

Project Update: March 2013

Fun and games on Cheetah Day!

On the 15th March 2013 we organised Cheetah Day at the Mukuvisi Woodlands Education Centre in Harare. The day was attended by 80 primary and secondary school children. About 100 pre-school children that happened to visit the center came to see our life size cheetah. Over the past weeks we had developed several games related to an aspect of cheetah ecology or conservation. In total, we presented the children with seven games plus a cheetah movie. The day ended with a quiz and every school went home with a certificate of attendance, a cheetah life history game and several educational posters. Each child received a cheetah game form with various puzzles and an 'I'm a cheetah poster'.



On the 16th March 2013 we went back to the Mukuvisi woodlands to give two presentations for the general public. In total, 60 people attended the presentations, which enabled us to not only explain all about cheetah ecology and conservation but also provided us with a great opportunity to ask people to participate in our population survey by sending us cheetah sightings and pictures.



Identifying cheetahs from their spots



Preschool children admiring our cheetah



Fun and games on Cheetah Day

PR trip through the Zimbabwe Lowvelds

Although this year we won't be targeting the Lowveld with our questionnaire based survey, we would like to receive sightings and pictures from this southern part of Zimbabwe. For 2 weeks we travelled past the various wildlife areas to introduce ourselves and our project to the managers and ecologists. We visited Malilangwe, Save, Gonarezhou, Bubyeye and Nuanetsi. Everyone was happy to hear there was a cheetah project and promised to send us cheetah information from their respective area. At Nuanetsi, wildlife but also a cattle farm, we have even been able to give some advice with regard to ways to reduce livestock predation.



Our help us find the cheetah of Zimbabwe posters at the reception of Gonarezhou NP



More free publicity

Great articles in the Ndeipi, a newsletter which is distributed around Harare, and Greenline, the Environment Africa Newsletter which is distributed throughout the country. Hopefully this will result in even more cheetah sightings.

More and more cheetahs

Since we've send you the end of the year report we have collected 48 additional sightings and 304 pictures. We have identified two more cheetahs in Hwange National Park and two more in Malilangwe. The total number of identified cheetahs in our database is now 37.



New cheetah
Malilangwe



New cheetah
Malilangwe



New cheetah Hwange



New cheetah Hwange

Sighting highlight

Sub adult cheetah trying not to get wet feet in Hwange National Park, picture taken by Laurie Simpson

