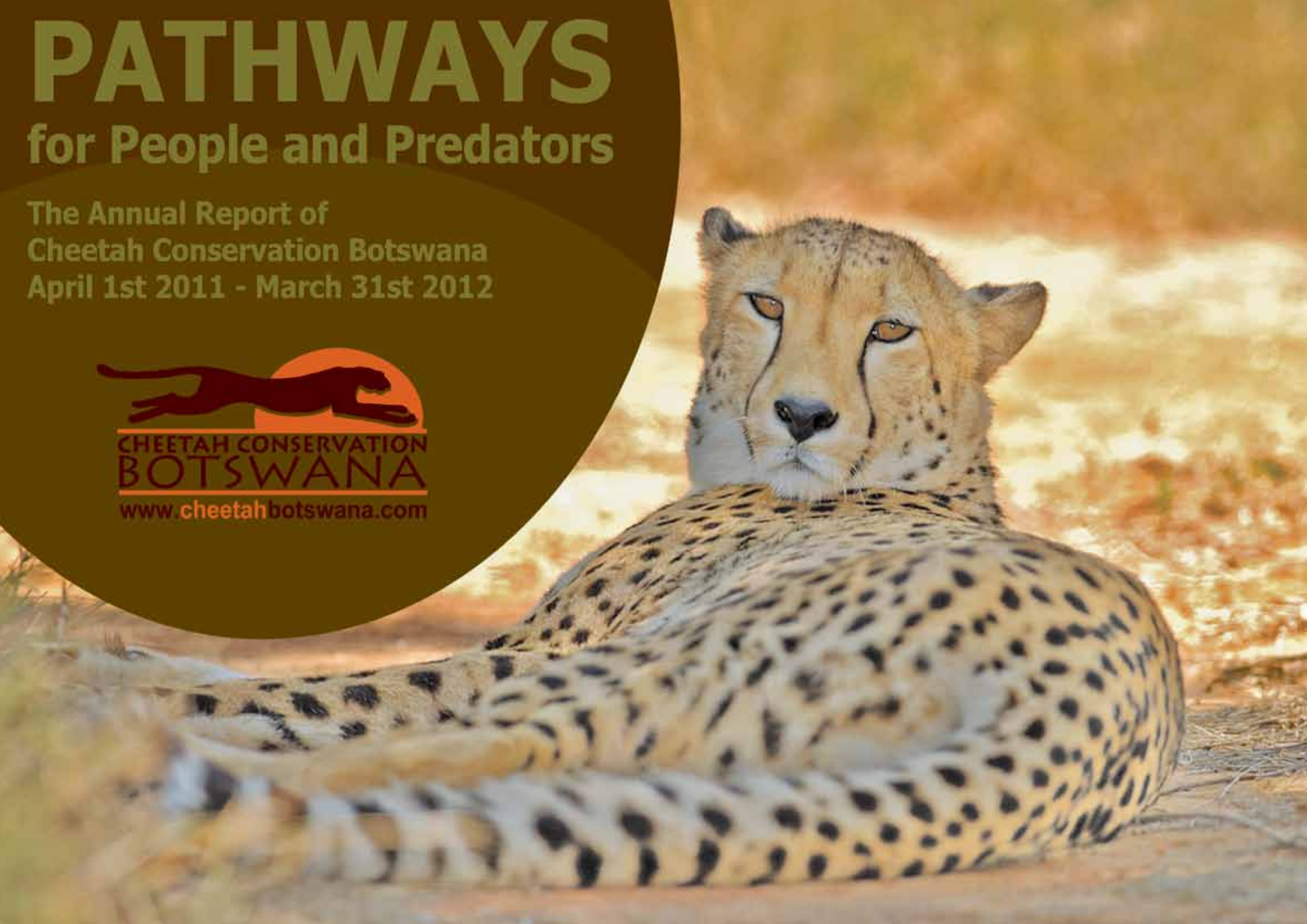


PATHWAYS

for People and Predators

The Annual Report of
Cheetah Conservation Botswana
April 1st 2011 - March 31st 2012



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April 1st, 2011 - March 31st, 2012 Financials -- APPENDIX 1

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

Dear All,

It has been a productive 12 months from 1st April 2011 – March 31st 2012. We hope you will enjoy learning more about CCB's achievements in the pages ahead. A year passes fast these days and it is important to make sure we reflect on our activities, congratulate ourselves on the successes and consider how we can keep improving for the future of cheetah conservation.

