

[www.capeleopard.org.za](http://www.capeleopard.org.za)

***Dear Cape Leopard Trust supporters,***

It is our pleasure to once again fill you in on all the latest news and events on our project. We hope you enjoy reading it. Please remember to contact us if you have any questions concerning our work to conserve these stunning felids. A special thanks must go to Matthew Philogene of raramuridesign ([www.raramuridesign.com](http://www.raramuridesign.com)) for running our website, helping us update it and sending newsletters out. Besides cracking a whip, he has “gently” persuaded us to try keep the site up to date.

This quarter’s newsletter has been structured a little differently. You’ll see that the number of pages has grown, as has the project. In the last 9 months, the Cape Leopard Trust has expanded its reach to include the Gouritz Corridor and Namaqualand Uplands regions. We have kept the news from the three project areas separate for you to get a comprehensive idea of the progress with each of the projects.

Kind regards  
Quinton Martins  
Project Manager

**General**

Perhaps our most newsworthy story, which does not specifically fall under any one of the projects, is that of the leopard trapped in a gin trap in Calvinia...

Trapped leopard saved after epic mountain mission

*Cliffhanger* - In an epic rescue effort yesterday, conservation and veterinary staff rallied to save a gin-trapped leopard in the Hantam Mountains near Calvinia.

Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) project manager, Quinton Martins, was contacted by Northern Cape Conservation Assistant Director Inspection Services Leon Muller on Monday evening to assist them. Having worked closely with Cape Nature's Jaco van DeVenter and vet Dr Andre van der Merwe for 5 years, Quinton called them up to assist in what sounded like an impossible mission - a leopard caught in a gin-trap, on a cliff on the top of the Hantam Mountains. To make matters even worse - the trap anchor had been dislodged making it extremely dangerous to approach this wounded animal.

[http://www.capeleopard.org.za/news/trapped\\_leopard\\_saved\\_after\\_epic\\_mountain\\_mission.html](http://www.capeleopard.org.za/news/trapped_leopard_saved_after_epic_mountain_mission.html)

**Willem Titus**

Willem Titus has been working with the Cape Leopard Trust as Quinton’s personal field assistant since the 6th of February 2006. As the project has grown, so have his skills, his enthusiasm as well as his pure dedication to the project. While working with Quinton, his willingness to unconditionally work whenever required – a rare quality nowadays - has resulted in the project being able to continue unhindered when unplanned events have resulted in his assistance being required. His tracking skills and patience have become invaluable in training other researchers coming out to assist on the project. Quinton comments, “Willem is absolutely meticulous in everything he does. He puts an incredible amount of pressure on himself to do everything 100% and displays a sense of pride in his work second to none. His dedication has paid off, as we have now had 26 leopard captures for research purposes, most of which saw Willem playing a part in them. I am now training him to master the art of radio tracking, as he will soon begin his own project tracking caracal in the Cederberg – this will be in an effort to determine the movement of caracal in relation to their larger competitor, the leopard.”

Willem is also going to be heavily involved with the CLT children’s environmental program beginning early next year. One of the fantastic activities he will be involved with will be taking children out to track & observe caracal behavior in the vast Cederberg wilderness.

Well done Willem! Many thanks for your selfless contribution to our project and a very happy 28th birthday (4th August)!

**Willem's birthday wish:** A small secondhand fridge for his house... If anybody can assist, please contact Quinton.

---

### **Our Future – Environmental Education of our Children**

In order to fulfill our education mandate, we will be creating an Education Centre in 2009, with a particular emphasis on providing educational camps for school children. We consider it imperative that this opportunity to experience the wilderness and learn about the environment be available to children from all backgrounds.

The Education Centre will be set up in the Cederberg Mountains in February 2009 and will be managed by Elizabeth Bond. It will be based at Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve, the research base of the CLT. Matjiesrivier was purchased by Dr Anton Rupert and is owned by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and managed by Cape Nature (CN). The CLT have been given permission and will be assisted by CN with some of the infrastructure to run the education camps.

