

Project Update: July 2011

Objective 1: Promotion of Best Practices in Farm Management

To promote effective methods of livestock management and nonlethal predator control which facilitate coexistence with cheetahs and other predators. Encouraging communities and government to integrate such methods into their farm management and policies. This will take place through farm visits, surveys, farmer support, community meetings, farmer training workshops, livestock guarding dog network and veterinary clinics, and distribution of resources.

Objective 2: Awareness Raising for Predator Conservation

To conduct education programmes aimed at building awareness among educators, students and the general public of the plight of cheetah and all predator species and their role in healthy ecosystems. This will take place through school talks, school visits to the CCB Ghanzi Education Centre, teacher training workshops, attendance at public events and engagement with the local media.

Timeline for Activities

Every month: site visits, surveys, farmer support, mobile workshops, school talks.

Every 3 months: farmer training workshops, teacher training workshops, school visits to CCB, stalls at farmers' days, agricultural shows and events.

Objective	Not achieved	Partly achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Objective 1: Promotion of Best Practices in Farm Management			site visits, surveys, farmer support, farmer workshops, livestock guarding dog network and veterinary clinics, resource distribution	see below
Objective 2: Awareness Raising for Predator Conservation			school talks, school camps, teacher training workshops, public events, local media	see below

Activities May 2010 – April 2011

Objective 1: Promotion of Best Practices in Farm Management

Kang and Hukuntsi Farmers Workshops CCB conducted farmer's workshops in Kang (32 farmers) and Hukuntsi (29 farmers) in the Western Kalahari in August 2010. The workshops involved farmers from the area and all the service providers including Departments of Wildlife, Range Resources, Veterinary Services and Animal Production. Topics covered during the workshops are: the importance of predators, correct identification of predators; assessing livestock loss, effective methods to reduce predator conflict, such as effective kraal designs, herding, livestock guarding dogs, range management, herd health.

Werda Farmers Workshop CCB conducted a farmer's workshop in Werda, co-managed by the Department of Wildlife. It was attended by 28 farmers and relevant service providers from the area. Information was provided on reducing predator conflict and appropriate livestock and range management practices.

Goodhope Outreach Week CCB was invited to be part of the Department of Wildlife's week long workshop in the Southern Kalahari in September 2010. Each organisation provided information on their role in ensuring conservation and sustainable use of Botswana's natural resources. Other

organisations that took part included Birdlife Botswana, Department of Tourism, Meteorological Services, Botswana Tourism Board and Department of Environmental Affairs.

Molepolole Problem Animal Control Officers Training Workshop CCB was invited as a resource organisation to the Department of Wildlife's two-day workshop on Standard Procedures for Problem Animal Control (PAC), in order to reduce human wildlife conflict and improve the knowledge and capacity of PAC officers. More than 50 wildlife officers from the Eastern Kalahari region attended the workshop in October 2010.

Ghanzi Farmers Workshop

CCB was invited as a resource organisation to the Department of Animal Production's workshop for farmers in the Ghanzi region in December 2010. The workshop was attended by 40 farmers. CCB featured and facilitated on predator identification, behaviours and appropriate livestock and range management techniques to reduce conflict.

Ramotswa Farmers Workshop

CCB was invited as a resource organisation to the Department of Wildlife's two-day workshop for farmers in the Southern region in March 2011. The workshop was attended by 42 farmers.

Mobile Workshops 13 mobile workshops were conducted at settlements and cattle posts in the Kalahari region between November 2010 and March 2011. All the mobile workshops saw a very good turn up of approximately 20 farmers and herders per workshop. As in all workshops, relevant government offices in the respective areas also participated in the workshop.

Livestock Guarding Dog (LSGD) Network CCB has an ongoing network of farmers using guard dogs throughout the country. Information is shared among these farmers on training and care of dogs through a newsletter and regional workshops. The network has now expanded to 230 members. Questionnaires about the use of livestock guarding dogs have been distributed to farmers on the CCB LSGD mailing list to collect information on the effective use of LSGD's.

Livestock Guarding Dog Clinics Livestock guarding dog clinics took place in Mokolodi, Moshupa, Jwaneng, Sekoma, Lobatse, Palapye and Ghanzi for members of the Livestock Guarding Dog Network, including free medical care, sterilisations and vaccinations. A total of 36 livestock guarding dogs were treated from May 2010-April 2011. The clinics were extremely positive and well received by the community and promoted by the National media.

Livestock Guarding Dog Competition As part of promoting the Livestock Guarding Dog Network, CCB has a competition that runs every year for the best guarding dog in the country. Interviews for 2010 followed by site visits were conducted and our 6 finalists were chosen. There were 148 entries for the 2010 competition. The winner received a prize-winning visit to Moremi National Park and the farm workers were also presented with prizes by CCB in January 2011.

Livestock Guarding Dog Demonstration Site CCB has now completed the LSGD demonstration area and herder accommodation at the new CCB camp.

