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Abstract: The goal of this meeting was to generate guidelines for ethical hunting of the cheetah in Namibia, with an emphasis on sustainable utilization and long-term conservation of the species.

Chairman: Jochen Hein

Meeting time: 2:05 pm

Attendees: Mr. Johann Vaatz, NAPHA president
Mr. Eberhard Frey, NAPHA member
Mr. Wayne Hanssen, Africat
Ms. Laurie Marker-Kraus, CCF
Mr. Daniel Kraus, CCF
Mr. Peter Tyldsley, Namibia Nature Foundation
Ms. Nanette M. Singh

Not present: Mr. Dressel Mr. Kratzer
 Mr. Garbade Mr. Dietherle

Minutes:

Background and Introduction:

Mr. Vaatz presented an overview of NAPHA progress and expressed satisfaction that NAPHA, Africat and CCF are working together. The goal of this meeting was to generate guidelines for ethical hunting of the cheetah in Namibia, with an emphasis on sustainable utilization and long-term conservation of the species (specifically for U.S. approval). Trophy hunting should generate funds to be used for cheetah conservation which should be administered by the NNF for specific conservation projects. It was suggested by Mr. Don Lindsay at a NAPHA-South Africa meeting to develop a management system aimed at the enhancement of the species. From this, Mr. Vaatz created a subcommittee to address this issue. Then Dr. Jim Teer visited Namibia on request by the SCI and met with various parties to draw up a compact for the management of cheetah in Namibia which everyone was asked to sign. This compact will go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and be used for CITES.

Discussion of trophy fee and NAPHA aims:

Mr. Vaatz proposed a trophy fee for cheetah of N\$5000-N\$6000. Of this, N\$1000 would go to NNF to support conservation of the species (proof of payment would be via a receipt from NNF). Those present agreed that the farmer should get the largest amount of the trophy fee (at least 50% after initial N\$1000 has been deducted) for providing living space for the animal and doing their part in cheetah conservation. Raising the trophy fee to an excessively high price is not a good idea, because this may encourage trapping and selling of cheetahs as trophies with little regard for ethics and conservation.

The following NAPHA aims for the trophy hunting of cheetah were presented by Mr. Vaatz:

- 1) That an ethical way to hunt the cheetah be established and accepted by U.S. and international bodies.
- 2) That the NAPHA-Raspaco committee work together with the CCF and Africat in making recommendations and sharing information.
- 3) That the Namibian government be included in the process.
- 4) That NAPHA play a direct role in conservation.

Discussion of ways to enforce ethical hunting of cheetah:

Mr. Hanssen raised a question about the export of cheetahs from Namibia to South Africa for hunting purposes. Ms. Marker-Kraus responded that if animals are exported for this purpose, it is illegal and that this practice needs to be stopped with more careful monitoring of the situation. The discussion then turned to the numbers of cheetah that are hunted annually. Ms. Marker-Kraus provided Cities figures which indicate that the number of cheetah trophy hunted in the past years has been quite low (1980-1982: 0 cheetahs; 1983: 12 cheetahs; 1984: 7 cheetahs; 1985: 21 cheetahs; 1986: 17 cheetahs; 1987: 12 cheetahs; 1988: 20 cheetahs; 1989: 32 cheetahs; 1990: 29 cheetahs; 1991: 40 cheetahs). Ms. Marker-Kraus suggested that in addition to the Ministry of Wildlife, farmers should enact self-enforcement based on ethical practices and conservationist attitudes. The question arose as to whether the numbers of cheetah that were to be trophy hunted be apportioned according to farm or per professional hunter. Mr. Vaatz indicated that there should be a limit per professional hunter. Regulations on this issue are detailed in a permit document which should be obtained from the Ministry. Furthermore it was mentioned that only the U.S.A. doesn't allow the importation of cheetah.

Mr. Hanssen proposed that tail-banding photos of hunted animals (for identification) be required as a means of enforcing ethical hunting and that this matter be taken up with the Ministry.

The following perspectives were offered by Mr. Tyldsley:

- 1) Illegal hunting can never be totally abolished, but it should be kept to an absolute minimum. This is mainly the job of the Ministry.
- 2) NAPHA should be on the side of conservation in terms of ethical hunting, and guidance for all members needs to come from within.
- 3) All those hunting cheetahs should be involved and included.

Mr. Vaatz expressed concern over how to include non-NAPHA members who are trophy hunters in the process. It was suggested that the guidelines for ethical hunting and conservation of cheetahs should be spread through the educational efforts of NNF, CDF, Arrivat and NAPHA. Mr. Hein proposed that NAPHA have regional representatives to help to educate the community, advise farmers that have cheetah problems, and assist in enforcing the ethical hunting of cheetah in the region. Additionally, anyone applying for a hunting permit for cheetah from the Ministry should be issued with a document pertaining the new guidelines and the trophy fee.

Outline of ethical and non-ethical ways of hunting cheetah:

- 1) Cannot be shot in traps or small camps; 1000 ha minimum.
- 2) Artificial lights at night is illegal.
- 3) Any preconditioned or "set-up" hunt (e.g. the cheetah is partially tranquilized or has been previously caught and then released at the time of the hunt) is not acceptable.
- 4) Use of bait is not allowed. This includes using a live trapped cheetah to attract his mates.
- 5) Using dogs to hunt cheetah is not acceptable.

Cheetah should be hunted as follows:

- 1) Stalking the animal in the bush
- 2) Waiting at an area where cheetahs pass through (i.e. playtrees, walkways)
- 3) Using a dart gun is acceptable
- 4) Using a predator caller (no 24 hour recordings)

Additionally:

- A. Males should be taken over females.
- B. Females with cubs should not be taken as this will create "problem animals".
- C. The hunter must have a hunting permit.
- D. NAPHA should be supplied with scientific reasons supporting the above guidelines.
- E. Guides and p.h.'s need information on cheetah morphology (difference between males and females), social structure and behaviour.

At last it was discussed how the money collected by the NNF for cheetah conservation should be utilized. It was suggested that monies be used for a proof electric fence (in the interest of game farmers), and Mr. Vaatz suggested that projects more directly related to the hunting aspect be subsidised, such as monitoring population numbers.

The meeting was adjourned and Mr. Jochen Hein will be in contact about the next meeting.