The Cape Leopard Trust Camps, aimed at children from age 12 to 18, will have a strong influence from Elizabeth's Waldorf teaching background, as well as assistance from Dr Ian McCallum (Founding member of the Western Cape division of the Wilderness Leadership School and CLT Trustee). The camps will provide accommodation, workspace, educational experiences and research equipment, as well as organize excursions to local places of interest. The Cederberg and the Cape Leopard Trust's research are rich sources of educational material. Depending on the nature of the group, different themes will be explored, including biodiversity, animal tracking, geology, rock art, astronomy and survival skills. Themes will be explored using a variety of methods, ranging from observation exercises to scientific surveys to artistic expression. Physical and emotional challenges such as hiking, rock-climbing and sleeping out in the wild will also be emphasized. We aim to give the children an experience that is stimulating on all levels and ultimately gives them a sense of connection with and understanding of wilderness. Camps will provide first-hand experiences of the multitude of facets incorporated in the running of a broad conservation project such as the CLT, providing valuable life skills.

**Parents, consider this as an opportunity for your children's schools and motivate them to book a camp for next year.**

An Interactive Information Centre will be based at the Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve and is aimed at providing information for tourists/visitors about the Cederberg, including its fauna, flora, geography, history, hikes and attractions, as well as sharing the findings of research being done in the area. Critical to this initiative is community involvement in running the Information Centre, Tea House and in selling of local produce. The centre will also play a vital role in disseminating information to visitors on tourism accommodation in the area, boosting the Cederberg Conservancy as a whole.

### **"Gin trap" Debate**

A recent development in our project has us dealing with the debate around the use of "gins" or "gin traps" as they are known to many of us in SA. There has been an ever-increasing outcry by the public and some organizations regarding the outright banning of gin traps in SA. These traps are also referred to as "coil-spring" or "leg hold traps" in other parts of the world.

The Cape Leopard Trust's comment can be viewed on our website in the weeks to come – we would value any comments on this topic as we are striving to make inroads in this department as soon as possible. See [www.capeleopard.org.za](http://www.capeleopard.org.za)

---

---

## **Cederberg Mountains – Home of the Cape Leopard Trust**

We have had phenomenal success with our research in this rugged wilderness area. Five and a half years down the line, and the bigger picture of the ecology of cape mountain leopards is finally beginning to take shape. Our goal – a long term project of at least 25 years, unfolding leopard population trends, fecundity, genetic viability, predator-prey relationships, predator-predator competition, farmer-predator relationships, innovative methods to solve farmer-predator conflict, training and job creation in the community sector, children’s education and highlighting tourism potential of real “eco-tourism” are but a few of the facets of our forthcoming work.

The successes and results obtained here will be used to fuel new projects elsewhere in SA.

### **Leopard Research**

We have had great success this winter capturing leopards for monitoring purposes. We do not trap in the height of the summer months as it is too stressful for leopard capture (both for researchers and animals). Instead we have focused on specific individuals in the cooler autumn and cold winter months. We have also had help from Stellenbosch University in designing an exceptionally effective and safe leopard cage trap, improving dramatically on an already good design. This is what we have achieved this year:

*Apache*

*(M11)*

11th June – 10:30pm: We track M11, just recently adopted by the Middelmann family in memory of Paul Middelmann. We get to within 50m of him – he is close to a cage trap set for F10 (“Spot”). We hope he doesn’t go in.

12th June – 7.30am: Back at the same site we find Apache has missed the cage, but his collar has malfunctioned. This incredible setback has us concerned that we will capture F10, but not have M11’s collar working at the same time. We need to recapture him.

13th June – 8.30am: Quinton finds Apache has come back to investigate the cage. Got him! Rika (Cape Nature), our vet, Willem & Quinton sedate the unfazed cat, and re-collar him. He is in excellent health and shows no signs of the collar affecting him. In fact, he weighs 2 kg more than when we first captured him. What a stroke of luck – capturing this guy right after his collar malfunctioned. Now we had to capture F10.

18th June – 8:15am: Willem & Quinton run up the mountain to check the last of the 3 traps set, only to find another beautiful cat in the cage. This time it’s the female! We captured her cub last year – a 10-month-old male, the offspring of the notorious Houdini. Now that the latter has died (of natural causes), Apache has taken over the entire area vacated by his enigmatic predecessor. This is typical leopard behavior. Would he tolerate this cub? You can find out a little later...