The Research team has been very active catching and collaring cheetahs in the Ghanzi farmlands, as well as 2 groups of translocated cheetahs moved off farms by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, providing vital information on the use of this technique. The camera trap surveys and scat analysis continue in the region giving CCB and the farming community huge insights into the movements and behaviours of cheetahs in this important environment. The Community team has been very busy with farmers' workshops, training courses, supporting the Livestock Guarding Dog network and working with the Department of Wildlife to reduce human wildlife conflict in Northern Botswana. The Education team has packed the year with school talks, bush camps and workshops. We continue to refine and update our programs with feedback from the communities and ensure we are providing the best services we can to support people to live with cheetahs and Botswana's predators.

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.

It has been a year of change, with several staff members moving on and new faces and energy joining us once again. Our wonderful co-founder, Programs Manager and veterinarian, Dr Kyle Good bid us farewell in July 2011. Kyle set up CCB with Rebecca in 2003 and it has been a wonderful adventure since this time. As one of the cornerstones of CCB, she will be greatly missed by all! She is moving onto Zimbabwe where we are sure she will continue to be involved in wildlife conservation in the region and will remain as a long term advisor to CCB. In her position we have welcomed Douglas Thamage, who comes with significant experience in rural development and project management and has fit well into the CCB team. We also wished farewell to our Research Coordinator, Lorraine Boast, in April 2011 after 5 years working with us. She will be continuing her involvement by carrying out her PhD on the conflict levels on Botswana farms. Her position has been filled by Dr Andrea Dekrout and her husband Gavin Reynolds, who has taken on the role of Ghanzi Camp Coordinator, Originally from Canada and New Zealand, they have great research and education experience and will bring significant skills to the posts. We welcome you all to the team!

Overall, I'd like to say a big thank you to the CCB staff, interns and volunteers for the hard work and dedication you have applied to CCB in 2011-2012. You are the foundation of the organisation and it's a pleasure to work with such a wonderful team. Thanks also go to our network of donors and supporters around the world. You make it possible for us to carry out the essential work of cheetah conservation in Botswana. Thanks also 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 and its wonderful biodiversity and cultures.

