Namibia’s first drought since 2000 has left most farming communities with high stock numbers, failing waters and dusty plains devoid of grass. With this in mind, the AfriCat Team is facing its greatest challenge yet: farmers are afraid and frustrated, even less tolerant of livestock losses to predators than before, forcing us to adapt our farmer – predator conflict mitigation programmes to accommodate this catastrophe which threatens both man and beast alike.

AfriCat North’s communal nocturnal kraals effectively reduce losses to lions and hyaena; this year, however, farmers are moving their livestock further afield, often into wildlife protected areas, challenging us to design mobile kraals able to move with the herds.

Closer to home in the Okonjima Nature Reserve, ‘super-Mom’ Cheetahs Penta, Tongs and Dizzy have shown their mettle, encouraging evidence in support of AfriCat’s Rehabilitation programme.

To all who support AfriCat, our sincere thanks, we could not continue without you.

Conservation through Education ... daughter teaches dad

Five year old Bella Uheja attends the AfriCat supported ‘Blydskap’ pre-School in the Khoa di //Hoas Conservancy, half a day’s donkey-cart drive from her family’s settlement at Kamdescha. One day, the determined little girl asked us to help her father against the lions but that she did not want him to kill them.

The call for help came at midnight – Uheja’s cattle had stampeded and broken out of the makeshift kraal. Without thinking of his own safety, he grabbed his rifle and slipped out into the night.

AfriCat’s Communal Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCCP) team arrived an hour later, to find a distraught Uheja with the remains of his dead cow.

After lengthy discussions, Uheja joined the AfriCat Livestock Protection Programme agreeing to kraal (pen) their livestock at night, to herd them during the day and to maintain and repair their new kraal when necessary. Soon thereafter, AfriCat, with the help of the ‘Ubuntu’ Namibia students, built family Uheja a strong, 2.3m high, mesh-wire kraal to safely hold 500 head of cattle.

It took a little girl’s gentle heart to convince a man to change...

The Perivoli Okonjima Country School

‘Ultimately conservation is about people. If you don’t have sustainable development around wildlife parks – then the people will have no interest in them and the parks will not survive.’ Nelson Mandela.

The Perivoli Okonjima Country School aims to support and challenge the youth to reach for higher education and a stimulating career.

This private, rural school based on Okonjima farm, aims to provide a sound, start-up education for pre-school (ages 2 – 5 yrs) as well as lower primary children (grades 1 – 4).

‘Education for the next generation’ is our motto, forming the youth as future leaders and conservationists of our wonderful country.

It is so important to create awareness of the environment in any way possible, especially if it is right on one’s doorstep; to constantly stimulate pupils’ imaginations and to teach them how to care for the environment in which they are privileged to live. At the end of our second year, the children had seen wildlife up close, watched their behaviour in the wild and also become comfortable communicating in English.

The TUSK TRUST and The Daily Telegraph

For three days Okonjima and AfriCat’s Environmental Education Programme hosted 18 Grade 7 pupils from the Spes Bona Primary School, which is based in Otiwarongo. It was their first field trip and they spent their time examining the very basic elements of the environment – sunlight, soil, water and air and their interrelationships in the field; went on nature walks and game drives and took part in debates about large carnivores and the pros and cons of having them on farmland.

Overall, the experience for the kids was mind blowing and they all expressed that in their three-day stay they had learned so much because it was not just ‘sitting and listening’, but the practical fun things to do that made them learn.

Welcome visitors from TUSK TRUST and The Daily Telegraph joined one of the environmental education sessions, much to the enjoyment of the children.

We have identified four children who showed the most interest and exceeded in many of the activities and discussions. They will be invited to join a longer camp in the school holidays this year, where they will join pupils from other schools.

The TUSK TRUST is currently sponsoring the teacher’s salary of AfriCat’s Environmental Education programme.
**Drought – a trying time for farmers and wildlife alike**

The drought in Namibia is challenging most farmers. However, the 20,000 ha Okonjima Nature Reserve may be known for predator conservation, but in the Reserve itself, the land is taking time to recover after years of cattle farming and overgrazing by previous landowners. Sustainable methods have protected both grazing and browse despite large numbers of wildlife in this area; simultaneously, we have de-bushed and burned invader species creating more open plains and space for the released cheetahs to live, hunt and roam naturally.