“Spot” adopted by the Motamedia group in the UK had eluded us for some time. She is a stunning 22.5kg leopard who has certainly been around the block – she looks to be 8-9yrs old, so this was not her first litter of cubs.

Willem, the vet, Dr Andre van der Merwe and Quinton did the honors and collared her with a small, 220g GPS collar.

Then...to top it all:

### **Fabulous Females - Lizzy Leopard**

We have finally begun to have some success in capturing the elusive and wily Cederberg female leopards. On Monday the 14th July, we managed to capture and collar our fourth adult female leopard – F5. We have named her Lizzy. Amazing as it seems, this is the second female to be collared in less than 1 month. On the 18th of June we managed to collar Spot (F10), adopted by Motamedia in the UK.

Lizzy, adopted by one our main sponsors, the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, has eluded our traps for over a year

now! She was first photographed on Bakkrans Nature Reserve in 2004, then had a cub, Ololo, whom we captured on film in January 2005. In March 2006, we again got photographs of her with two 3-month-old cubs. Then she disappeared off the radar – for over a year. We got occasional tracks, suspecting it was her, but no confirmation.

[http://www.capeleopard.org.za/leopard\\_diary/fabulous\\_females\\_lizzy\\_leopard.html](http://www.capeleopard.org.za/leopard_diary/fabulous_females_lizzy_leopard.html)

### **Apache, M11 Adoption – In memory of Paul Middelman**

"Paul passed away in November 2006. He was a staunch Cape Leopard Trust supporter, influencing many others to do the same. His family, including his mom all got involved in one way or another and I feel privileged to have known him. Apart from this, he knew what was important to a man living in the mountains alone. On one occasion, Paul, his wife and a number of relatives ( a convoy in fact) came to visit the project in winter 2005.

[http://www.capeleopard.org.za/news/apache\\_m11\\_adoption\\_in\\_memory\\_of\\_paul\\_middelman.html](http://www.capeleopard.org.za/news/apache_m11_adoption_in_memory_of_paul_middelman.html)

### **Infanticide and Cannibalism**

We know that if you remove an adult leopard from an area (kill it or relocate it) that another leopard will replace it. There is evidence of the effects of these removals in natural situations throughout leopards' range. Infanticide of cubs is often a result, where the new resident does not tolerate the existing cubs from the previous resident. We have positive evidence of the effects of removals in the Cederberg and now we have evidence of infanticide resulting from such removals.

Apache was tracked and found to have killed Spot's cub, sired by Houdini. We reconstructed the kill – and this is how it happened...

"The dispersing sub-adult leopard makes a kill - it's an adult dassie. The dassie's death call alerts Apache to the presence of the young leopard. He runs in, not taking time to stalk. There is a chase and a fatal bite to the head which ends the life of the youngster. He is killed 80m from where he had first caught the dassie. Not satisfied with just killing his predecessor's offspring, Apache proceeds to devour the entire animal leaving us with claws in his scat, the crushed skull & the remains of a tail to tell the tale. He then goes back and eats what is left of the dassie."

### ***It's a jungle out there!***

This is a natural case where the dynamics of leopard ecology can be unveiled. One realizes that instances where adult leopard are relocated by man to "save" individuals, merely compounds these issues, creating twice the damage...where the animal is relocated from and where he is relocated to Gouritz Corridor.

The project in the Gouritz Corridor is really starting to gain momentum. The farmers in the area are very supportive of the project and are often calling Leigh with news of leopard sightings or spoor that they have found. We have also been really lucky with the local public who are interested in getting involved in any way they can. People are amazed there are these wild leopards roaming these mountains and the encouragement and support received has been fantastic.

### **New leopards for the Gouritz Corridor!**

To our great excitement of looking through hundreds of baboon photographs, we happened on this slender young leopard – only to discover that this youngster has not yet been captured by our cameras! That brings the total number of leopards we have in the Gouritz corridor to 7!

This leopard, nicknamed "Doc" after the owners of the property where the camera was placed, was "seen" slinking around the side of the Rooiberg mountain.

