

Project Update: March 2009

Initially, the project started with discussions with a local NGO, Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK), which had an interest in cheetah conservation. We discussed and agreed to collaborate on the project. After that we convened a meeting with the Divisional Education Officer and the Divisional Officer to seek permission for the project in the area. We then visited the school authorities informing them of our activities.

In October and November 2008, I and ACK held planning and implementation meetings where we agreed on the schools to work with and an evaluation methodology to be used. We then proceeded to design posters to be used in the school and community awareness programme.

In a boost to the project, another NGO, Eco-Sys Action, has expressed interest and has promised to support the education programme with a mobile solar power unit for showing videos in schools. This will make it possible to extend the programme to other schools.

On 10th and 11th March 2009, a representative of Save World Draw USA and I visited two primary schools, Ngaamba and Kavuko, and engaged the pupils in drawing their favourite wild animals as part of the awareness creation activities.

To discourage the youth from the bushmeat trade and give cheetahs a chance to survive, a bee farming workshop was held on 8th and 9th March 2009 where two youth groups were trained. The Silangabow Youth Group is also being engaged in commercial nursery tree production and so far they have constructed a nursery and collected several seeds and are waiting for the rainy season. The youth groups are being encouraged to be guardians and scouts for the wildlife in the area.