**Warthogs**

Many Warthog families can be seen around the reserve searching for food; this seldom-seen sighting of a warthog burrowed in his hole to keep warm on our cold winter nights, was taken by a lucky guest!

**Mamba vs. Mongoose**

A Black Mamba (Dendroaspis polylepis) was spotted in the top of a dead Blackthorn acacia, below it a Slender Mongoose hoping for a meal. Guests watched in amazement as the mongoose kept sneaking up to try and get a bite at any part of the mamba. Its speed of attack was a blur, but so was the mamba’s as it struck down as well. It was one of those sightings when the outcome is uncertain, one doesn’t really want either to lose. You have to admire the mongoose for trying to take on one of Africa’s deadliest snakes. This photograph was taken by a guest while on a game drive. Unfortunately, the group had to continue on their activity and could not wait for this fight for survival to play out.

**Large herds of Elephant damage installations in search of water**

Adolfine, the teacher at Blydskap pre-school, sent us an urgent sms requesting help as a herd of elephant had pulled down their windmill and punctured the reservoir. She reported seeing at least two herds of about 40 members each, including calves, come to the water each day at sunset, some having to leave the area without quenching their thirst. AfriCat has reported this incident to those responsible for repair of these installations as well as to the Ministry of Environment & Tourism and positive feedback has been received. **Cape Fox**

A unique, small carnivore has been seen for the 2nd time only in the history of Okonjima by our guides and our guests! Motion detection cameras, set up around the Nature Reserve for research purposes have picked up regular movements of the Cape Fox during the early hours of the morning, between 1am - 3am. This has been one of the highlights of 2013!

**Lion Guardians patrol new area**

Sydney & ‘German’ spent four long days visiting communities troubled by lions along the northern and western Hoba-tere borders. The fence between this protected area and farmland is still in disrepair; animals are migrating vast distances for food and water because of the severe drought, with farmers becoming even less tolerant of livestock losses to predators. The AfriCat CCCP Team camped ‘wild’ and met with community leaders & game guards in the Palmfontein (Palm Fountain) area, gathering valuable information on the resident lions (approx. 6-10). This protected wildlife area is teeming with giraffe, oryx, springbok and Hartmann’s zebra. With sufficient natural prey and low numbers of livestock, the lions seldom kill cattle or donkeys, thus encouraging the communities in their plans of developing a tourism venture in this area in the near future. Unfortunately, the team found signs of poaching, as well as six dead, white-backed vultures close to a fountain which had been screen off by a farmer trying to keep the water for his livestock herds alone! Patrols of this nature are undertaken at least once a month and provide AfriCat, the Conservancy Game Guards and Committee with valuable feedback and the necessary contact with these communities.

**Running the 2 Oceans**

AfriCat and Okonjima make a dream come true: This year AfriCat was represented at the 2 Ocean’s Marathon in Cape Town, SA. Matthias Mutota, a proud Namibian from Swakopmund, supported conservation on behalf of AfriCat as he ran a difficult marathon under the AfriCat banner. His first race ever outside Namibian Borders and he came 6th in the veteran category in the time of 1hr 20min. It was a tough race apparently - hilly and windy, but the atmosphere was amazing! Matthias always dreamed of running the 2 Oceans and trained every day - AfriCat and Okonjima sponsored his whole trip and registration fees and made a dream come true!

**MJ’s 6th Cub at the age of 14**

On the 29th of April, MJ finally shared the secret that she’d been keeping for months! Her 6th cub was seen by one of our guides while out tracking. She is the oldest female in the Nature Reserve and we have been lucky enough to have followed MJ and her brother TJ, since they were cubs.

**First Pangolin release**

A pangolin (Manis teminickii) named Coll, has recently found a home in the safe haven that is Okonjima Nature Reserve. He was found on the black market and bought by a couple who, fortunately for Coll, decided to contact REST (Rare & Endangered Species Trust). He was collected and in a joint

Continues on page 7...
Applications of technology
by Olivia Yetman

Technology has come a long way over the last couple of decades; appearing to progress at an ever increasing rate, it is hard to keep abreast of the latest advances in phones, laptops, cameras or TVs. Within the conservation sphere, certain technologies have enabled protection to become much more efficient, accessible and cost-effective. Using GPS data, geographical information systems (GIS), remote control web cams and motion-sensitive cameras (among other things), effective methods of tracking, monitoring and data analysis can now be implemented, which save on time, manpower and therefore money.