Objective 2: Awareness Raising for Predator Conservation

Kang Teacher Training Workshop A teacher training workshop was conducted in November 2010 and 18 Kalahari schools were represented at the workshop. Teachers were provided with training in infusing carnivore conservation into lessons and given resources including activity guides,

schoolbooks, posters and DVD's. These schools were invited to attend school camps at the CCB Ghanzi camp.

School talks 8 school outreach visits were done for schools in the Kalahari region. All schools visited received CCB's education books, teachers' resources and the Spirit of the Kalahari DVD.

School visits to CCB camps The Arc for Children initiative brought a group of 60 orphan children to spend 3 days at the Western Kalahari CCB camp in October 2010. CCB spent time with them teaching them about environmental issues and predator conservation. All students received CCB resources. In February 2011, CCB conducted a school visit to Mokolodi Nature Reserve by Saint Joseph's College for 26 students. Environmental talks and activities were carried out and educational resources provided.

Student rally in Grootlagte CCB assisted with a government student rally in October 2010 for Kalahari schools. The event included presentations and activities for students from local schools. CCB presented information on predator conservation and provided educational resources to the participants.

Lobatse Environmental Education Workshop CCB was invited as a resource organisation to the Department of Wildlife's two-day environmental education workshop in February 2011. 50 teachers from the Southern region attended the workshop.

Awareness Raising stalls to promote predator conservation and best practices in livestock management took place at the Ghanzi Agricultural show in June 2010 and the Southern Ranchers Farmers Association in October 2010.

Media Relations 2 radio shows were conducted on local radio stations since May 2010, to promote the livestock guarding dog network and promote the use of effective livestock and range management practices. 2 radio shows were conducted to promote the activities of CCB in the Western Kalahari region. CCB featured on Botswana national television to promote the use of livestock guarding dogs, the support network and free veterinary clinics.

The project has been progressing successfully, although there have been delays to some activities since March 2011 due to a 2-month long government worker strike affecting the productivity of this important collaborator.

Outcomes:

- The provision of training and informational resources to approximately 500 farmers through workshops.
- The provision of information and educational resources to 42 schools through school talks, visits to CCB camps and teacher training workshops.
- The expansion of CCB's livestock guarding dog network to 230 members and the successful treatment of 40 members livestock guarding dogs, enabling them to efficiently utilise this effective tool.

Community Involvement

Farming communities were key beneficiaries. The techniques promoted during activities improve livestock production and significantly decrease predator conflict and reduce livestock losses, resulting long term in improvements in income generation.

Schools and teachers benefit through learning about the importance of predator species as a national resource and in maintaining healthy ecosystems, through free school visits, residential visits to the CCB, teacher training workshops and provision of educational resources.

Continuation

The activities have been well received by the communities and CCB will seek ongoing funding to support continuation and expansion of the program. Community education is one of the keys to conservation of the cheetah and other threatened predators in Botswana. CCB would appreciate the opportunity to apply in future to the RSGF and will utilise the leverage of this successful program to engage future donors.

It is essential that provision of information and resources continues to be provided to the communities of Botswana to support them to coexist with predator species. The maintenance and development of this relationship, with adaptive management and community feedback is required on an ongoing basis. It is CCB's intention to continue with this positive and well received programme and encourage the integration of such activities into government action. The CCB Community Outreach and Education programme has already attracted the interest of the Ministry of Environment and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks. These government organisations aim to roll out a similar programme of Community Outreach and Education in Northern Botswana in 2012. CCB will be assisting in the development of activities. On the success of the project, there is a strong possibility that successfully demonstrated management methods to reduce predator conflict will become required by nationwide government policy. This is an important opportunity for the CCB Community Outreach and Education programme to have a lasting impact on improving current methods of livestock, range and wildlife management amongst rural communities in Botswana.

Sharing

Public reports go out quarterly on project activities through the CCB website mailing list. Data collected is collated into published papers and made available to government ministries, including Departments of Education; Wildlife and National Parks; and Animal Health and Production. It will also be provided to the global cheetah conservation community in order to add the Botswana perspective to the overall effort to preserve this unique species.

Publications are also available from CCB including,

- Living with Predators: A livestock management guide for the farmers of Botswana.
- A Manual for Reducing Predator Conflict for Farmers of the WKCC.
- Various information sheets and posters on identifying predators, livestock management techniques and predator conservation.
- Cheetah: A predator resource for the children of Botswana.
- Teacher Training Resource Activity Guides.
- Spirit of the Kalahari DVD's.

Radio and Television: CCB's activities have been covered four times by the national radio and once by Botswana television since May 2010.

Newspapers and Magazines: CCB has produced four articles in local newspapers and magazines since May 2010.

Timescales

Funds were received in May 2010. Funds are still remaining for workshops and community outreach staff allowances, as although the planned for number of activities took place, some of these were directly sponsored by the Botswana government, resulting in £2,233 still remaining from the RSGF

grant. CCB would like to request that these funds are applied to the ongoing programme of Community Outreach and Education, with the aim that the funds are to be utilised by December 2011. Please let us know if this is acceptable to RSGF.





