

Project Update: February 2011

CCB is growing fast and it's getting challenging to keep up sometimes. Due to this, we are taking on a local Programs Manager this year which will be a great development and increase CCB's capacity to do even more. So we're excited!

Well so far in 2011 we have relocated a pair of cheetah brothers off a farm where they were taking small stock. The farmer refused to have them re-released on his farm so they have been collared and released in a protected area in the south western Kalahari. So fingers crossed, in this area of lower human populations they will have a better chance of survival.

We've had a week of awareness raising in southern Botswana with the communities of the Ramotswa region. CCB had a stall for the community wildlife event and provided support and resources to farmers on how to coexist with carnivores, especially cheetahs! This event ended with a farmer training workshop detailing how effective methods can be implemented. All was well received and our good relationship with our stakeholders grows.

At the end of 2010, we finished off the series of workshops in the Western Kalahari Conservation Corridor with a successful Teacher Training workshop. Thirty teachers braved the rain and came from far flung rural settlements in the Kalahari to learn about infusing predator education into lessons and curriculum. In the evaluation, 100% of the teachers agreed the workshop was extremely beneficial and they would use the free resource kits of books, posters and activities regularly upon returning to their schools. CCB will visit them in 6 months time to make sure they are!

Then in between it's been mobile workshops, school talks, collecting camera trap data and continuing our competition for the Best Farmer in the Western Kalahari. Now with the assistance of Conservation International and Wildlife Conservation Network, we've started helping certain dedicated farmers in hot spot areas of carnivore conflict to improve their kraals and introduce livestock guarding dogs i Ghanzi. This pilot project will be carefully monitored and hopefully demonstrate that coexistence is possible when good management is practised.

So it's all happening as usual! Never a dull moment. You can see more recent updates at our news section at <http://www.cheetahbotswana.com/news.php>