



Pathways

for People & Predators

The Annual Report of

Cheetah Conservation Botswana
April 1st, 2010 to March 31st, 2011

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Project Vision

A healthy cheetah population nationwide for prosperity.



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

Rebecca Klein



Dear All,

Once again CCB has experienced an action packed 12 months from 1st April 2010 – March 31st 2011. The project continues to grow in both size and coverage and it is exciting to collaborate with organisations such as the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and Conservation International.

As you will read in the following pages CCB's programs are developing well. In Research our ongoing monitoring program continues with the use of satellite collars, spoor and camera surveys, prey analysis, sightings and rehabilitation. The Research team has welcomed the addition of Phale Phale, who comes with a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Botswana and a strong interest in the territorial communications of cheetahs and large carnivores.

Our community outreach team has been doing a wonderful job and the success of the program can be demonstrated by regular requests for collaboration in raising awareness for community conservation. This year CCB has been working in the Western Kalahari Conservation Corridor to promote the use of effective methods of livestock management to reduce conflict and share information on the habits and behaviours of different predator species. The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute selected CCB as their in-country partner to organise a needs assessment workshop to develop relevant training courses for Botswana's conservation groups.

In Education it has been a busy year of school talks, workshops and visits to CCB camps and in particular with the initiation of development for CCB's new education bush camp at our Western Kalahari Ghanzi base. Here, CCB will hold a range of activities from farmer and teacher training workshops and education bush camps for the youth. As well as this in Ghanzi we have also completed our Livestock Guarding Dog demonstration where farmers can come and learn how to utilise this effective technique.

So it has been a full and exciting year and we would like to thank all of our supporters and partners for making it possible for these important activities to take place. I would also like to thank a wonderful team of hard working people at CCB, it's a pleasure to work with you! Last but not least, thanks to the farming communities of Botswana that open their minds to the information CCB brings and in return share their own wisdom. Let us hope by working together we can secure a future for the Kalahari.



Rebecca Klein

R. Klein

Managing Director



Structure & Board of Directors



Rebecca Klein
Managing Director
Cheetah Conservation Botswana



Sedia Modise
Chairman
Peace Parks International



Dr. Kyle Good
Programs Manager
Cheetah Conservation Botswana



Harold Hester
Board Member
Birdlife Botswana



Dr. Gabotsewe Sekgororoane
Board Member
University of Botswana



Felix Monngae
Board Member
Kalahari Conservation Society



Operating Bases



Neil Whitson
Board Member
Mokolodi Nature Reserve



Catherine Piper
Board Member
CCB Treasurer



Nancy Kgengwenyane
Board Member
CCB Lawyer

CCB Programme Review

Research Review

Research Objectives

To conduct research into the status and threats to the Botswana cheetah population, focusing on human predator conflict and methods to alleviate conflict.

Research Activities

Cheetah Translocation & Monitoring

CCB conducts a cheetah translocation and monitoring program in association with the Department of Wildlife. Problem cheetahs are translocated to a new location as a last resort in cases of human predator conflict. The cheetahs' post release movements are recorded using a GPS satellite collar, providing vital data on survival. Through the experiences gained in previous years, new release sites were chosen in 2010 – 2011. CCB relocated two family groups whilst continuing monitoring one cheetah released previously. The first group a mother and two young cubs unfortunately died three months after translocation. The second group composed of two adult males was released in February and remain well. This data is used to direct future cheetah translocations and assess the results of this technique.

Population Monitoring at Jwana Game Park & Ghanzi

Until 2008 the CCB research program was based in Jwaneng. Although the research focus has now moved to Ghanzi we continue to monitor large predator populations in Jwana Game Park with the continued assistance of Debswana. At the end of 2010 a motion camera survey was conducted by CCB volunteer, Uyapo Molefe with the assistance of CCB staff. 34 mammal species were recorded, including caracal, brown hyena, leopard and cheetahs. Cheetah densities were slightly lower than previously recorded and further monitoring will be conducted. Motion camera surveys also took place in Ghanzi to provide vital information on the important populations in this area, including a study of marking tree behavior to look at the territorial interactions of the cheetahs on the Ghanzi ranchlands.

National Cheetah Sightings Database

CCB collects information about cheetah sightings from across Botswana with the aim of developing a national database of cheetah photos. Cheetah sightings enable the presence/absence of cheetah to be established across the country, whilst the unique spot patterns enable the recognition of individuals through photographs. Cheetah sightings may be submitted online through the form on the CCB website, or alternatively cheetah sighting forms are available from CCB or at DWNP offices and game reserves.

