



Laurie Marker

## Laurie L. Marker, DPhil.

Founder and Executive Director of Cheetah Conservation Fund

Dr. Laurie Marker is Founder and Executive Director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF). Having worked with cheetahs since 1974, Laurie set up the not-for-profit Fund in 1990 and moved to Namibia to develop a permanent Conservation Research Centre for the wild cheetah. CCF's groundbreaking activities are housed at their International Research and Education Centre in the main cheetah habitat of the country. In July 2000, CCF opened a field research station to the public featuring a Visitor's Centre as well as a Cheetah Museum and Education Centre.

Dr. Marker helped develop the U.S. and international captive program, establishing the most successful captive cheetah-breeding program in North America during her 16 years (1974-1988) at Oregon's Wildlife Safari in the USA. Laurie first came to Namibia in 1977 when she brought a captive-born, hand-raised cheetah to Namibia to determine if a cheetah must be taught to hunt or if the process was fully instinctual. This was the first-of-its-kind research to better understand if there was a chance for captive-born cheetahs to be re-introduced into the wild. Dr. Marker learned about the conflict between livestock farmers and cheetahs in Namibia, discovering that wild cheetahs needed help. For the next ten years, she continued traveling to Africa to learn more about the wild cheetah's problems and what could be done to assist wild populations.

In the early 1980's, with collaborators at the National Zoo and National Cancer Institute (USA), Dr. Marker helped identify the cheetah's lack of genetic variation, thus causing the species greater problems for survival. In 1988, in collaboration with these two institutions she became the Executive Director of the Centre for New Opportunities in Animal Health Sciences, based at Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo. She continues to serve as a NOAHS Research Fellow. In 1988 she developed the International Cheetah Studbook, a registry of captive cheetah worldwide, and is the International Studbook Keeper. In 1996 she was made a vice-chair of the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Species Survival Commission's (SSC) Cat Specialist Group and now serves as a member on the core management group. Among numerous awards, Dr. Marker has been recognized as one of Time Magazine's Heroes for the Planet in 2000 and received the Zoological Society of San Diego's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. More recently, she was awarded the 2010 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement and was a finalist for the BBC World Challenge. In Namibia, her home base, she received the Windhoek Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellowship in 2001, and in 2002 received a special award from the Sanveld Conservancy, signifying Namibia's farming community's public acknowledgement of Dr. Marker and CCF's contributions.

In 2002, Laurie received her doctorate from Oxford University, England.

## Curriculum Vitae

### General Information

Name: Laurie Marker, DPhil  
 Title: Founder and Executive Director  
 Date of Birth: 20 January 1954  
 Nationality: American  
 Place of Residence: Namibia

### Education and Qualifications

1998-2003: DPhil, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, United Kingdom. Thesis Title: *Aspects of Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) Biology, Ecology and Conservation Strategies on Namibian Farmlands.*  
 1986-1990: Bachelor of Science, Eastern Oregon State University, La Grande, Oregon  
 1979-1980: Umpqua College, Roseburg, Oregon  
 1972-1973: Napa College, Napa Valley, California  
 1971-1972: San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California

### Research areas:

Conservation Biology, Genetics, Biomedical/Health/Reproduction, Wildlife Management, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Human Dimensions/Community Based Natural Resource Management

### Professional Experience

1990 to present: Founder and Executive Director, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia, Africa  
 1991 to present: Research Fellow, NOAHS Center, National Zoo, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC  
 1988-1991: Executive Director, NOAHS Center, National Zoo, Washington, DC  
 1980-1988: Director, Marketing and Education, Wildlife Safari, Winston, Oregon  
 1977-1988: Cheetah Curator, Wildlife Safari, Oregon  
 1976-1980: Veterinary Clinic Supervisor, Wildlife Safari, Oregon  
 1974-1976: Veterinary Clinic Assistant, Wildlife Safari, Oregon  
 1973-1988: Co-Owner, Jonicole Vineyards and Winery, Oregon