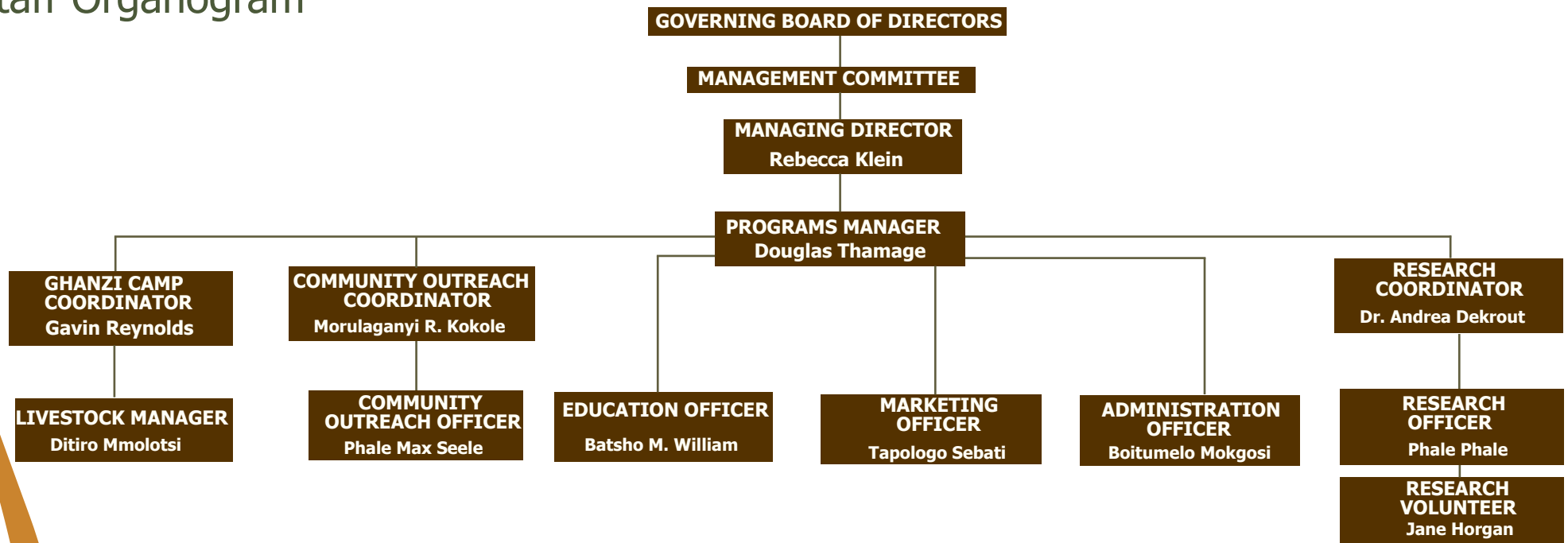
Rebecca Klein

R. Klein

Managing Director



Staff Organogram



Gavin Reynolds



Douglas Thamage



Rebecca Klein



Boitumelo Mokgosi



Andrea Dekrout



M. R. Kokole



Phale Phale



Jane Horgan



Ditiro Mmolotsi



Phale M. Seele



B. M. William



Connie Sebati

Board of Directors



Rebecca Klein
Managing Director
Cheetah Conservation Botswana



Sedia Modise
Chairman
Peace Parks International



Dr. Kyle Good
Board Secretary
Cheetah Conservation Botswana



Dr. Gabotsewe Sekgororoane
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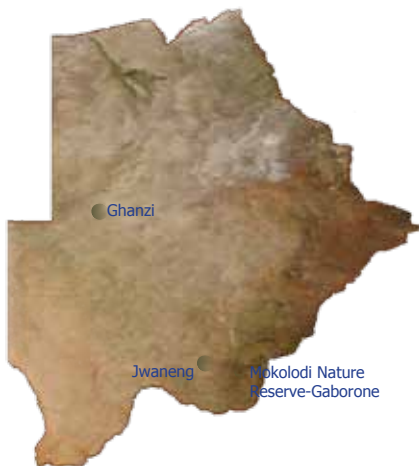
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CCB Treasurer



Nancy Kgengwenyane
Board Member
CCB Legal Advisor



Felix Monngae
Board Member
Kalahari Conservation Society



Ian Johnson
Board Member
Mokolodi Nature Reserve



Dr. Cyril Taolo
Board Member
DWNP



Moses Selebatso
Board Member
Researcher



Kamwenje Nyalugwe
Board Member
CCB Legal Advisor

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

Collared Cheetahs

In 2011 - 2012, CCB's Ghanzi team has caught four free-ranging cheetahs in the Ghanzi farmland area and fitted two with GPS tracking collars. They again captured three large, male cheetahs in the Ghanzi farmlands and fitted one with a GPS tracking collar, which transmitted their location every three hours, providing valuable information regarding behaviors and home ranges. After over 12 months of data collection, the three cheetahs, nicknamed the Three Musketeers, seemed to have a small home range that covered five farms near CCB's Ghanzi camp. Another cheetah, nick-named Marjatta, was caught by CCB staff on a game farm neighbouring CCB's Ghanzi camp. She was a mother of three nearly grown cubs and exactly the kind of animal we have been seeking to collar for some time. Her collar recorded her location up to 8 times per day. After 18 months it was found that this cheetah was moving between adjacent game and cattle farms in the Ghanzi District. Information downloaded from the satellites is showing us how cheetahs are moving around the farms, how they interact with each other and what habitat and farm types they prefer to live on. Some cheetahs are known to have very large home ranges and our collared cats are showing that they move on average 5km every day. This information is crucial for our community outreach as we can demonstrate to farmers that if they shoot a cheetah one week after losing livestock to cheetahs, you risk killing an innocent cheetah as the problem animal may have already moved to the next farms.

Cheetah Translocation & Monitoring

CCB conducts a cheetah translocation and monitoring program in association with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP). 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. CCB relocated two family groups whilst continuing to monitor one cheetah released previously. The first group, a mother and two young cubs died three months after translocation. The second group comprised of two adult males was released in February 2011 and remains well, despite travelling great distances after their release. This data is used to direct future cheetah translocations and assess the results of this technique.

