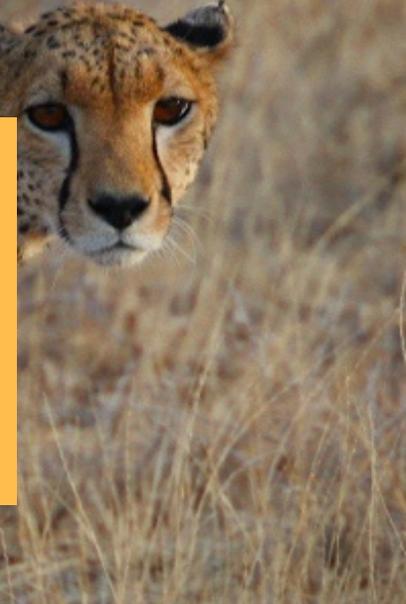


# ACTION FOR CHEETAHS IN KENYA

## NEWSLETTER



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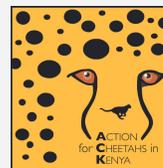
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### DIRECTOR'S NOTE BY MARY WYKSTRA



Although ACK is focused on the sustainability of cheetahs in Kenya, we have international partners at the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) in other parts of Africa. Exciting things happened in Kenya this quarter, but we also helped our colleagues who face a different kind of conservation struggle in Somaliland. CCF supported travel for ACK staff member, Adelaide Moturi and I to join our friends in Somaliland as they had a large influx of cubs that were confiscated from traffickers. In this case, we were a part of the CCF team caring for the most recent victims of the illegal pet trade who brought the number of cheetahs in the CCF care facility to over 80. Cubs that come into the facility have been separated from their mother and vary in age and health. In this influx, the cubs were all weaned and eating meat but were dehydrated and malnourished. I spent three weeks assisting while Adel stayed for 4 weeks until new staff and volunteers could arrive to assist. Sadly, due to the conditions and health of the cheetahs many cubs do not survive the trauma and sometimes those who do survive cannot be released back into the wild. Thankfully, the Somaliland government recognizes that the current facilities are not adequate, and land has been donated for CCF to build a dedicated cheetah care facility in Geed Deeble National Park. The long-term goal is to use education and outreach to make this facility a part of the solution to illegal wildlife trade. Hopefully, one day some of the cheetahs will be able to be released through processes like those used in Namibia [here](#).

While there is no hard evidence that cubs are being taken from Kenya, it is imperative that ACK work closely with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and other partners to identify the strongholds for cheetah populations in Kenya. After identifying the key threats of land-use change, illegal trade, disease, and conflict, we have developed our programs to address these threats through strong relationships with government and local partners.



*(Left) - Dehydrated cubs receive medical attention in Somaliland at CCF.*



*(Right) - Hani and Absame, the two cub survivors from a batch of nineteen.*



## Fieldwork

### 2021 UPDATE

We appreciate the great work by our field officers who spend long days outside in our research sites and communities, completing 726 'patrols' and 140 'transects' total to collect data on animal sightings and evidence, such as tracks, scat, dens, etc. Our field supervisor, Lentaam works tirelessly with his team, Larkeri, Maxwell, Kivoi and Dominic, to collect the data that shows cheetahs are the most reported predator in our area. In addition to this, we know that the most available prey for cheetahs in our area are dik-dik. This is important information to know so that we can better help the community prevent conflicts with cheetahs by valuing their natural prey and encouraging people to take increased measures to protect their livestock. Read more about our continued fieldwork on our website [here](#).



*Field Officer, Larkeri recording a track observation during his routine patrol.*

## Our Vehicle Accident

February 2022

**One of our field vehicles was out of commission for several weeks following an unfortunate accident while returning from the field. Although insurance covered the repairs, once in this kind of an accident, the vehicle is never quite the same. Thankfully no one was injured in the collision and we are now back on all four wheels again.**



*Our vehicle is now back to work again after repairs!*



## Community Conservation

MARCH 2022

In order to improve the accessibility of our Conflict Mitigation Toolbox we are hosting feedback meetings for the people in our community who are using it. In our first feedback meeting in Meibae Conservancy, participants from our training in 2021 commented on the use of the toolbox in their day-to-day predator conflict mitigation.

This feedback included successes in using the toolbox, challenges encountered, and adjustments that need to be made. We provided a refresher on track identification to increase correct use of the toolbox. Participants have been utilizing the toolbox in different capacities, with some acknowledging a few sections in the book which were difficult to follow. After hosting additional feedback meetings in Salama and Taita-Taveta, all these concerns will be considered in the final draft.



*ACK staff and Meibae rangers after the conflict mitigation toolbox feedback meeting seen with their toolboxes in hand.*

## Market Waste Management

FEBRUARY 2022



*A group of women holding their metal stabbers after a market clean up session.*

Our staff member, Adelaide Moturi has been working with a group of 20 women to organize a weekly market clean-up at the Mabati market in the Meibae Community Conservancy. The goal of these dedicated women is to collect garbage to improve the quality of the environment and reduce the amount of plastic waste getting washed into the river or consumed by livestock. ACK distributed stabbers to the women to handle waste easily and hygienically. However, the biggest challenge the women face is that many market users do not respect the environment. ACK works closely with the women to design impactful messages to educate the market users on responsible waste management and the importance of respecting the environment.