### Work-Related Activities:

2012 to present: Steering Committee, Natural Resource Department, Namibia University of Science and Tech.  
 2011 to present: Steering Committee, Greater Waterberg Complex, Namibia  
 2010 to present: Adjunct Professor, University of Omaha, Nebraska, USA  
 2008 to present: Board Member, Oregon Cougar Action Team (ORCAT)  
 2008 to present: Cat Advisory Council Member, Panthera  
 2002 to present: Adjunct professor, Purdue University, Indiana, USA  
 2001 to present: Core Group Member, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group -  
 1997 to present: Chair, Large Carnivore Management Association of Namibia  
 1997 to 2012: Conservancy Assoc. of Namibia, Executive Committee (Vice Chair 2000- 06, Chair 07 – 11).  
 1996 to present: Executive Committee, Waterberg Conservancy  
 1996 to present: Veterinary Association of Namibia  
 1995 to present: Cheetah Species Coordinator, African Preservation Programme of the African Association of Zoological Gardens and Aquaria (PAAZAB)  
 1995 to 2001: Co-Chair, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group  
 1993 to present: Namibia Professional Hunting Association, Rare Species Committee (1994-2000)  
 1991 to present: Member, IUCN/SSC, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group  
 1988 to present: Member, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group

## Dr. Laurie Marker - Cheetah Conservation Fund

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1988 to 2000: Advisor, Cheetah Species Survival Plan (SSP), Propagation Committee, Association of Zoos and Aquariums  
1987 to present: Keeper, Founding Keeper, International Cheetah Studbook  
1987-1988: Species Coordinator Cheetah SSP  
1984-1988: Founding Member, Cheetah SSP, Propagation Committee,  
1982-1987: Founding Keeper, North American Regional Cheetah Studbook  
1977-1978: Re-introduction Research of Cheetah in Namibia

### Related Organizations:

2010 to present: Cosmos Club (Washington DC)  
2007 to present: Explorers Club (New York)  
1990 to present: Society of Women Geographers  
1985 to present: World Conservation Union (IUCN)  
1982 to 2010: American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums  
1974-1992: American Association of Zoo Keepers  
1975-1992: National Pygmy Goat Association  
1979-1991: National Pygmy Goat Judge  
1979-1986: Board of Directors, National Pygmy Goat Association  
1985-1987: Judges Training Committee National Pygmy Goat Association  
1986-1991: Breed Standard Committee National Pygmy Goat Association

### Honors:

2013 International Conservation Caucus Foundation Good Steward Award  
2013 Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large, Cornell University  
2013 Distinguished Alumni, Eastern Oregon State University  
2011-2012 Rainer Arnhold Fellow  
2010 The Explorers Club Lowell Thomas Award  
2010 Indianapolis Prize Finalist  
2010 Tyler Prize for the Environmental Achievement Laureate  
2009 BBC World Challenge Finalist  
2009 St Andrews Prize for the Environment Finalist  
2009 International Wildlife Film Festival Lifetime Achievement Award  
2008 Tech Museum Intel Environmental Award  
2008 San Diego Zoo Lifetime Achievement Conservation Award  
2008 Society of Women Geographers' Gold Medal  
2008 Indianapolis Prize Finalist  
2005 Living Desert's Track's in the Sand - Conservationist of the Year  
2003 Chevron-Texaco Conservationist of the Year  
2002 Audi Terra Nova Awards Finalist, Southern Africa  
2001 Humanitarian of the Year, Marin County Humane Society  
2001 Paul Harris Fellowship, Rotary Club International, Windhoek, Namibia  
2000 Burrows Conservation Award, Cincinnati Zoo  
2000 Hero for the Planet, Time Magazine  
1997 Distinguished Leadership Award, American Biographical Institute  
1992 Conservationist of the Year, African Safari Club, Washington, DC  
1988 White Rose Award, Oregon's Top Ten Women  
1985 Outstanding Young Women of America  
1981 Oregon's Young Careerist, Business and Professional Women, for Roseburg, Southern Oregon Division and State of Oregon