Marking Tree Study in Ghanzi

Marking tree study entered into its final few months and the photos coming in from the cameras have been incredible. Cheetah marking trees are trees that are targeted by cheetahs and used for toileting, scent marking and claw sharpening. It is thought scents left by the cheetahs contain information regarding gender, age and reproductive availability, and scent left by dominant animals can help deter transient individuals from establishing a territory near an already claimed tree. Nine trees were found on both cattle and game farms and monitored with motion sensor cameras to look at how cheetahs, other predators and game use these trees as communication tools. Analysis of the data is ongoing and CCB hopes to have a completed paper from this study in the near future.



Cheetah collaring in Ghanzi by CCB team.



Cheetahs scent marking trees caught in motion camera in Ghanzi.



A cheetah captured on motion camera survey.



Kraal building team made up of local community members.



CCB's Jane and Thendi at CCF Training in Namibia.

Motion Camera Survey

As well as the ongoing marking tree study, CCB is conducting a motion camera survey in Ghanzi farmlands to continue research into the movements of predators through cattle and game farms. A project looking at predator movements along fence lines in game and cattle farms is currently ongoing. By looking at unique spot and stripe patterns of large predators like cheetahs, leopards and brown hyenas, our researchers can also identify different individuals from the photographs. An exhausting analysis of cheetah photos from motion cameras in Ghanzi over the last three years has revealed over 100 individual cheetahs living in, or passing through the area. Photos of one individual have shown that despite the thick, heavily bush-encroached landscape, one male cheetah still managed to move 65km in only 3 days. By analyzing movement patterns, home ranges and relationships between the densities of different predator species, CCB can assist farmers in managing their predators and protecting their livestock. Mitigating human wildlife conflict reduces the number of cheetahs killed by farmers and helps secure this threatened species with a future outside of protected reserves.

Mitigation Research Collaboration with DWNP

CCB was engaged by the DWNP to participate in the Human Wildlife Conflict Coexistence Project in Northern Botswana. CCB has been providing support for improved kraaling, herding and the use of herding dogs to mitigate livestock predator conflict. The study area includes 13 selected villages located along the three primary wetlands in Northern Botswana, the Okavango Delta Panhandle, Chobe-Linyanti wetlands and the Makgadikgadi wetlands. The overall aim is to strengthen the capacity of rural populations to implement human wildlife coexistence strategies and facilitate coexistence. CCB has made Kgotla (traditional court) meetings to each of the 13 settlements to discuss proposed interventions and a farmer's workshop has taken place in each focal area to provide training in effective methods, predator identification and behaviours. The community has chosen selected members to receive improved kraals and livestock guarding dogs and these will be built in 2012.

Workshops and Training

In May 2011, CCB recently attended a workshop in Namibia on an upcoming research technique called "FIT" (Footprint Identification Technology). This new technology aims to analyse photos of animal footprints to identify individual animals. This new technology could have wonderful outcomes for the conservation of cheetahs through population studies and problem animal control.

CCB's Research Students, Jane Horgan and Thendi Tagwa attended an Integrated Livestock, Wildlife and Predator Conservation course in Namibia hosted by the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF). Additionally, Thendi Tagwa and Phale Phale, CCB's Research Officer, attended a Conservation Biology course at the same location. Both courses were sponsored by CCB and CCF and provided CCB's staff with information and mitigation techniques regarding human-wildlife conflicts in southern Africa.

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, an educator, 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.

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 and Workshops

Between 2011 and 2012, site visits were made at farms and villages troubled by predators in order to discuss problems, effective livestock management and non-lethal options for predator control. As a result, CCB assisted more than 80 farmers with direct support site visits with the goal of reducing predation and improving current methods of livestock management. These visits were mainly around the Southern, Kweneng, Borolong, South-East, Kgalagadi, Ghanzi, Chobe, South East and Kgatleng districts.

CCB with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), continues to host a series of workshops for farmers to promote best practices and provide necessary resources to affected communities. The 2 groups collaborated on the World Bank sponsored project to reduce Human Wildlife Conflict in Northern Botswana. Kgotla meetings took place in 13 settlements in the Okavango, Chobe and Boteti regions, followed by a farmer training workshop in each. There was an awareness-raising stall at the week-long outreach event for the Ramotswa region settlements, which was well attended by 40 farmers. Morulaganyi Kokole & Thendi Tagwa attended a Problem Animal Control (PAC) workshop hosted by Tsabong's DWNP. CCB also facilitated at a one week small stock farmers training organized by Department of Animal Production (DAP) offices of Jwaneng and Tsabong. The training was held at Lubu Agricultural Research Centre near Middlepits in Kgalagadi South in July 2011. These trainings provide knowledge on various aspects of livestock husbandry, reducing livestock losses to predators and the successful use of mitigation methods such as kraaling, herding and livestock guarding dogs.