# Wildlife Warriors

February 2021

Season Two of Wildlife Warriors was launched at an event in Nairobi in February. The documentary features Kenyan conservationists working to share knowledge about the beauty of and threats to wildlife and the environment. The show airs every Sunday on the local Citizen TV channel in Kenya. Our own Cosmas Wambua was featured in the fourth episode with our canine team, highlighting the value of detection dogs in saving cheetahs. All Wildlife Warrior episodes will be available on the internet after the Season airs.



# Strained Resources

2020-2022

After handling locusts and Covid-19 throughout 2020 and 2021 - we are now undergoing a drought cycle and fuel crisis in Kenya that is paralyzing the country in 2022. Our healing thoughts are with our families and friends as we work together through this crisis with hopes for rain and political peace throughout the world.

We also send thoughts of peace and healing to the people of Ukraine as their lives are shattered by the attacks from Russia. We ask that all our friends support trusted organizations to provide aid to people who are affected by these tragedies. Look for trusted organizations [here](#).

# Careers in Conservation

MARCH 2022



*Cosmas Wambua-ACK Asst. Director was featured in both Wildlife Warriors and our Careers in Conservation Social Hour.*

In our third Careers in Conservation Social Hour, Assistant Director, Cosmas Wambua, was our first Kenyan staff member to give a talk about his long career in wildlife conservation. These events are geared to highlight professionals with different conservation backgrounds to share their stories and inspire young people. Listen to the session on [YouTube here](#) and stay tuned for our next Careers in Conservation Social Hour in June via our social media handles.



## K9 Certification

MARCH 2022



Our canine team- Madoadoa (Madi) and Antony Oyugi, Persephone (Persi) and Edwin Kimutai are now Certified Conservation Detection Dogs and Handlers. Each team passed two exams testing their effectiveness and bond during searches. We appreciate Dr. Leopold (Leo) Slotta-Bachmayer from NATURSCHTZHUNDE in Austria for spending time intensely training with our team and further fulfilling the growth and expertise of our team. We are excited that Leo will continue working with us virtually from Austria.

*Antony and Madi (left) and Edwin and Persi (right) pictured after receiving their certificates.*

## K9 Team Changes

JANUARY 2022

We welcome both Edwin Kimutai and Naomi Njeri into our conservation dog team. We are happy that they are bonding well with the dogs and passionately learning about them and the work they do. We wish Lulu Mandi and Bill Kipchirchir all the best in their endeavors as they leave the team.



*left-right: Leo, Edwin, Persi (dog), Mary and Antony at the training field.*

## Saying Goodbye

FEBRUARY 2022



*Artemis chasing after the ball energetically during her ball retrieval session. Rest in peace!*

In February, we lost one of our scat dogs, Artemis (Arti) after a month-long battle with tick-bite fever. We are devastated by this loss and Arti will be remembered for her calmness, intelligence, ball drive, and eagerness to investigate new scents.

We look toward our two remaining scat dogs, Persephone (Persi) and Madoadoa (Madi) for hope for the future. We thank all of our adopters who supported Artemis' well-being. We welcome new adopters to support her sister Persephone (Persi) and Madoadoa (Madi) through our [COOL Crafts Shop](#) for continued survival of cheetahs in the wild.



## Cheetah Diet

March 2022

**Congratulations Noreen Mutoro (Research Asst.) upon publication of a paper 'Dietary preference of cheetahs (Acynonix jubatus) in south-eastern Kenya' evaluating results from her Master's thesis.**

**[Check out the full article here to learn more.](#)**

## Community Empowerment

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2021

We are reaching out to our community and working with a local electrician, Litari, to aid us in our predator deterrent lights project led by Jane Wanjira. In the past few months, many broken or dimming lights have been turned back to us. The greatest challenge in the use of these deterrent lights has been time and cost of repairs. Litari agreed to step in to help the community fix the lights at a small fee and reduced downtime with his general electrician skills. We are happy to continue supporting his career through referrals from the community members.

**Now accepting donations through Venmo!**

**@CALL-ACTION4CHEETAH**



## ACK Mission

ACK aims to promote the conservation of cheetahs in Kenya through research, awareness and community participation. ACK works closely with local wildlife authorities and land holders to develop policies and programmes which support wildlife conservation and human livelihoods for the long term development of sustainable human and wildlife zones.

ACK is a non-profit project working in affiliation with: Cheetah Conservation Fund, Kenya Wildlife Service, and the University of Nairobi.

P.O. Box 1611 00606, Sarit Centre, Nairobi, Kenya  
[www.actionforcheetahs.org](http://www.actionforcheetahs.org)