However, in many cases while GPS tracking, remote controls and live video streaming have made conserving an area much easier, in the wrong hands their use can be damaging. Through acquiring similar equipment or through computer hacking, many of the beneficial applications of the technologies can be reversed by poachers or other exploiters of natural resources.

AfriCat will continue to bring in new methods and updated technologies, aiding its efforts to protect the carnivores of Namibia. However, as technology develops, so will its uses for and against conservation. If used correctly, these technologies have the potential to remove the ability to carry out poaching, illegal logging, mining, etc. Nevertheless, the motives for the illegal exploitation of the natural world remain the same; thus in the long term, efforts need to be made to address these root causes. Stamping out the origin of these activities, as well as preventing them from occurring, is the only way to prevent them from happening.

Rescue and release – is it feasible?

A rescue and release programme is always going to be a high profile, emotive, excitement-driven drama. But will it work? ‘Released’ predators could be killed by rivals in their new territories or could return to previous conflict zones on farms.

There are several elements that need to be taken into consideration in a rescue and release programme, whether the operation involves either reintroductions or reinforcements through translocations, releases into the wild or rehabilitation. These include a feasibility study to determine what the likelihood is of the released animal surviving; a standard operating procedure to set out the process to be followed in the case of a rescue and release, and a post release monitoring phase.

These are only some of the factors that need to be considered when a cheetah or other predator has been trapped by a farmer, believing it to be a threat to his livestock. It has become evident that removing a cheetah from one area and placing it in another far away from where it originates is in many cases not in the best interest of the animal concerned. For this reason AfriCat has moved away from its original ‘Rescue and Release’ programme to one of ‘Rescuing’ predators through working with farmers and helping them to find alternative solutions within the conflict zone. It is in this way that there is the greatest chance of man and beast continuing to live side by side in the years to come.
AFRICAT is familiar with the predator problems on communal and free-hold farmland (commercial) throughout Namibia, especially along the western, northern and southern boundaries of the Etosha National Park as well as in central Namibia. In order to ensure the long term survival of carnivores, AfriCat's focus is on establishing the sustainability of conflict mitigation practices and the effectiveness of translocating some of these carnivores from one area to another; research and monitoring of carnivore populations provides reliable data for long term management and educating the youth as well as young, emerging Namibian farmers, will provide a platform for attitude change. The AfriCat Foundation is dependent on support in order to maintain our various programmes.

### Namibia Wild Dog and Hobatere Lion research projects

An innovative, collaborative effort between three of the most respected non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Namibia, on a study site 800 km from Windhoek that includes approx. 40 communal farms in the Kavango Region east of Etosha National Park, urgently requires a research vehicle and additional items such as binoculars and trail cameras for research and monitoring of the Wild Dogs. The Lion monitoring programme in the Hobatere concession strives to establish the number of Lions resident in Hobatere, the population dynamics and their movements. This data will enable AfriCat to improve on the mitigation methods already implemented by the Communal Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCCP).

Urgently required items for this work include a research vehicle, GPS Satellite collars for lions, trail cameras, a digital camera, a video camera, two Notebooks (PCs), veterinary equipment and drugs for immobilisation, camping equipment and financial support for staff salaries and foodstuffs.

The list seems to go on forever as research and monitoring programmes are costly, but any form of contribution is highly appreciated.

### ADOPT-A-SPOT

When you symbolically ADOPT-A-SPOT for AfriCat, you are contributing to the conservation of large carnivores in Namibia. It’s easy and affordable.

At our new Carnivore Care and Information Centre we have painted life-size cats on our wall but their spots and rosettes are not coloured in yet - as soon as you ADOPT-A-SPOT, the cheetah and leopard will regain their spots!

The funding goes towards the AfriCat Foundation’s general running costs, veterinary expenses, computers, vehicles, cameras, collars, telemetry, research and fuel.

### ADOPT-A-CAT

This programme supports the animals in our Carnivore Care Centre (CCC) where you can 'adopt' individual animals and fund their upkeep and veterinary costs.

### Support the monitoring of a recently rehabilitated carnivore in the 200 km² Okonjima Nature Reserve

Many of AfriCat’s carnivores rescued from substandard captive conditions are fit enough to be rehabilitated into the 20 000 ha Okonjima Nature Reserve. To do this effectively, we need anaesthetic drugs, equipment for tracking and monitoring, supplementary meat and fuel for daily tracking.