We hope to capture "Doc" on one of our other strategically places cameras so that we can have a better idea of the home range size for leopards in this region!

[http://www.capeleopard.org.za/leopard\\_diary/new\\_leopard\\_for\\_the\\_gouritz\\_corridor.html](http://www.capeleopard.org.za/leopard_diary/new_leopard_for_the_gouritz_corridor.html)

## **First Leopard “Kishwan” Adopted in memory of Douglas Lederle (10/07/1971 – 20/02/2008)**

“Some people tread lightly on the earth, whilst others leave a huge footprint.” One of the leopards photographed in the Swartberg Mountains has been adopted by the Douglas Lederle Memorial Fund. Douglas had a passion for conservation and the outdoors and was involved with the Cape Leopard Trust from its inception. In memory of their beloved friend, brother, husband, father and son, his family and friends set up the Douglas Lederle Memorial Fund in an ambitious attempt to raise enough money to sponsor one of the Cape Leopard Trust's leopards in the Gouritz area.

Here are some stories about Douglas which give you some insight into his personality and interest in all things conservation related. Once, whilst on the whale trail Douglas used his leatherman to cut down as many Port Jackson trees as he could when he found them in the midst of the trail. He was also seen protecting a pair of Plover's eggs whilst watching a rugby match when their nest was in the path of spectators also watching the game.

And of course his introduction to the Cape Leopard Trust is worth mentioning when, after a few glasses of wine at one of the founding fund raisers, he bid on a painting on auction, a little beyond the budget he had in mind, and a whole lot more than his wife Wilmien had in mind!

The leopard which the memorial fund has adopted has been named “Kishwan” a name given by Douglas to all things fond to him. Originally the name of a farm hand on a family farm in Natal Douglas was very fond of.

[http://www.capeleopard.org.za/news/douglas\\_ledere\\_memorial\\_fund.html](http://www.capeleopard.org.za/news/douglas_ledere_memorial_fund.html)

## **Namaqualand Uplands**

Ben-Jon Dreyer and Gail Potgieter have been working really hard to establish the project in the Namaqualand Uplands. So far, they, with help of two members of Biota, have set up 40 digital cameras and have already captured 3 individual leopards on camera!oon.

## **Cub's death draws attention to cruelty of toothed traps**

*John Yeld, Cape Argus* - A Cape leopard cub that spent an agonising three-and-a-half days with a mangled paw tightly jammed in the steel teeth of a gin-trap on a Northern Cape farm, has been euthanased by conservationists after being released.

Members of the Cape Leopard Trust found that the injuries to its paw, which had been almost severed, and the bones broken, were too severe for the six-month-old animal to have survived in the wild.

The mother leopard had stayed with the cub while it was in the trap, so close that the conservationists at first thought two animals had been trapped.

[http://www.capeleopard.org.za/press/cubs\\_death\\_draws\\_attention\\_to\\_cruelty\\_of\\_toothed\\_traps.html](http://www.capeleopard.org.za/press/cubs_death_draws_attention_to_cruelty_of_toothed_traps.html)

## **Training members of the BIOTA group**

Two members from communities in Namaqualand that are involved in the BIOTA group have been selected to receive training by the CLT project team.

To date, Reginald Christiaan (from Soebatsfontein) and Marianna Lot (from Paulshoek) are being trained in checking camera traps, entering data using the Cybertracker program and logging data on computer. The trainees have been exposed to various aspects of project management, such as liaising with stakeholders, financial management and report writing.

[http://www.capeleopard.org.za/news/training\\_members\\_of\\_the\\_biota\\_group.html](http://www.capeleopard.org.za/news/training_members_of_the_biota_group.html)

---

## **Media & Sponsors**

The Cape Leopard Trust would like to thank every individual, group, company and foundation for their unbelievable support of our project. In the next week or two, we will have all our donors and sponsors names and contributions added to our website. Please let us know if somehow, we unwittingly omitted to include your contribution.

---

### **Recent Sponsor News**

Our biggest sponsor, RMB, has committed substantial funding for the CLT over the following 3 years. We are indebted to ensure that our commitment remains unsurpassed, and that the project develops in a manner showing longevity as well as results benefitting our environment as a whole. We are sure we will not let them or any of our other supporters down!