Released cheetahs, Tlotlo and Kgotsi relaxing at Selinda concession area.



Lorraine Boast



Dr. Good and research intern, Harriet Reeves, undertaking cheetah release.



Cheetahs caught in motion camera in Ghanzi.



Camera trap at Ghanzi camp.

Prey Analysis

The collection and analysis of cheetah scat may be used for population estimates, prey and genetic analysis. Prey analysis of scat samples collected from wild cheetah in Jwaneng, Ghanzi and Tuli is ongoing, however initial results show a low occurrence of livestock with preferred prey items being hares, kudu and duiker. Scat samples are also being collected for genetic analysis in association with the 'Cheetah Conservation Fund' in Namibia. We hope the use of sniffer dogs will increase the collection of samples in the future.

Cheetah Rehabilitation

Two orphaned cheetahs who entered the CCB rehabilitation program in March 2009, were released into the Linyanti, Northern Botswana in June 2010. A purpose built enclosure was provided by the Selinda concession, to enable the cheetah to adjust to their new environment and learn to hunt in relative safety. The cheetahs showed a natural instinct to hunt. Both cubs were collared, released and continued to be monitored during this delicate period. Unfortunately they were killed approximately two months after their release by lions.

Leopard Rehabilitation

The GPS satellite data from the rehabilitated leopard released in a wildlife management area in April 2008 ended in July 2010. The leopard is believed to have bred and questionnaires with farmers in the area showed that she had not caused any known livestock losses. Attempts to photograph the leopard using motion cameras were unsuccessful, however leopards are known for their elusiveness and we hope she remains alive and well.

Wild Dogs

In July 2010, Mokolodi Nature Reserve and CCB received a group of wild dogs from the Department of Wildlife in Southern Botswana. A farmer had a group of wild dogs denning on his farm that had taken several of his cattle. The puppies and a single male had been caught but the rest of the pack had left. Along with the DWNP, Central Kalahari Predator Research Group, CCB and several local veterinarians, a plan was developed for the future of the dogs. 3 female wild dogs that had been raised as orphans at Grassland Safaris in the Western Kalahari came down and were introduced to the father and the pups. The enclosure was kindly supported by the Comanis Foundation and Hawk Eye Fencing. They bonded immediately and it was a great moment to see them meet. They were then transported up to the Northern Central Kalahari Game Reserve and released into freedom.

Volunteers and Researchers

CCB accepts international volunteers who donate their time and money to assisting CCB research in Ghanzi. Recent volunteers have included an animal behaviourist, a writer, a computer programmer, a finance analyst and a human resources advisor. All have brought their unique skills and experience to CCB. Their contributions are essential to CCB's success and we thank all those that have attended.

CCB also provides opportunities for students to conduct postgraduate research on predator conservation. Current students include Ipeleng Randome who is conducting an MSc on cheetah genetics and Jane Horgan who is conducting an MSc on the use of livestock guarding dogs in Botswana. The results so far indicate that if trained correctly, cared for and fed properly, a dog (of any breed and lineage) can be an incredibly useful tool for managing predator-farmer conflict.



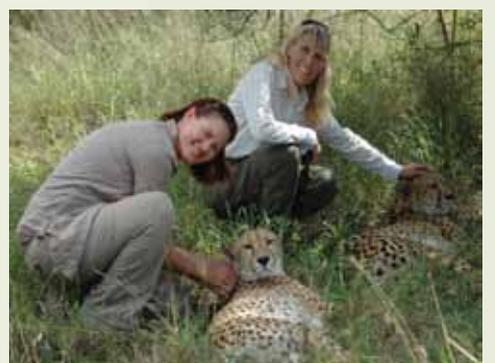
Volunteers at Ghanzi collecting scat.



CCB's Research Coordinator, Lorraine and Research volunteer, Jane working up on a cheetah at Ghanzi camp.



CCB's Dr. Kyle Good & Rebecca Klein working on a wild dog puppy at Mokolodi.



Ghanzi volunteers at Mokolodi with Duma and Letoatse.

Community Outreach Review

Community Outreach Objectives

Promote effective use of sustainable farming practices and livestock management amongst the farming communities of Botswana.

Community Outreach Activities

Site Visits

Site visits were made throughout the Kalahari region, at farms and villages troubled by predators to discuss their problems, effective livestock management and non-lethal options for predator control. Between 2010-2011, CCB assisted 70 farmers with direct support site visits to reduce predation and improve current methods of livestock management.