**Fuel costs:**
- **1 week:** N$ 400 / Meat for a recently released cheetah for 1 month: N$ 600

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION...the only chance for co-existence

Conservation through Education is our Motto: A weekend (2 nights) for a school class at the AfriCat Environmental Education Centre costs approximately N$250.00 per child. Donations to this project support the costs of educational materials, transport, food and refreshments.

### Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Community Support

For most Namibians, livestock are their lifeline. AfriCat strives to find workable solutions to this conflict by introducing Livestock Management Programmes which include improved livestock protection.

The Livestock Protection Programme at AfriCat North includes the building of cattle and goat kraals in communal conservancies.

**Materials to build an average-sized kraal cost approximately N$30 000.00**

### Celebrate the life, achievements and character of someone you cherish!

Through a legacy, honour someone special, give tribute to a life well-lived or simply celebrate a special occasion. A legacy gift is meaningful and long-lasting, helping future generations of Namibian children and their natural heritage.

### Grab a group of your colleagues or sponsor your friend or partner – Workplace Sponsorships

Engage your colleagues and friends to conduct a joint fund-raiser to raise donations for AfriCat – hold competitions, arrange a jumble sale, auction and other fun events to motivate your co-workers and friends to raise a donation for AfriCat. Sponsor friends, colleagues or partners to mark an achievement - run a marathon in AfriCat’s name, swim or cycle for AfriCat, play football for AfriCat – all for a good cause.

The funding goes towards the AfriCat Foundation’s general running costs, veterinary expenses, computers, vehicles, cameras, collars, telemetry, research and fuel.

**Please note:** Please indicate whether you would like to receive your certificate of support by mail or email. UK or USA tax payers can take advantage of Gift Aid by contacting our representative in their countries. If you are interested in receiving information on legacy donations please contact AfriCat directly. You can assist AfriCat by supporting us through your PAYPAL account to make a donation to africat@africat.org
SPOTS for AfriCat

The Dutch Charity, Stichting SPOTS has contributed to AfriCat initiatives for a number of years. Simone Eckhardt, founder of Stichting SPOTS and her team have supported AfriCat’s Livestock Protection Programme by raising funds for building safe kraals for livestock and more recently donated a 5-ton truck to transport materials to help communal farmers protect their livestock from predators, especially lion. We owe our thanks to this team of dedicated conservationists.

Not only that, but our call for GPS lion collars was promptly answered with a donation by Stichting SPOTS supporters Lia Spitters and Joop Doorduin. Impressed with the work done at the AfriCat Carnivore Care Centre, which they visited in mid-2012, they sponsored medical equipment and contributed towards purchasing the lion collars. These collars will allow monitoring of ‘Hobatere Lions’ near the western Etosha boundary and provide data on their population numbers, dynamics and movements to develop effective mitigation programmes to protect the lions as well as to support adjacent communal farming communities.

UBUNTU Namibia – by Roland & Susanne Schaefer

During the past 2 years, friends from Germany and Namibia have gathered together as ‘Ubuntu Namibia’, with a common objective: “we want to help the people of Namibia to be able to determine their own future. Fundamental for this is education, which builds upon the culture and traditions of the Namibian people and acts as a bridge to the demands of modern Namibia. In particular, we were introduced by the AfriCat Foundation to the ‘Blydskap’ Pre-Primary School on Marienhöhe farm, near Kamanjab. Here, schoolmistress Adolfine, cares for and teaches about 20 pupils aged between 4 – 7. Together with Tammy Hoth, Director of the Foundation, we have been able to complete our first projects: installing toilets, a water-tank and pipes; renovating the school building and preparing sports fields.

Our dearest wish is to build a small hostel for pupils and the staff taking care of them and developing a student sponsorship programme to support pupils whose parents cannot afford to pay the school and boarding fees.

All this is only possible thanks to the support of Lily and Monique Taylor from Swakopmund and Tammy Hoth of AfriCat.

Our project is receiving great support in Germany and we are confident that we will find sufficient funds to enable us to achieve our common objective step-by-step.”