### **Leopards Leap Wines**

Supporting us from the beginning, Leopards Leap Wines have been a continual source of encouragement. They have made a point of being involved in the project on more than a funding level. The CLT would like to thank them for this as well as for the recent announcement of an increase in their annual sponsorship! So next time you plan on buying a bottle of wine – think of the leopards...

### **The Bailey Wildlife Foundation**

Recognised for their valuable contribution to the conservation of wildlife due to people-wildlife conflict, the Bailey Wildlife Foundation have come to the aid of the CLT by contributing a substantial amount towards our work of conserving predator diversity in the Western Cape. Thank You!

### **Bushmanskloof**

Ongoing support from Bushmanskloof Wilderness Resort continues to fuel our research in the Cederberg. The support and interest from managers Nelson & Jannis as well as staff have been amazing. We value their donation on an annual basis and hope that the guests visiting this stunning reserve realize the contribution that is being made to conservation.

### **Deutsche Bank**

Once again, we would like to thank the Deutsche Bank Foundation for their support of our work after receiving further funding for 2008. Thank you for your commitment to conservation.

### **Energizer**

The Cederberg Project has been relying on batteries for its camera trap surveys since 2004. Now, camera trap surveys in the Swartberg have added to the battery burden. We have minimized this problem by using rechargeable batteries where possible, but still need a considerable amount of these expensive items. Energizer has been supporting us for some time now and have recently committed to a very generous sponsorship of batteries to these two projects. Thank You!

### **Bateleurs**

Tracking leopards in the Cederberg, even with the most advanced GPS equipment, is an arduous task. The Bateleurs have assisted us since 2005 by sponsoring our flights over this magnificent area in order to help track collared leopards and download valuable GPS information. Between fixed-wing airplane flights and helicopter flips, we have successfully managed to download over 20 000 GPS fixes from our leopards. A recent flight by Bateleurs pilot, Johan Ferreira, proved once again how difficult it can be. We had tried to get a GPS download from M2 (Oom Arrie). It took us a while, but we soon located this large male leopard in the Riet River canyon, east of Mount Ceder.

It didn't look promising to get a download, as the terrain is treacherous. After tenaciously flying the area for almost an hour, we eventually gave up, after having only downloaded a handful of points, but having attained quite a dizzy sensation circling the deep crevice from 6000ft. A huge thanks must be extended to this amazing organization as well as to their dedicated pilots!

---

### **Volunteers**

Aneri Vlok, a first-year student at Saasveld joined the project for 2 weeks during her holidays. She was involved with the Cederberg project through her work at Bushmanskloof Lodge and was keen to see what was happening in the Gouritz region.

She was a great help with both administrative and field work, although she clearly preferred being outdoors! She will continue to work closely with the project during her studies!

---

### **Raising Awareness**

The CLT recently printed some posters and brochures detailing the objectives of the CLT, information on leopards, predator friendly farming and how members of the public can get involved.

These were distributed throughout the Western Cape as a means of generating interest and support for the project. We will soon be translating them into Afrikaans so as to reach a wider audience.

---

### **Talks and Presentations**

The CLT has given several talks over the past few months. These have taken place in Cape Town, Cederberg, Swartberg, Gamkaberg, Plettenberg Bay and Namaqualand. More information can be obtained from the website. Many thanks to all those involved in organizing these talks.

---

Items for Sale

#### **Cape Leopard Trust Tyre Covers**

For those of you who drive a 4x4 and have a tyre mounted on the back of your vehicle – this is a must! Depending on how many are on order at any one time, we expect the cost to be roughly R1000 (or even somewhat less). If you are interested, please mail us with your details and tyre size. We will place an order and post you your CLT tyre cover as soon as it has been made up.

#### **T-Shirts for sale**

Cape Leopard Trust t-shirts made by the amazing **Capestorm** outdoor clothing company are now available by order from us, or from Capestorm, Wynberg branch (45 Lester rd, Wynberg); tel: 021 761 2021 or [www.capestorm.co.za](http://www.capestorm.co.za).

