

TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS



With the support of Cheetah Outreach in South Africa and the Angel Fund of Cincinnati Zoo in the United States, CCB began its programme of Teacher Training Workshops in 2006. The events, held over the course of a weekend, are designed to introduce teaching professionals to predator education resources and techniques which they can take back to the classroom, to integrate into the Environmental Education programmes of their own schools. CCB currently stages four Teacher Training Workshops per year for teachers or education professionals. Representatives from other local NGO's, the Department of Wildlife & National Parks, as well as from the Association of Environmental Clubs of Botswana (AECB) also participate at these events.



Corporate supporter, DHL, plays an important role in transporting educational resources.



Established in 2003, Cheetah Conservation Botswana is a local NGO addressing threats to the long term survival of the national cheetah population and other predators. Using scientific research to inform its community outreach initiatives, CCB works with affected communities to promote the adoption of non-lethal methods of predator control and appropriate livestock management practices. CCB also operates a successful education programme for school children, focusing not only on the vulnerable status of the cheetah, but also on the important role that predators play in maintaining a healthy local ecosystem.



Botswana is home to one of the largest populations of free ranging cheetahs in Africa, a population which remains largely unconfined to national parks. However, the resulting human conflict with Africa's most vulnerable 'big cat' has become a significant threat to the species. Based at Mokolodi Nature Reserve and operated by both international and local personnel, CCB has developed a range of programmes and resources that can foster coexistence, build community knowledge and tolerance and which can also promote a sense of value and identity in local wildlife.

Other resources are also available from
CHEETAH CONSERVATION BOTSWANA

Tel: +(267) 350 0613 or e-mail: education@cheetahbotswana.com
Private Bag 0457, Mokolodi Nature Reserve, Gaborone



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COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS &
PREDATOR
EDUCATION



INTRODUCTION

Communities who share their land with predators often develop a fear of them. Negative attitudes and misconceptions can result in wide persecution of large carnivores, without understanding their habits, behaviour or their importance in maintaining a balanced and healthy ecosystem. Persecution can also push wildlife to the brink of extinction and in Botswana, human/predator conflict is now putting increasing pressure on the nations cheetahs, as well as populations of other large carnivores. Internationally, the cheetah is currently classified by the IUCN, the World Conservation Union, as 'Vulnerable' [to the threat of extinction]. Botswana is a signatory nation to CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) and has also passed its own legislation to protect the cheetah and other threatened wildlife.



CCB'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Human/predator conflict has nevertheless resulted in an alarming decline of cheetah numbers during the last one hundred years. Reduced by 90%, today's continental population is estimated to be only around 10,000 individuals. Cheetah Conservation Botswana (CCB) was therefore born of the need to examine rural issues and situations creating predator conflict. With supportive community initiatives to increase local knowledge and promote methods of predator deterrence rather than destruction, CCB encourages the coexistence necessary to ensure the long term survival of the cheetah population in Botswana.

In support of government initiatives in Environmental Education (EE) and in line with Botswana's Vision 2016 goals to develop "...effective measures that will protect the resource base and the environment in a sustainable way...", CCB is helping to accelerate youth conservation education. Developing greater predator and environmental awareness, its Education Programme features school visits and presentations, public awareness-raising events, workshops for education professionals and also policy discussions with government authorities.

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS & ACTIVITIES

CCB staff and volunteers stage curriculum-linked presentations to introduce children to predators. Films, games and activities vividly illustrate what can happen when a balanced ecosystem is upset by the removal of predators. Learning is reinforced with the supply of free predator learning resources. These events (available to all schools including those attended by disadvantaged pupils or those with disabilities) build confidence through knowledge. By dispelling myths and misconceptions, school activities can elevate the status of predators to that of a vitally important 'flagship' resource for the nation, in which children can also develop pride.



COLLABORATIONS IN PREDATOR EDUCATION

International funding and goodwill play a critically important role in the development of CCB's initiatives and resources. Its programmes are strengthened by the employment of local staff and by encouraging grass-roots support. Collaborations with the Association of Environmental Clubs of Botswana (AECB); the Department of Environmental Affairs; the Department of Wildlife & National Parks (DWNP); the Ministry of Education; the Kalahari Conservation Society and Mokolodi Nature Reserve (where a predator playground is available) are now a central part of CCB.



CCB'S PREDATOR EDUCATION RESOURCES

CHEETAH: A Predator Resource for the Students of Botswana is a classroom text book designed for Secondary Level students.



Published by CCB, this book contains five chapters covering the history and behaviour of the cheetah, as well as the other predators found in Botswana. Student activity sheets end each chapter, which are designed to be photocopied for students to work on as they progress through the book. A full glossary of words and terms is also included, as well as a teachers reference section. Softback, A4 format, colour.

Spirit of the Kalahari DVD



'Spirit of the Kalahari' is a 30 minute documentary/drama, produced by CCB and musical/theatre company, Lobone Creations. It tells the story of two farmers who each use very different methods to control predators. Dialogue is in Setswana, with a choice of English or Setswana narration.



'Spot the Difference' is a colour educational leaflet designed to help communities identify and distinguish between the leopard and the cheetah. The leaflet is available in English or Setswana. A CD-ROM is also available, which contains electronic versions of all publications available from CCB, plus movie clips and more!