Our progress can be followed via our Blog: ubuntu-namibia.blogspot.de and we can be reached by email at ubuntu.namibia@gmail.com

Keeping cheetahs’ teeth healthy

One of the biggest challenges facing cheetah rehabilitation is the state of their teeth – without them they cannot survive. AfriCat’s main problem became the way we feed our captive cheetahs as well as those that are in line for rehabilitation. Cheetahs are programmed to gulp their meat rapidly so that it can’t be scavenged by larger carnivores. In captivity these feeding habits can have negative effects on the dentition of the cats and on their digestive systems, as shown in a study by veterinary dentist Dr Gerhard Steenkamp.

After several discussions at AfriCat, it was decided to try to create a sand-free area for these cats to eat on – not an easy task in Namibia, so the idea of conveyor belt ‘dinner plates’ arose. These structures are robust and can easily be cleaned or even swept to remove sand.

The AfriCat Foundation would like to thank Rio Tinto/Rössing Uranium Mine for donating used, cleaned conveyor belts to the value of N$25 000 and Hoch and Tieff for transporting them to AfriCat. They have provided a valuable opportunity for us to create a better and healthier environment for our cheetahs.

When finally approved for rehabilitation – one criterion always takes top priority – ‘how healthy are their teeth?’

Okonjima & AfriCat are honoured by recognition from the W&V Group

Cheetah Tours Team donates tyres

Helmut Schäfer and the Cheetah Tours Team support AfriCat! The Okonjima vehicles spend hours assisting Team AfriCat with monitoring of the rehabilitated carnivores. Cheetah Tours decided to help by donating 29 second-hand ‘ALL & MUD TERRAIN’ tyres towards this cause.

CHEETAH TOURS, AFRICAT THANKS YOU!

Tyre Sponsorships 2013

AfriCat North’s Communal Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCCP) vehicles travel vast distances over rugged, rocky roads and bush-tracks in support of lion conservation and troubled farming communities. Reliable vehicles and tyres enable our teams to continue unabated with their research, environmental education and human-wildlife conflict mitigation programmes. We are very grateful to the two companies who have consistently supported us with much needed, reliable tyres, normally a huge expense in our transport budget.

Tyre 2000/Tyre-Mart reiterated their support for AfriCat’s CCCP by once again donating valuable all-terrain tyres for one of its vehicles. Tyre 2000 commenced their sponsorship in 2010, when Okorusu Fluorspar Mine donated the first of two pick-ups dedicated to carnivore conservation and community support.

The second CCCP vehicle was recently fitted with brand new all-terrain tyres, kindly donated by Tiger Wheel & Tyres in support of lion conservation and communities.
First Cheetah Cubs Born Wild, in the Okonjima Nature Reserve

We are very proud to announce that Dizzy gave birth to three cubs on 16 April – the first cheetahs ever born wild in the Okonjima Nature Reserve. Dizzy was one of a group of five cheetahs that had grown up together at AfriCat’s Carnivore Centre since 2008 and who were released into the Okonjima Nature Reserve in June 2012. From the start, she was the most proficient hunter, basically becoming self-sufficient after six months. Since February this year she has been spotted with kills, mainly kudu calves, every third day. She set up a territory for herself in the north-western part of the 200km² reserve, but was last seen in the south in mid-January, mating with one of our male cheetahs Bones, and it was there that she gave birth to her cubs. We supplied her with food for the first few days, but she made her first kill on the morning of 23 April – a duiker.

Her maternal instincts are clearly well developed, despite having spent most of her adulthood in captivity. She is a natural at moving her cubs around, hiding them in thick bush and now hunting for herself and her cubs again. We are so proud of you, Dizzy. You go girl! – Louis Heyns

TONGS – OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL SINGLE, FEMALE CHEETAH

One of the great success stories of the Okonjima Cheetah Rehabilitation Programme is the one of our female cheetahs, Tongs. She was released into the Okonjima 20 000ha Nature Reserve in July 2010, having arrived at AfriCat in 2005 as an orphaned cub. Tongs was released on her own and started hunting almost from day one. She just had it in her. Even when she was in captivity one could see there was something different about her. She wanted to get out there and be wild and free and she didn’t disappoint us! In December 2012, she came into season for the first time and was spotted a few times with Bones, one of our male cheetahs. Bones, and it was there that she gave birth to her cubs. We supplied her with food for the first few days, but she made her first kill on the morning of 23 April – a duiker.

