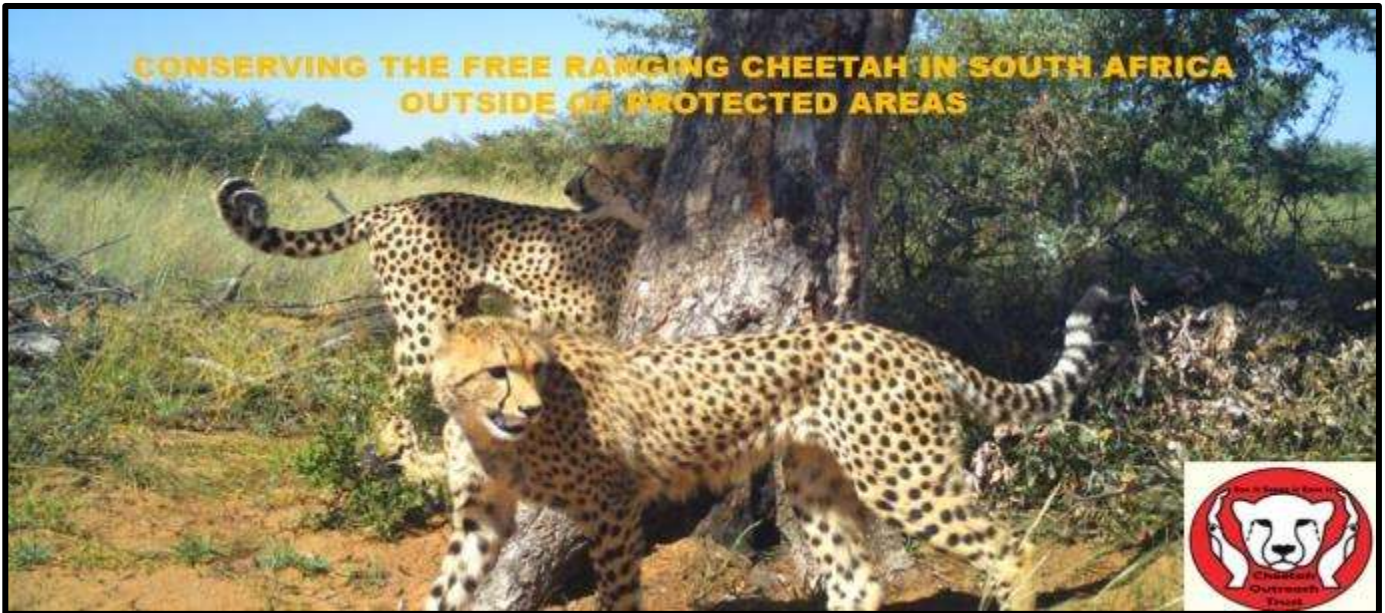


NEWSLETTER: CHEETAH OUTREACH TRUST MARCH 2022



The first quarter of 2022 has gone by in a flash and the summer months were filled with many challenges but also quite a few successes. With Covid-19 remaining a reality, relaxed Covid-19 measures have made it a bit easier to forge ahead with our conservation work. The effects of the pandemic on funding from donors is still something we have to deal with and keep in mind as we are operating on a much smaller budget than pre-Covid-19 as many other conservation organizations are doing as well. We are extremely thankful to all our loyal donors who have continued to support us throughout this pandemic even while they themselves were facing serious challenges. This has however not stopped us making great new friends and strong alliances in the conservation field and entering and exploring new areas where we were told cheetahs are now seen in farmland areas. We continued to cut down on costs and expenses wherever possible due to uncertain future funding possibilities and as everywhere globally, the war in the Ukraine has put further pressure on our expenses especially relating to fuel expenses as we are reliant on our vehicles to travel throughout the cheetah range to assist farmers and continue our conservation work. As a team the Cheetah Outreach Trust staff have committed to deliver as much support as possible to farmers while keeping physical travel and other expenses to a minimum, in this effect telephone calls, texts and even social media is used to keep our supporters and donors and the farming communities informed of the status of the project.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD:

Livestock Guardian Dog Project

Irwin's Guardian Tiaki had a litter of 8 pups that were placed on livestock farms within the Eastern Range of the cheetah territory within the Limpopo Province during February 2022. The two male puppies and 6 female pups were placed with eagerly waiting farmers, some whom have waited for more than two years to receive a puppy through the Cheetah Outreach Livestock Guardian Dog Project. These puppies are all still bonding with their livestock and will soon be joining the different groups of livestock to start their apprenticeships as livestock guardians. The puppies placed during December 2021 in the Bushmanskloof Cape Leopard Project and during November 2021 in the Western Territory of the cheetah range are all settling in well in their roles of livestock guardians.

We unfortunately lost one of our breeding males at the Irwin's Guardian Stud to a black mamba that managed to enter into the camp where he was living. Irwin's Guardian Delarey was donated to the Cheetah Outreach Trust by the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia to enhance the genetic diversity of the bloodlines of the breeding dogs of the Irwin's Guardian Stud. We previously enclosed all the breeding camps with shade cloth donated by Billabong Zoo and that has prevented snakes entering into the breeding camps for more than two years. We believe this was a freak incident but staff of Green Dogs

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Conservation that managed the Irwin's Guardian Stud are keeping a very close eye out for any snakes around or close to the breeding enclosures.