**The cost is R160.**

---

Special Thanks...

Once again, **THANK YOU to ALL** of our supporters for having the faith in our ability to make a difference with this project. We will continue to do our very best and put all our effort into work that is crucial to our precious environment. If we have neglected to thank any person who should have been included in this newsletter – PLEASE let us know so we can include you in our next newsletter.

Thank you again for your interest and support.

The Cape Leopard Trust Team

Kind regards

Quinton Martins

Project Manager

The Cape Leopard Trust | [www.capeleopard.org.za](http://www.capeleopard.org.za) | [capeleopard@hixnet.co.za](mailto:capeleopard@hixnet.co.za)  
(+27) 73 241 4513 | (+27) 27 482 2785  
P.O.Box 1118 | Sun Valley | 7985 | Cape Town | South Africa

### **Sponsors and Event Donors**

Project Sponsors:

Sponsors (R500 000 plus):

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund /Conservation International

Rand Merchant Bank

Sponsors (R100 000 – R500 000):

Bergen University

Bushmans Kloof

Deutsche Bank

Eco Aire - Peter Turnbull

Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust

Leopards Leap Wines

Polaris Capital

University of Bristol

Sponsors (R50 000 - R100 000):

Africa Geographic

Auction Alliance

Bateleurs

Capestorm

Engel & Volkers

Rufford Small Grant

Televilt

Sponsors ((R10 000 - R50 000)

Bakkrans Nature Reserve

Cape Nature (House Rental)

CC Africa

Citrusdal Cellars

Fuji Film

Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (GCBC)

Jennie van Malsen Birthday Fund

Jock Kannemeyer – BJK Industries

Karl Westvig

Margaret Baran (Tabs)

Mount Ceder

Photo Connection

Premier Auto Group Rondebosch

Sean Caulfield

Sohn, Gordon, Martins, Brandford Attorneys

Stellenbosch University

Two Oceans Aquarium

Camera Trap Sponsors:

Birding Africa; Boland Eco-4's; Hooper Family; Ian Michler; Jessie Middelman; Land Cruiser Club of SA;Lehr Family; Louise Littlewood – The African Collection; Mountain Club of SA; Paul & Kim Woulfe; Paul & Lindsay Middelman; Peggy Whitson ; Ubuntu Trust

Leopard Adoptions:

"Johan" - Leopards Leap Wines/Africa Geographic

"Lisa" - Leopards Leap Wines/Africa Geographic

"Ouma Maaitjie" - Leopards Leap Wines/Africa Geographic

"Houdini" - Eco Aire/Peter Turnbull

"Max" - Oelz Family

"Oom Arrie" - Engel & Volkers

F6 - "Pantereus" foundation

Anatolian Shepherd Dog sponsorship

sponsored "Tabs" working at Driehoek (Cederberg

Peter Braat - sponsored Sheba to Ampie Albertyn in Botriver.

Margaret Baran – sponsored “Jumbo” to Joubert van der merwe at Biedouw farm (Biedouw Valley).

Deb Jugan - sponsored “dog to Josua Visser at Oudam.

Donors

Avalon Springs; Melissa Baird; Cederberg Conservancy; Cederberg Wines; Cheetah Outreach; Clara Anna Fontein; Gate-7; Gerald Hinde; Guy Hayward; Harley Davidson (Cape Town); Haw & Inglis (Pty); Ian Michler; Jacques Slabber; Louis Kienle; Photo Connection; Picto; MunYaWana Leopard Project; Neil Jowell; RCS; Rotary Club – Clarent; Sandown Motor Holdings; Sean Caulfield; Steve Tugwell;!Khwa

Event Donors:

Africa Geographic; Auction Alliance; Avalon Spring Spa Resort; Bakkrans Nature Reserve; Bushmanskloof; Capestorm; Cederberg Wines; Dawie Fourie; Enviropaedia; Gallery 909; Gerald Hinde; Gravity Adventures; La Med;

Lega D’oro; Leopard’s Leap; Natasha de Wororin; Resolution Colour; Sean Caulfield; Travelers Rest;

Vanessa Cowling; Woolworths