She was released into the Okonjima 20 000ha Nature Reserve in June 2012. From the start, she was the most proficient hunter, basically becoming self-sufficient after six months. Since February this year she has been spotted with kills, mainly kudu calves, every third day.

On 8 May we were finally able to welcome our second litter of cubs in the Okonjima 20 000ha Nature Reserve! Tongs was found under a thicket with her latest achievement – four newly born cubs.

We believe Tongs will make a great mother and the wonderful news of her four cubs has now completed her success story as our most independent and victorious, rehabilitated cheetah. Go Tongs!

AfriCat North Lions go South - to their new home at AfriCat on Okonjima

The decision to close the AfriCat North Lion Sanctuary on Farm Kaross and to move it closer to Okonjima came when the farm was sold at the end of 2012. The ever-increasing pressure to find workable solutions to the farmer-predator conflict, to escalate our lion research and monitoring programmes as well as to continue with our Environmental Education outreach in Namibia’s communal conservancies led us to decide to move our four lions (Kilimanjaro, Shavula, Shenzi and Thimba) and one leopard (Lewa) to the AfriCat Carnivore Care Centre on Okonjima.

AfriCat North Lion Sanctuary, 19h00 Saturday 26 January 2013:

Vet Dr Mark Jago, was concerned that the oppressive heat may dangerously push up the lions’ temperatures so we decided to wait. Lewa, the placid leopard, was immobilised and loaded into her crate first. Kilimanjaro was wary, sensing that something was not quite normal and Dr Jago managed to dart him just before nightfall. Shenzi could also safely be sedated and loaded onto transport for the long journey south. That left the two youngsters, Shavula & Thimba. With no natural light remaining, we abandoned the plan to immobilise the brothers that night.

AfriCat HQ Carnivore Care Centre, 04h00 Sunday 27 January:

Eventually, after a 330km journey, our carnivore convoy arrived at Okonjima. Although deprived of sleep, we decided it was best to return north to collect the ‘boys’. Luckily there was a relieving shower of rain and we managed the immobilisation in record time and could get them to Okonjima by 01h00 the next morning.

From Team AfriCat North to all who helped and supported us, sincere thanks to Lara (assistant Environmental Educator), de Vries and Pieter (Okonjima Guides) – your support during the translocation is much appreciated. To Dr Mark Jago – all went smoothly thanks to your care and concern and to Gustav, special thanks for bringing the lions on your truck to their new home.

Keeping calves in kraals may not be detrimental to weight gain

It is commonly believed that cattle calves kept in kraals and separated from their mothers and allowed only one milk feed a day, are less likely to gain optimal weight than calves that have access to grazing and their mothers’ milk on a regular basis. Shelly Rothman conducted a survey in 2011 to test this premise on two groups of calves and found that although the kraaled calves gained weight more slowly than those allowed out in the bush, when they were given access to grass (at three months) and free grazing (at four months) the kraaled calves quickly caught up with the bush calves. The two groups of calves were so close in weight that there seemed no benefit to giving calves early access to grass and exposing them to increased danger of predation.

In a parallel survey, Shelly tested the efficacy of introducing donkeys and their offspring into the bush calf herd, as they are commonly believed to be good protection against predation. The losses to the two groups were nearly equal, and led to the conclusion that donkeys are not economically viable as guard animals, since they consume food and water that could have been used for cattle.
In 2012, AfriCat UK’s Board of Trustees was reconstituted, with the Chair-
man of the AfriCat Foundation in Namibia, Mark Reinecke, joining Da-
vid Farquharson and long-time AfriCat UK supporter Carey Widdows as
Trustees. AfriCat UK has a dedicated and passionate board, working to
raise AfriCat’s profile and awareness within the United Kingdom.

AfriCat’s Patrons
AfriCat enjoys the invaluable support of its two patrons, Lorraine Kelly
and Chris Packham.

Lorraine Kelly OBE, television presenter, journalist and actress extraor-
dinaire, is also a patron of the Association for International Cancer Re-
search.

Chris Packham, naturalist, conservationist, nature photographer, televi-
sion presenter and author, is a passionate supporter of AfriCat and on
his recent visit to AfriCat recorded a number of extraordinary clips on
the foundation and its work which may be viewed at www.africat.org
and www.chrispackham.co.uk

AfriCat and TUSK Trust
The AfriCat Foundation is honoured to be one of TUSK Trust’s chosen
projects. One of the UK’s best known conservation charities, Prince Wil-
liam became TUSK’s Patron in 2005 and the charity’s work has been
widely covered on television and in the media (see article on page 1). AfriCat re-
lishes partnering with TUSK to contribute to conservation awareness amongst Namibia’s next generation.