In August 2011, CCB and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI), in collaboration with regional partners including the Africa Centre for Holistic Management, hosted a capacity building training workshop at the CCB Education Camp in Ghanzi. The 5 day course provided training for service providers who work with farming communities to sustainably manage livestock and the rangelands, and it was attended by wildlife professionals from all over Southern Africa and even Mauritius. Healthy, productive rangelands and sustainable livestock management are essential in promoting better livelihoods and maintaining wildlife populations and ecological balance. Empowering communities with management techniques can also go a long way in reducing human wildlife conflicts and poverty levels. Furthermore, the training course included practical demonstrations, including the CCB livestock guarding dog demonstration site, and the "Oasis Farm" in Ghanzi where holistic rangeland management techniques are being effectively applied.

CCB was invited to the 6th National Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) conference conducted by the Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS) under the theme, "Consolidating CBNRM through Effective Stake Holder Engagement". The objective was to make a number of resolutions to the current CBNRM in Botswana, which has depreciated and lost its meaning, resulting in government interference.



A site visit by CCB's Max Seele in the Kgalagadi region where he distributes user friendly livestock resources to farmers and offer advice.



Information sharing at one of the Northern workshops by CCB and DWNP in Botswana.



A group photo after one of the Northern workshops up North Botswana.



Mr Bokheme, WKCC winner and his wife at Grasslands Safari Lodge with CCB's Max Seele (middle).



Livestock Manager, Ditiro Mmolotsi sharing his everyday running of the Demo farm with the herders workshop participants.

Livestock Guard Dog (LSGD) Network

CCB provides free veterinary care for livestock guarding dogs and support for the farmers who use them in Botswana. Currently CCB has a network of 153 active LSGD members who receive newsletters, promotional materials and information about current LSGD research, upcoming events and veterinary clinics. These are farmers who are successful in promoting this technique in Botswana and the program provides the opportunity for farmers to showcase responsible livestock farming. As part of our program to promote LSGDs in Botswana, CCB hosted The Western Kalahari Conservation Corridor (WKCC) competition in 2011, which was won by Mr. Bokheme of Hukuntsi. He demonstrated responsible and wildlife-friendly livestock management practices and had not experienced problems with predators. The winning prize included a two-night stay at Grasslands Safaris Lodge, a farm hamper and a trophy from CCB, which was awarded by CCB's Community Outreach Officer, Max Seele at a prize giving ceremony at Grassland Safaris.

Veterinary Clinics

Six veterinary clinics were conducted in 2011 and 2012 for members of the CCB Livestock Guarding Dog Network. Lobatse was first where 4 LSGD's were sterilized and vaccinated by Dr. Mark Bing. Grootlagte village near Ghanzi followed where 41 dogs were treated and sterilized over a three-day period. In March, 2012, another round of successful clinics took place in the villages of Tshobokwane, Tshootsha, Qabo and D'kar respectively over a period of four days. The 4 villages' clinics were very successful with a total of 61 dogs being sterilized. This project aims to strengthen and promote the use of dogs as livestock guarding animals. Thanks must go to veterinarian Andrea Grochowski, who did a wonderful job with these villages. Clinics around the Ghanzi District were also conducted with thanks to the Maun Animal Welfare Service (MAWS) who assisted CCB with the veterinary work for these.

2010 LSGD Demonstration Farm in Ghanzi Camp

The CCB Demo Farm continues to be a thriving success, with a strong and healthy herd of 36 goats. Our newly appointed herd manager, Ditiro Mmolotsi has been doing an excellent job in caring for and monitoring our herd and keeping our LSGD's working well. We have had no losses to predators since the farm was developed in 2010. The farm has been put to good use for demonstration purposes with a number of CCB herder trainings, workshops and bush camps visiting the farm to observe the predator friendly farming techniques used there, such as kraaling stock at night in sturdy bomas and using LSGD's.

