie Sebati and the Programs Manager, Mr. Douglas Thamage joined the team at the prize giving ceremony.

Keneilwe and Connie attended the Association of Environmental Clubs of Botswana (AECB) 2012 fair, at the Botswana College of Agriculture. A great number of people visited CCB’s stall including students from all school levels, teachers, other exhibitors and the general public.



World Migratory Bird Day celebration by BirdLife Botswana in Tlokweneng.



Connie showcasing different predators found in Botswana at WED 2012.



CCB team with volunteers at the Ghanzi show 2012.



Rebecca shares with a visitor at the CCB stall during the Consumer Fair.



Tree Planting at Mogonye by UBWCS.

Keneilwe also attended the University of Botswana Wildlife Conservation Society (UBWCS) 25th anniversary event at Mogonye. The activities included tree planting and the mounting of dustbins in the village of Mogonye. There were ball games and a camp fire at Mmamotshwane Gorge where participants spent the night camping with a trip to the gorge in the morning.



Keneilwe preparing the CCB stall to share information with Motlhabaneng community.

CCB was invited to attend a capacity building and knowledge fair in the last week of October 2012 in Francistown at the invitation of Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS) and BirdLife Botswana. CCB's marketing officer Connie Sebati attended the workshop and brought about new ideas on how to access grant funding and budgeting lessons in order to help move CCB forward.

The Motlhabaneng Environmental Fair was organized by Motlhabaneng Village Development Committee and was held on the 9th - 11th November 2012. There were presentations on poaching and its impacts on wildlife, human wildlife conflict and the community's opportunities in the tourism industry. The event was embraced by the locals and visitors alike with tourists, game lodge owners and volunteers. Our community outreach coordinator, Morulaganyi Kokole provided information to all on the importance of predators and how we can coexist with them by using the best practices in range, livestock and wildlife management.



Kokole addressing Motlhabaneng farmers on non lethal predator control methods.

CCB's Managing Director, Rebecca Klein and Douglas represented CCB at the annual Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) Expo in San Francisco between 9th and 14th of October 2012. WCN works to protect endangered species and preserve their natural habitats by supporting entrepreneurial conservationists who pursue innovative strategies for people and wildlife to co-exist and thrive. The Expo was a great success as always and provided wonderful opportunities for supporters and conservationists to come together and share information and work relationships. CCB is very thankful to WCN for their support.



CCB management team at the 2012 WCN Expo.

Last but not least, we had our annual planning meeting on the 11th of December 2012, bringing together all of our staff to our head office at Mokolodi Nature Reserve in Gaborone. After the meeting, we moved on to having our staff party, which was enjoyed by all. We also said goodbye to research coordinator and Ghanzi camp coordinator, Andrea Dekrout and Gavin Reynolds respectively. The duo has been with CCB since 2011 and brought with them a wealth of knowledge on conservation. We wished them the best in their future endeavours. They will be back for the Crittercam project with National Geographic in early 2014. Great work was accomplished in 2012 and we have many exciting and innovative projects planned for 2013. Thank you to all those that supported CCB over this last financial year! We are looking forward to working with you again and continue to make the Spirit of the Kalahari dream a reality.



CCB staff annual meeting and party at Mokolodi Nature Reserve.

Donors and Supporters

April 2012 - March 2013

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Predator Conservation Trust
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Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
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