Workshops

12 Mobile workshops were held throughout the Kalahari on livestock management and non-lethal predator control. 6 residential workshops were also held in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP). These workshops are an important aspect of CCB's community support and information is provided on predator identification, assessing livestock losses, reducing livestock loss to predators, herd health and rangeland management.

Livestock Guard Dog (LSGD) Network

The LSGD network has expanded to 230 members and has been successful in promoting this underutilised technique in Botswana. The program has an annual competition which provides the opportunity to showcase responsible livestock farmers in Botswana that are contributing to the conservation of Botswana's wildlife. In 2010, the winner was Mr. Julius Magana from Kweneng District and he walked away with the prize of a basic veterinary medical hamper and a hamper for the livestock manager. He also received a wonderful prize visit to the Okavango Delta to thank him for his responsible farming techniques and role in conservation.



Phale M. Seele



Morulaganyi R. Kokole



Site visit by CCB's Ghanzi staff member, Max Seele.



LIVESTOCK GUARD DOG PROGRAMME



Kokole at Goodhope DWNP's Outreach of "Taking Office to the People".



2010 LSGD winner, Mr. Magana's guarding dog posing.

CCB's Community Officer, Max conducting a workshop in Kang for WKCC.



Veterinary Clinics

Through the free Mobile Veterinary Clinic, LSGD's are given care which may include vaccinations, sterilizations, deworming and tick treatment. Individual members were assisted with vet visits throughout 2010 as required. A veterinary care tour was held in July 2010 in collaboration with volunteer international veterinarians, Dr. Munir Kureshi and Dr. Jim Coddington. The 2 veterinarians had generously offered their services voluntarily to support the LSGD network during their visit to Botswana. During the 4 days of the clinics the team sterilized, dewormed and vaccinated 18 LSGD's in Southern and Western Botswana. The clinics were extremely positive and well received by the community.



CCB's Dr. Kyle Good with international volunteer doctors, Jim Coddington and Munir Kureshi sterilising LSGD at Mokolodi.

2010 LSGD Demonstration Farm in Ghanzi Camp

2010 saw the development of a demonstration goat farm at CCB's Ghanzi camp. A fully functional demo area with 16 goats, 2 livestock guarding dogs, a sturdy kraal, a full-time herder and herder's accommodation was completed. The farm aims to demonstrate and educate farmers how alternative management practices can minimise livestock losses to predators and reduce conflict with wildlife. Since its initiation we have experienced no livestock losses or injuries to our livestock from predators, despite having brown hyena, jackals, cheetah and leopard frequenting the farm.



A farmer doing a presentation at one of WKCC workshops Ghanzi.

Western Kalahari Conservation Corridor Initiative (WKCC)

CCB was engaged by Conservation International (CI) on the implementation of the WKCC initiative. The initiative aims to maintain the existing wildlife corridor between the 2 protected areas: the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP). 10 mobile workshops were conducted at settlements and cattle posts of the region to promote coexistence and effective management. A pilot project to test the use of mitigation methods that can reduce livestock losses has been initiated at 4 locations. 4 farmers are being assisted to improve their management techniques and assess the effect on reducing conflict. A competition for the Best Farmer in the WKCC



Dept of Wildlife staff member presenting at one of WKCC workshops in Kang.

Smithsonian Capacity Building for Conservation Initiative

In August 2010, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute In early 2010 The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) contacted Cheetah Conservation Botswana to be a partner to develop a national Needs Assessment for Conservation. The Smithsonian had received funding to carry out conservation related capacity building workshops in Southern Africa and selected Botswana as a focus country. CCB was asked to assist with contacting conservation practitioners in country to start off the process. There was a great national response from Botswana and a conference was planned to further develop Botswana's conservation capacity needs.

Topics that the Smithsonian could provide support for included: reducing human wildlife conflict; combating illegal trade; community based natural resource management and biodiversity monitoring. The conference took place in Gaborone on August 10-12th and was well attended by 32 participants who spent 3 days developing and prioritizing potential training programs for the country. It was extremely successful and the next step will be to decide on which of the training programs will take place in 2011. Many thanks to the Smithsonian group for choosing Botswana as the recipient for this significant support!



Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) group from Washington DC, USA, seen here with one of Mokolodi cheetahs in 2010.

Education Review

Education Objectives

Educate the youth of the nation to appreciate the importance of predators and environmental conservation.

