

Hein J. 1995. Extracts from a NAPHA-Raspeco Meeting, 24 March 1995 2 p.

Keywords: Acinonyx jubatus jubatus/cheetah/education/farming/NAPHA/Raspeco

Abstract: The general function of the NAPHA-Raspeco sub-committee is for all involved to look toward plans for the future. The short-term plan includes sub-committee members to encourage other farmers to sign the Compact. With this in mind, it is important that the members of the sub-committee should help in the educational process with NAPHA members, farmers and farm workers in their community.

Extracts from a NAPHA-Raspeco meeting, 24 March 1995

Chairman: Mr. Jochen Hein

Attendees: Mr. Dieter Morsbach - Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Mr. T. Garbade - NAPHA Member
Mr. Frank Dietterle - NAPHA Member
Ms. Annette von Leipzig - for Ebbie Frey, NAPHA member
Mr. Stephen De Vincent - Cheetah Conservation Fund
Mrs. Laurie Marker-Kraus - Cheetah Conservation Fund
secretary, Raspeco-cheetah committee

The general function of this sub-committee is for all involved to look toward plans for the future. The short-term plans included sub-committee members to encourage other farmers to sign the Compact. With this in mind, it is important that the members of the sub-committee should help in the educational process with NAPHA members, farmers and farmworkers in their community.

The sub-committee is now quite regional and the members should assist conservation efforts by inviting the Cheetah Conservation Fund or Africat to their Farmer Association Meetings and assisting farmers with cheetah questions or problems or facilitating their communications with Cheetah Conservation Fund or Africat (acting as a middle person).

The indiscriminate catching of cheetahs must stop. Uninformed farmers can cause themselves more problems by continuous catching as it opens up territories and more cheetahs can come into the area.

If farmers were having a "real" problem with cheetah then the professional hunters should use the problem cheetah for trophy purposes, thus helping the farmer and the hunter. The hunters must work together with the farmers, there must be a marketing strategy.

Mr. Morsbach said that he will help as a go between. If a farmer calls his office and says he is having problems with a stock killing cheetah, he will contact professional hunters. There will be a great benefit if everyone will get involved. He has offered his office as the central point. Professional hunters let the Ministry know when they have overseas hunters coming in who want to shoot a cheetah and the Ministry can help link the hunter with the farmers.

But this must not be abused by the farmer, as not all cheetahs are "problem" cheetahs. Professional hunters should be encouraged to give the farmers 1/2 of the trophy fee. Although there won't be lots of hunting of cheetahs, it will begin to give the farmers a feeling that the cheetah can bring them value. The cheetah gets blamed for all the farmers' losses. The farmer needs to be better informed of how to reduce losses to cheetahs. Farmers will never be able to alleviate the cheetah problems 100% but all members should assist and advise other farmers who are having problems.

NAPHA members should get involved in research. Ms. Marker Kraus, from the Cheetah Conservation Fund, presented the committee with actual collection vials for the collection of tissues that could be collected from a trophy hunted cheetah. CCF will provide the simple collection kits to professional hunters. It was suggested that the regional sub-committee members be the holders of these vials and if a cheetah in the area is shot, it be arranged to get the kit to the hunter. An easy arrangement can be made by CCF as well. CCF is willing to support this aspect of research and assist the hunters if they are willing to work with CCF.

CCF's Tag and Release Program was discussed. It was presented that the only true way of knowing about the cheetah population was by participating in tag and release. CCF's research area can be used as a model for other areas in the country and conservancies become involved in tag and release as well.

Farmers are very emotional about the cheetah. For this reason, it is extremely important to get the farmers to understand and participate.

Cheetah Compact: The money collected (N\$ 1 000,- per cheetah shot by a trophy hunter) was to go to the Namibian Nature Foundation for administration of the funds. Napha is getting a monthly statement of this account.

The meeting was ended by stating that all NAPHA members are conservationists. It is the responsibility of all of the members to become very well educated about the cheetah and the issues that affect its survival.



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NAPHA
Raspeco-Cheetah

Windhoek, 28 July 1995

Dear members,

right in the beginning a hearty thank you to nearly one hundred active members who signed the cheetah compact and returned it. After we had translated it into German quite a few more were received at the secretariate. If you haven't signed so far, there is still time to do so and to send it back. If, however, you should know of any reason, for not being able to sign it, please inform the Raspeco-Cheetah committee accordingly. May be there is a way of sorting out that problem.

Enclosed please find more background information concerning the cheetah compact. The most important things are mentioned here:

Precautional matters

Each year more and more farms or camps get gameproof fences without electrical barriers. That means another supermarket for the cheetah, that will force the farmer to buy new game the next year!

Costs for an electrical fence often amount just to a minimal portion of the financial losses the cheetah is doing during only one year. Even if you are the owner of a bigger farm without 220 V there are good systems working with batteries and solar panels. If you should have any problems or need more information, please feel free to contact the following people:

Jochen Hein - Tel.: 06228-1521 Hochfeld. He is using an electrical fence for two years now and his losses in game have been reduced by 90%.

Hardy Koehler from Harko Agencies - Tel.: 061-230563 He is installing "Gallagher" Power Fence Energizers

Wayne Hanssen from Africat - Tel.: 0658-18212 specialist in this field. He is experimenting on his own farm with wild cheetahs, to find out the right distance from the ground to the first wire etc.

"Problem Cheetah"

Dieter Morsbach from the Ministry of Environment, tel.: 061-263131, has agreed to work as a contact person between farmers and professional hunters, for hunters who are looking for a cheetah trophy. If you as a farmer have no hunter, who is willing to take the trophy, please get into contact with Mr. Morsbach. He will then contact one of the professional hunters, so that hunting guests will have a very good chance to get the trophy. And, on the other hand, the farmer gets rid of his "problem cheetah". At the moment, by law, only professional hunters are allowed to hunt on other farms.

Finances

The suggested price for a cheetah trophy should not be less than N\$ 6 000,-, of which N\$ 1 000,- have to be paid to the Namibia Nature Foundation, who has opened a special account for research on cheetahs. Your NAPHA-committee gets a monthly financial statement from them. The remaining N\$ 5 000,- should be equally shared between farmer and professional hunter.

We all should try to do our best, to help the cheetah survive in our country!

Kind regards
Raspeco-Cheetah Committee

p.p. B. Röschlein
Jochen Hein
(Chairman)