Workshops and Training

CCB Community Outreach Officers attended training in Community Mobilization and Rangeland Management at the Centre for Holistic Range Management in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The course trained community trainers in conservation land management and how to effectively bring this information to communities. It included modules on grazing planning and management, rangeland monitoring and herd management practices. We look forward to integrating some of the new ideas into our own farmer training workshops and using these techniques in the demonstration farm at CCB's Western Kalahari Research Camp.

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

School talks and visits for CCB are an ongoing process and the 2011 - 2012 financial year was another busy year for the education department. School talks and visits were carried out among 40 schools ranging from primary, junior, senior and tertiary schools around the country.

Teacher Training Workshops (TTW's)

CCB has facilitated 3 TTW's during the 2011 - 2012 financial year and conducted some with DWNP. 50 Southern district teachers undertook the training in Lobatse and provided information was on different predators, their conservation status and methods to facilitate coexistence between the community and predators as well as providing teachers with school books, posters and resource activity guides. Another was held at Charles Hill Primary School in November 2011, where 20 schools were represented by their teachers and for this workshop, CCB took the liberty of inviting not only teachers, but student representatives from their schools' Environmental Clubs. Another TTW was at Ben Thema Primary School, in Gaborone for 27 primary school teachers in March 2012. BirdLife Botswana, Kalahari Conservation Society and Tshole Trust were invited to present talks to the participants on their roles in Environmental Education and Conservation.

Bush Camps at Mokolodi and Tiisano

In 2011, CCB expanded their Ghanzi camp by taking over the Education Centre previously run by the People and Nature Trust. The Education Centre underwent some renovations and is now utilized for farmer's workshops, teacher training workshops and school bush camps. In September 2011, CCB held its first conservation bush camp where 15 students from the Lehutshelo Junior Secondary School Conservation Club came to the camp for 3 days of fun and conservation education. The students were introduced to a range of ideas including basic ecology, predator conservation and predator friendly farming, as well as having fun on the ropes course, playing football and splashing in the pool. CCB's Education Officer, William and Ghanzi's camp coordinator, Gavin Reynolds, organized the event and were impressed by the intelligence and excellent behaviour of the students - a credit to their teacher Mr. Keitatotse. CCB aims to host regular education courses at Tiisano Education Bush Camp to help spread the word of conservation, teaching people about healthy environments and the crucial role that predators play in the ecosystem.

In 2011, St Joseph's College spent the day at Mokolodi Nature Reserve Education Centre to learn about predators and their conservation. 26 students attended and activities of the day included, predator conservation talks and activities and a game drive with a visit to CCB's ambassador cheetahs. St Joseph's has the cheetah as mascot for their school sports team and they are now very eager to promote cheetah conservation. At the beginning of 2012, CCB hosted a student environmental club from Gabane Junior School at the Mokolodi Education Centre for 2 days to familiarize them with predators and biodiversity conservation at a grassroots level.



CCB Education Officer, Mr. William with Gabane School at Mokolodi after a game drive around the reserve.



Kids at the Tiisano bush camp classroom meeting a livestock guarding dog.



Ghanzi Camp Coordinator, Gavin Reynolds at the CCB bush camp in Ghanzi during an early morning bird walk.



William at a Teacher Training Workshop in Charles Hill infusing predator conservation to both teachers and students.



William at UBCWS Mini Environmental Fair disseminating information to the attendees of the fair.

Other Education Activities

In February 2012, CCB Education department was invited to a 2 day National Environment Education Committee (NEEC) Planning workshop where the objectives were to give an update on organizations' environment education and predator conservation annual reports, to look at the annual plans of stakeholders sitting in the NEEC Committee and to develop a draft plan revision for National Environment Education Strategy Action Plan (NEESAP).

CCB's education team was also invited to put a stall by the University of Botswana Conservation Wildlife Society (UBCWS) to their mini environment day celebrations. CCB shared conservation information with UB students and the general public and it was a well organised and attended event.

The Community Outreach and Education departments joined forces in doing a radio interview at Radio Botswana studios for a program called 'Tshetolo' in March 2012, with Mr. Christopher Modibedi of RB1. The interview showcased a discussion about the use of LSGD's in protecting livestock from predators, especially cheetahs, the benefits of keeping one, and the support services CCB provides to those who have registered in our LSGD network.