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:**

1. **Marker, L.L.:** 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 North American Regional Cheetah Studbook, Wildlife Safari, Winston, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987
2. **Marker, L.L.:** North American Cheetah Studbook Questionnaire Survey, Wildlife Safari, Winston, 1985.
3. **Marker, L.:** International Cheetah Studbooks, Smithsonian Press, Washington, DC, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013.
4. **Marker-Kraus, L.:** International Cheetah Studbook Questionnaire Summary, Smithsonian Press, Washington DC, 1990.
5. O'Brien, S.J.; Roelke, M.E.; **Marker, L.;** Newman, A.; Winkler, C.A.; Meltzer, D.; Colly, L.; Evermann, J.F.; Bush, M.; and Wildt, D.E.: Genetic basis for species vulnerability in the cheetah. Science 227: 1428 - 1434, 1985.
6. **Marker, L.L.;** O'Brien, S.J.: Captive breeding of the cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) in North American zoos (1871 - 1986), Zoo Biology, 8: 3-16, 1989.
7. Heeney, J.F.; Evermann, J.F.; McKeirnan, A.J.; **Marker-Kraus, L.;** Roelke, M.E.; Bush, M.; Wildt, D.E.; Meltzer, D.G.; Colly, L.; Lucas, J.; Manton, V.J.; and O'Brien, S.J.: Prevalence and implications of coronavirus infections of captive and free-ranging cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*). J. of Virol. 64:5 1964-72, 1990.
8. **Marker-Kraus, L.** and Grisham, J.: Status of the North American Cheetah Population, Zoo Biology, 12:5-18, 1993.
9. **Marker-Kraus, L.** and Kraus, D.: History of cheetah in Namibia. SWARA Nov/Dec. 1993.
10. **Marker-Kraus, L.** and Kraus, D.: How Long Will the Cheetah Run. The New Explorers, Weldon Owens Publishing, Sydney, 1995.
11. **Marker-Kraus, L.** and Kraus, D.: The Namibian Free-ranging Cheetah. Environmental Conservation, 21:(4)369-70, 1995.
12. O'Brien, S.J.; Martenson, J.S.; Wildt, D.E.; Bush, M.; Winkler, C.A.; Roelke, M.E.; **Marker-Kraus, L.;** Grisham, J.: The cheetah's legacy: Retrospective interpretations. IUDZG, The World Zoo Organization, Scientific Session, 1-5 October 1995.
13. **Marker-Kraus, L.;** Kraus, D.; Barnett, D.; Hurlbut, S.: Cheetah Survival on Namibian Farmlands. Cheetah Conservation Publication, Windhoek, 1996.
14. **Marker-Kraus, L.** & Kraus, D.: Conservation Strategies for the Long-term Survival of the Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* by the Cheetah Conservation Fund. International Zoo Yearbook, 35: 59-66, 1997
15. **Marker-Kraus, L.:** Captive History of the Cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus*, in the World's Zoos 1829-1994. International Zoo Yearbook, 35: 27-43, 1997 .
16. **Marker, L.** The Role of the South African zoos in the survival of the cheetah. Proceedings of the Annual Pan African Association of Zoos, Aquariums and Botanical Gardens Conference, May 1997.
17. Munson, L. & **Marker, L.** The impact of capture and captivity on the health of Namibian farmland cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Proceedings of the 50th Namibian Vet Congress, Sept. 1997.
18. **Marker, L.** Morphological abnormalities in Namibian cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Proceedings of the 50th Namibian Vet Congress, Sept. 1997.
19. Munson, L., **Marker, L.;** O'Brien, S.J., Everman, J.F., and Spencer, J.A. Prevalences of antibodies to viral diseases in Namibian farmland cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Proceedings of the 50th Namibian Vet. Congress, Sept. 1997.
20. Terio, K.A. & **Marker, L.** Measuring gonadal and adrenal steroids in the feces of wild and wild-caught Namibian cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Proceedings of the 50th Namibian Vet. Congress, Sept. 1997.
21. **Marker, L.** Lymphosarcoma in a captive Namibian cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), a case study. Proceedings of the 50th Namibian Vet Congress, Sept. 1997.
22. Muroua, D. & **Marker, L.** The Cheetah Conservation Fund's Mission: To Ensure Long-term Survival of Cheetah and their Ecosystem. Proceedings of the National AZA Conference, Sept. 1997.
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24. **Marker, L.** & Schumann, B.D. Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) as problem animals: Management of Cheetahs on Private Land in Namibia. Cheetah Symposium, South African Vet Association. 1998.
25. **Marker, L.** Aspects of the ecology of the Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) on north central Namibian farmlands. Namibia Scientific Society Journal, 48: 40-48, 2000.
26. **Marker, L.** Reducing conflicts between Namibian farmers and cheetahs. Wildlife Society Bulletin 2001.
27. **Marker, L.** Aspects of Namibian Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) Biology, Ecology and Conservation Strategies. DPhil Thesis, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford. 2002.
28. **Marker, L.L.;** Muntifering, J.R., Dickman, A.J., Mills, M.G.L., Macdonald, D.W.. Quantifying prey preferences of free-ranging Namibian cheetahs. South African Journal of Wildlife Research, 33: 43-53, 2002.

