



The Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia is proud to announce:
**World renowned Cheetah expert and Conservationist
Dr Laurie Marker to tour Australia from 2 to 11 March 2016**

Dr Laurie Marker moved to Namibia in 1990 to found the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), now a global leader in cheetah research, dedicated to saving wild cheetah populations using innovative conservation methods that address the welfare of both cheetah and human populations over large landscapes.

Today we announce that Dr Laurie Marker will be touring Australia for the first time from March 2 to 11 2016. Events will include lectures, presentations, a workshop and fundraising dinners.

Discussions will include:

- Problems faced by wild cheetah populations
- The ground-breaking conservation methods used by the CCF, including
 - Livestock Guard Dog Program
 - BushBlok Program
 - Environmental Tourism
 - Linking the cheetahs fortunes with those of the local human communities.



The Cheetah is the fastest land animal, achieving speeds of 110/km/hr in over 3 seconds with 4 strides per second. With its light, graceful frame its strides can measure up to 7 metres.

However, this iconic animal is vulnerable to hunting, poaching, loss of habitat and poor genetic diversity. Because of its fragile build it also falls victim to other large predators. It is **Africa's most endangered big cat**. From 100,000 individuals 100 years ago, the world population is now less than 10,000, and their range, which once extended from Eastern India to West Africa is now limited to pockets in Africa - mainly Namibia, Botswana and Kenya.

The Cheetah Conservation Fund's Namibian compound employs more than 100 people and includes:

- a rescue and rehabilitation centre which has led to close to 500 injured or captured cheetahs being released into the wild;



- a large sanctuary to accommodate 50 or so injured or orphaned cheetahs who are unable to be re-wilded;
- a veterinary clinic;
- a state of the art genetic laboratory, where non-invasive techniques are used to investigate genetic variation and behavioural ecology;
- a visitors' centre with educational displays, a shop and a cafe. And, if you want, you can witness a cheetah run.

However, in order to help local populations co-habit peacefully with cheetahs, the compound also runs:

- a Livestock Guard Dog Program breeding Anatolian Shepherd and Kangal dogs provided to Namibian farmers to guard their stock;
- the Dancing Goat Creamery, where local farmers are trained in producing cheese and ice-cream to broaden their income streams;
- the Bushblok factory, which produces compacted fire logs from the invasive thorn bush;
- a sustainable farm with 10,000 heads of cattle, producing prime "cheetah" beef, and demonstrating how to run a profitable farm sustainably.

Dr Marker itinerary is as follows:

- Sydney: Wednesday 2/3/16 - Saturday 5/3/16 am;
- Adelaide/Monarto Open Range Zoo: Saturday 5/3/16 pm - Tuesday 8/3/16 am;
- Melbourne: Tuesday 8/3/16 pm - Thursday 10/3/16 am;
- Perth: Thursday 10/3/16 pm - Friday 11/3/16 pm.

A detailed itinerary will be released closer to the date.

For further information, or to organise an interview or booking with Dr Laurie Marker, please phone 0419945391, or email info@cheetah.org.au