Herdsmen with Irwin's Guardian Titan



Irwin's Guardian Tule with her goats

Cheetah Research and Conflict Mitigation Project

Followers of the Cheetah Outreach Trust will recall that we mentioned the loss of two of our collared free roaming cheetah males in our last newsflash. Although the Botswana Police and the Botswana Wildlife and National Parks (BWNP) opened a formal inquest into the event, nothing has come from this and it seems that the two cheetahs were successfully traded into the illegal black market. We can only hope that their microchips will flag them as illegally traded cheetahs if they are ever taken to a veterinarian for treatment.

As previously reported in our previous newsflash, we re-collared the free roaming cheetah named Zeena on International Cheetah Day in December 2022 as her satellite collar was nearing the end of its battery life. She moved across the border between South Africa and Botswana. She and her cubs could not return back to South Africa as heavy seasonal rains caused the Molopo River that flows along the border to come down in flood. We noticed that her collar was stationary for a few days which is normal when a collared cheetah has caught and preyed on a large prey specimen. We then noticed that the location of her collar moved right to an area of farm worker houses and remained there without movement. This immediately created suspicion and we notified Cheetah Conservation Botswana who then notified Botswana Wildlife and National Parks (BWNP). On investigation the tracking collar was found at the farm worker housing and they took the authorities to the place where Zeena had apparently been caught and died in a wire snare close to the border fence. The farmer and his workers mentioned that they saw tracks of her cubs but that only one track was still recently seen. BWNP setup a trap cage to try and capture the remaining cubs but no further tracks could be found and the trap cage was removed after a few days. This is just another indication of the threats these free roaming cheetahs are facing on a daily basis and why international collaboration is so important for cheetahs and other predators that move across borders.

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Remains of Zeena female cheetah



Capture cage set by BWNP

A male cheetah that is part of a coalition was captured and collared with a satellite collar in the Eastern Territory in Limpopo province on a farm between Thabazimbi and Steenbokpan. We have been monitoring cheetahs in this areas with camera traps for a long while and this is the first cheetah that has been collared with a satellite collar in this area. Tolerance levels of farmers towards cheetahs are varied in this area and we are hopeful that the movement data of this coalition will provide valuable information that will be fed back to the farming community to create a better understanding of the movement of cheetah in this predominantly game farming area.



Cheetah receiving satellite collar



Collared cheetah male and coalition mate on camera trap

We have been very fortunate through excellent cooperation with the North West Conservation Authority to collar and release another free roaming female cheetah with cubs approximately three months old. She was captured by a game farmer that is not very tolerant towards the presence of cheetahs on his farm. She and her cubs were collected by officials from the North West Province Conservation Authority and held at the Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre for a week which allowed us to source a satellite collar for her. She and her three cubs were successfully released by our field officer Cyril Stannard and officials of the North West Province back into her former home range as part of our monitoring and research program.

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Female cheetah and cubs prepared for release



Female cheetah released after her cubs

The Cheetah Outreach Trust supports the South African Cheetah Range Expansion Project which is under the coordination of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). Kallie the Kalahari cheetah who was captured due to injuries to his front feet close to VanZylsrus in the Northern Cape was given a chance to heal from his injuries at Waterval Private Game Reserve which is part of the Ashia Cheetah Conservation Cheetah Wilding project. Due to the fact that Kallie had to remain in semi captivity for a few months it was decided to make him available to the Cheetah Range Expansion Project and to relocate him into one of the cheetah meta-population reserves under the guidance of the EWT. Here he will hopefully mate with the resident female cheetah on the reserve and thus spread his valuable genetics within the cheetah meta-population. Ashia Cheetah Conservation assisted with the darting of Kallie for transport to his new home close to Hoedspruit in the Limpopo Province. Kallie will remain in a holding boma for a month or two before being released into the larger reserve.



Kallie released into his holding boma at his new reserve close to Hoedspruit

Cheetahs are not the only spotted felines our field officers deal with. We are currently busy with the rewilding of a young orphaned leopard female at Tumbeta Private Game Reserve in the Limpopo Province. The female leopard was caught when she was approximately 8 months old as she was scavenging for food close to human settlements after she was abandoned by her mother. She is currently in a 30 hectare camp where she is learning to hunt small prey. She was provided with a tracking collar when she was put into the rewilding camp and we recently recaptured her to adjust the tracking collar as she is growing rapidly. She will remain in the rewilding camp for a couple of months more before being released onto the Tumbeta Private Game Reserve.

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Female leopard prepared for adjusting tracking collar



Leopard female after collar adjustment with owner of Tumeta Private Game Reserve

NOTE OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS:

The support the Cheetah Outreach Trust receives from our loyal supporters and donor group is now more important than ever to ensure the stability in our conservation work for the next year and beyond. We are very sensitive to the fact that the pandemic has had a huge impact on the short term financial stability of our donors and supporters but keeping this in mind we are hoping for the continued support from our loyal donors and supporters to ensure that the Cheetah Outreach Trust can continue with our important conservation work, conserving saving the free roaming cheetah population in South Africa and making farmland more predator tolerant for cheetah and other predators. The Cheetah Outreach Trust thanks all its loyal supporters that have continued to stand by us during this unprecedented time.

Any donations to support the conservation work of the Cheetah Outreach Trust would be greatly appreciated. As we are a registered PBO we can issue an 18A tax receipt for donations received for South African donors and 501c through our partners to US based donors. Should you require any further information regarding donations and or support, please feel free to contact info@cheetahoutreachtrust.co.za or follow the following online donation links at [Donate – Cheetah Outreach Trust](#)

Please visit our website at www.cheetahoutreachtrust.co.za



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