

Frame GW, Frame LH. Study on cheetah and hunting dogs.

Keywords: 1Afr/Acinonyx jubatus/cheetah/gazelle/hunting dog/migration/report/research/Serengeti

Abstract: A quarterly short report from the Serengeti Research Institute during January until March. By beginning of January nearly all the Seronera cheetahs had migrated onto the plains in order to follow the gazelles. In February most cheetahs are still away and in March they are still abundant on the plains.

# STUDY ON CHEETAH AND HUNTING DOGS

*A quarterly report by George and Lory Herbison Fraine—from the Serengeti Research Institute:-*

## JANUARY

BY the beginning of this month nearly all the Seronera cheetahs had migrated onto the plains in order to follow the gazelles.

Goldie, who normally resides among the Simba Kopjes, left her litter of three sub-adult cubs. She was later seen alone north of Naabi Hill, about 20 kilometers away. It is likely that she will soon have another litter.

Two new litters of cheetahs were seen at Naabi Hill. One litter consists of four cubs, and the other of three. The cubs are so young that they are mostly black, with the exception of the long grey mane. Both mothers and their cubs were subsequently resighted several times in the same area. The migrations of gazelles have made hunting very easy for both.

On 25 January one adult male hunting dog was immobilized near the southeast end of the Gol Kopjes, for the purpose of attaching a radio-collar. Within a few hours he was completely recovered from the effects of the drug, and later led the pack of ten dogs in hunting gazelles. The pack was followed continuously for the next two days, during which time they travelled about 30 kilometers.

## FEBRUARY

Most cheetahs are still away from the Seronera area, because in this season the gazelles are very few in numbers.

One pack of hunting dogs was found several times near the Maasai Kopjes and the upper end of the Seronera River. Another pack of hunting dogs, containing 12 large pups, occupied the area between the Simba Kopjes, Naabi Hill, and the Moru Kopjes.

In the Southeast Pack of hunting dogs, Jinja (the radio-collared adult male) is well and continues to be a frequent leader of the pack.

## MARCH

This month a second hunting dog was immobilized and fitted with a radio-collar. She an adult female in the Southeast Pack. The radio-collar can be detected at a distance of five to eight kilometers by an antenna mounted on a Land Rover.

There were still almost no gazelles in the Seronera area, consequently very few cheetahs were seen in the vicinity this month. Cheetahs are still abundant on the plains.