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34. **Marker, L.** Munson, L., Basson, P.A., and Quackenbush, S. Lymphosarcoma Associated with Feline Leukemia Virus infection in a Captive Namibian Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 39: 922-926, 2003.
35. **Marker, L.** and Dickman, A. Conserving Cheetahs Outside Protected Areas: An Example from Namibian Farmlands. Cat News, 38: 24-25, 2003.
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46. **Marker, L.L.**, Dickman, A.J., Macdonald, D.W. Survivorship of livestock guarding Dogs implications for human-predator conflict resolution. Journal of Rangeland Management 58(4) 337-343, 2005
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52. **Marker, L.**; Pearks-Wilkerson, A.J.; Sarno, R.J.; Martenson, J.; Breitenmoser-Wursten, C., O'Brien, S.J.; Johnson, W.E., Molecular Genetic Insights on Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) Ecology and Conservation in Namibia. Journal of Heredity. 99(1) 2-13, 2008.
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54. **Marker, L.L.** Cheetah Survival Strategies in Namibia. Wild Cat News (The Cougar Network). Vol. 4, Issue 1, pp3-8. Spring 2008.
55. **Marker, L.**, Fabiano, E., & Nghikembua, M. The Use of Remote Camera Traps to Estimate Density of Free-Ranging Cheetahs in North-Central Namibia. Cat News (49): 22-24. 2008.
56. Crosier, A.E., Henghali, J.N., Howard, J., Pukazhenth, B.S., Terrell, K.A., **Marker, L.** and Wildt, D. Improved Quality of Cryopreserved Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) Spermatozoa After Centrifugation Through Accudenz. Journal of Andrology, Vol. 30, No. 3, May/June 2009.
57. Marker, L. Overview of Long-Term Health, Reproduction and Genetic Research on Namibia Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*). International Conference on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals, Netherlands, May 2009.
58. **Marker, L.** Overview of Long-Term Health, Reproduction and Genetic Research on Namibia Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*). International Conference on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals. Netherlands. May 2009.
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61. **Marker, L.**, Dickman, A.J., Mills, M.G.L., Macdonald, D.W. **Chapter 15: Cheetahs and Ranches in Namibia: A Case Study.** (pp 353) Biology and Conservation of Wild Felids. Edited by Macdonald, D.W. and Loveridge, J. Oxford University Press. 2010.
62. Shaw, D., **Marker, L. (Ed)**. The Conservancy Association of Namibia: An Overview of Freehold Conservancies. CANAM, Windhoek. 2011.
63. Stein, A.B., Fuller, T. K., DeStefano, S., and **Marker, L.L.** Leopard population and home range estimates in north-central Namibia. African Journal of Ecology. pp 1 – 5, 2011.
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65. Terrell, K.A., Wildt, D.E., Anthony, N.M., Bavister, B.D., Leibo, S.P., Penfold, L.M., **Marker, L.L.**, and Crosier, A.E. Oxidative Phosphorylation Is Essential for Felid Sperm Function, but Is Substantially Lower in Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) Compared to Domestic Cat (*Felis catus*) Ejaculate. Biology of Reproduction 85, 000–000. 2011.
66. Farhadinia, M. S., Hosseini-Zavarei, F., Nezami, B., Harati, H., Absalan, H., Fabiano, E. & **Marker, L. L.** Feeding ecology of the Asiatic cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* in low prey habitats in Northeastern Iran: implications for effective conservation. Journal of Arid Environments 2012 December; 8:206-2011.
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