Warm gratitude to Messrs. Swan Turton
and Travers Smith
The UK law firm of Swan Turton (www.swanturton.com) has been a
steadfast supporter of AfriCat UK over the past year and a partner of
the firm, David Farquharson and Trustee of AfriCat UK, has provided in-
valuable commercial advice on a number of matters over the past 12
months.

AfriCat UK is also indebted to the Disputes team at London law firm
Travers Smith (www.traverssmith.com), whose partners Stephen Paget-
Brown and Richard Brown skilfully handled some complex contentious
issues facing the charity. AfriCat UK is indeed grateful for their time and
efforts on behalf of the charity.

As you are aware, PAWS (People and Wildlife Solutions) has
sadly closed down and ended a four-year roller-coaster ride of
excitement, conservation experiences, bush clearing, fence rip-
ping and tracking carnivores on foot. The reason for this was
because we simply could not generate the revenue we needed
to operate as an independent and viable project.
The world recession, which has affected tourism throughout
southern Africa played a part in this, but we have also seen a sub-
stantial drop in our volunteer numbers. This is largely due to the
fact that we can’t compete with projects that allow volunteers
to have direct contact with the animals, as it is not in line with
AfriCat’s vision of preserving and conserving the ‘wild’ cats.

However – as an indication of just how much was achieved by
the project – here are statistics of some of the volunteers’ activi-
ties since 2008. They:
• Removed over 580km of old cattle fencing
• Cleared out about 880kg of poo and bones from the wel-
fare enclosures that hold AfriCat’s non-releasable predators
• Cleared an estimated 264ha of encroaching bush and re-
moved invasive alien plant species
• Assisted at the Perivoli Country Primary school
• Were key helpers during the annual health and dental checks
• Monitored newly collared leopards and cheetahs and car-
rried out weekly game strip-counts
• Collected photos of rear left tracks of cheetah and caracals
  to be sent to Wildtracks’ database
• Gave the AfriCat offices a ‘paint lift’
• Created their own vegetable plot
• Repaired bush roads and removed old predator-proof fencing
• Assisted the Rare and Endangered Species Trust (REST) with
  their vulture preservation activities.

Goodbye to PAWS
Not a bad show!
For all you lovely and amaz-
ning people who were a part
of this, a huge thank you from
AfriCat, Okonjima Reserve
and REST and of course, from
all the amazing wildlife which
has benefited from your work.
You can be proud of being a
part of something that has
made a difference here.

...Continued from page 2

conservation effort between REST and AfriCat,
released on Okonjima Nature Reserve in May. Pangolins are very rarely seen and many peo-
ple do not even know they exist. They are also
very secretive animals and very little is known
about them. Only a handful of researchers are
actively studying this species. For this reason,
Coll was fitted with a radio-collar so that his progress can be moni-
tored daily. (AfriCat follows the same principle with rehabilitated and
rescued animals which are all fitted with transmitters so that their pro-
gress can be followed in a wild, natural eco-system).
The AfriCat Foundation publishes a quarterly, digital newsletter as well as a printed version such as this one.

As a cost saving measure and in order to reach as wide an audience as possible, we prefer, however, to send out the newsletters electronically.

Should you wish to continue receiving our printed newsletter, and you are a current AfriCat supporter / donor please complete the form below and return it to us or email to africat@mweb.com.na.

To be able to receive the quarterly digital newsletter – you do not have to be a current sponsor or donor.

“The AfriCat North base has moved to the farm Blyerus, about 10 km from our former home on Kaross. While the lions and ‘Lewa’ the leopard, have moved south to the AfriCat Carnivore Care Centre on Okonjima, our Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Research Programmes around Etosha and in the communal Conservancies continue as before; the centre for Environmental Education should be completed by April 2014.”

AfriCat group page:  http://www.facebook.com/groups/137505922926143/
AfriCat Environmental Education page:  http://www.facebook.com/pages/AfriCat-Environmental-Education/270729123046968
AfriCat Charity page:  http://www.facebook.com/TheAfriCatFoundation

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State:  

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