Education Activities

School Visits and Talks

30 educational talks have been conducted around Gaborone and surrounding areas which covered primary, secondary schools and tertiary institutions. Each school received a package of educational resources, including posters, books, activity guides and Spirit of the Kalahari (SOK) DVD. A school outreach visit was done in the WKCC for two weeks at 7 Kalahari settlements to sensitise the youth to the importance of conservation and the role of predators in healthy ecosystems. CCB also offers schools to visit the education centers at Mokolodi Nature Reserve, People and Nature Trust in Ghanzi in collaboration with those organizations. 4 bush camps were carried out in 2010 which reached a total of 130 children.

CCB donated SOK t-shirts at the invitation of Mankgodi Junior School during their litter picking day in the their village and presented on topics of environment education and predator conservation to encourage communities to conserve the environment.

Cheetah Conservation Botswana hosted their first independently run environmental education weekend at CCB's bush camp in the Ghanzi farmlands. Forty children from the "Windows of Hope" organization, an NGO devoted to help orphaned and vulnerable children in Ghanzi, attended the weekend. The aim was to teach the children about predators and their environment and how to live in harmony with the flora and fauna around them.

Teacher Training Workshops (TTW)

A Teacher Training Workshop was conducted in Kang as part of the WKCC initiative in November 2010 with 18 schools represented. These workshops are done in collaboration with government departments to maximize capacity building and information sharing. CCB also facilitated at government Teachers workshops in Lobatse, Werda and Grootlagte.

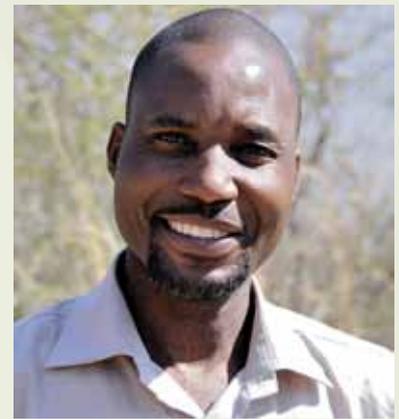
The focus of the workshops was to infuse predator education into lessons and curriculum. Each school received a school kit of books, activity guides, posters and DVD's. All teachers were offered encouraged to set up environmental clubs in their own schools.



Above: One of many CCB school visits.



William during a school talk at Mokolodi Education Center.



Batsho Mooketsi William



CCB Education Officer, Mr. Batsho M. William educating children at Mokolodi.



Moses Selabato of CI educating teachers at a Teacher Training Workshop in Kang, as part of the WKCC initiatives.



CCB staff member explaining the works of CCB at a stall in Mahalapye during the 2010 World Environment Day celebrations.

Marketing and Public Relations

Winnie Bagwasi

Marketing Objectives

To strengthen and communicate CCB's national and international brand identity, as a recognized, results orientated conservation organization.

Marketing Activities

Resource development was a focus of 2010, including the creation of a farmer educational materials for the Western Kalahari Conservation Corridor (WKCC) Initiative; new posters and merchandise. Articles about the progress of CCB's departments were published in local media magazines and other local newspapers. CCB featured on several national radio and television shows with interviews on the work of the project, the importance of cheetahs and predators and the issues and challenges of human predator conflict.

Public Awareness Raising

CCB attended the World Environmental Day (WED) celebrations in June 2010 and received a prize in the category of information distribution. In September CCB hosted the 1000 km Kalahari Marathon group. The race started from CCB's Ghanzi camp and ended at CCB's base at Mokolodi Nature Reserve. This event was aimed at publicising and marketing CCB and promoting conservation nationwide.



WKCC 2010 competition leaflet.



1000 km Kalahari Marathon 3 athletes at Grootlagte (starting point) being shown the route.



The 3 athletes enroute. They were joined by CCB staff member, Max (in black pants) for some time.



CCB/Mokolodi Cheetah/Hyena Ambassador Leaflet.



Ghanzi volunteers helping with CCB stall in Ghanzi.



Boitumelo Mokgosi at CCB stall in 2010 WED celebrations in Mahalapye explaining CCB works to the Minister of Environment, Wildlife & Tourism, The Honourable Kitso Mokaila.



CCB 2010 Predator Education poster.

Donors & Supporters 2010- 2011

CCB continues to benefit from the contributions of funding organizations, volunteers, individual donors and also businesses, here in Botswana and around the world. Without this wide ranging support, our programs would be severely restricted. We therefore wish to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has, in some way, supported the project during this review period.

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