World Environment Day 2011

Once again, CCB raised awareness for predator conservation and improved farming methods at World Environmental Day (WED). This is a global annual celebration and CCB was invited by Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to attend and set up a stall at the WED celebrations. This took place on the 4th June 2011 at Mosu village in the Boteti District and was attended by Education Officer, Batsho William and Marketing Officer, Connie Sebati. This event was aimed at publicizing and marketing CCB and promoting conservation nationwide.



Kokole and William at RB1 Studios getting ready to share CCB information with RB1 listeners.

Marketing and Public Relations

Marketing Objectives

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

Marketing Activities

Fundraising Tours

CCB Managing Director, Rebecca Klein, recently completed an exciting US fundraising tour during March 2012. Rebecca began in Denver for a meeting with Denver Zoo about educational support, then to Boulder for a private fundraising event organized thanks to Andrew Currie. She then continued on a series of meetings, talks and presentations to St Louis Zoo, and San Francisco to visit with the wonderful supporters of Wildlife Conservation Network. A visit was made to Emerson school in Palo Alto where one of the students, Aruna Narayanan has been saving her pocket and birthday money and raised US\$1500 for cheetah conservation. A visit was also made to Wild Cat Conservation and Education in Occidental to thank them for their ongoing support. Rebecca then moved on to New York where Candace Quinn kindly organized a CCB event at the Squire and Sanders offices at Rockefeller Centre. Rebecca also visited Dr Luke Hunter at Panthera to keep them updated on CCB's work to conserve cheetahs in Botswana. Overall, it was a great visit and CCB would like to thank all of the individuals who were kind enough to host Rebecca during her trip. Also thanks to WCN for helping to organize all.

CCB as Member of Botswana Council of NGO's (BOCONGO)

Somarelang Tikologo, Sector Coordinators of the Environment and Agriculture Sector (EAS) of Botswana Council of NGO's (BOCONGO), held a networking strategy development and formulation in Serowe. Following the Serowe trip, there was a benchmarking trip in Zimbabwe for sector members to ZERO Regional Environment Organization. ZERO introduced Botswana's group to its works, networks, how they are working with the government to influence positive change on the climate change and environment policies. Connie Sebati attended both the strategy formulation workshop in Serowe and the benchmarking trip in Zimbabwe.

Resource Development

Articles about the progress of CCB's departments were published in local media magazines and other local newspapers, including gaining a regular monthly page in Botswana Farmer's Magazine, thanks to their Editor, Mr. Kwenantle Gaseitsiwe. CCB was also featured on several national radio shows with interviews on the work of the project, the importance of cheetahs and predators, and the issues and challenges of human predator conflict.



CCB Managing Director, Rebecca Klein during one of her fundraising presentation at WCN Expo in the USA.



Connie at Zimbabwe with Enviro and Agric sector members of BOCONGO with Ambassador Gladys Kokorwe (in red dress) at Botswana Embassy.



Douglas Thamage at COP17 in Durban presenting on their group work.

CCB at UNFCCC COP17 in Durban, South Africa

United Nations Framework on Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) held a Conference of Parties 17 (COP17) in Durban, South Africa. The conference's main objectives were to find out on how countries can develop themselves at a rate that takes into account the vulnerability and sustainability of the environment for future generations. CCB's Programs Manager, Mr. Douglas Thamage was chosen from NGO's under BOCONGO's EAS to represent the civil society of Botswana and he was involved directly at the negotiations. Connie Sebati also attended the COP17 conference under the civil society umbrella with Botswana Council of Churches (BCC) members. It was a fruitful experience for both officers and gave an insight on how and what CCB can learn from this world forums as climate change does affect wildlife movement and contributes largely to wildlife having to move over long distances looking for food and water sources.

CCB Citilite from Continental Media

Susannah Steenkamp, Botswana's General Manager of Continental Media had talks with CCB about putting up a billboard for CCB as a way of supporting the organization. Within a few weeks, they had put the first billboard up near Bokamoso Private Hospital on the Molepolole Road. They will keep it up for six months and rotate it around different locations in Gaborone. We hope that the billboard generates lots of publicity for the plight of the cheetah in Botswana and in CCB.



Some of the BOCCIM Fair 2011 attendees learning about reducing predator conflict and the works of CCB from Mr. William, CCB's education officer.



CCB Citilite Billboard in Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana.

Donors & Supporters

April 2011- March 2012

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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