N/a'an ku sê Foundation

Dr. Rudie & Marlice van Vuuren



Founded in 2006 with two aims

- 1. To protect and conserve Namibia's vulnerable wildlife
- 2. To improve the lives of the San Bushman community that we work with through health care, job creation and education

Wildlife Sanctuary & Rehabilitation Centre

- Safe haven for orphaned and injured animals *
- Priority to leave wild animals in the wild **
- Educating people to leave the wild in the wild source of most animals coming * to us
- Emphasis on rehabilitation and re-release of multiple species, *
- * Captivity last resort for few animals, practice ethical husbandry management









Research



- Incorporate San tracking and identification skills in identifying true problem animals assisting farmers in human wildlife conflict
- Develop innovative techniques for mitigating human-wildlife conflict with commercial livestock and game farmers
 - Including evidence-based education programs
- Develop sound protocols for reintroductions
 - * released 34 cheetahs, 19 leopards, and 3 brown hyenas
- Documented unpublished behaviour in cheetah www.naankuse.com

Current Research Projects

- ❖ Large scale translocation and monitoring program of non problem carnivores into former free range historic ranges where low commercial farming densities occur
- Collar, release and monitoring on 30 000 hectares of commercial farms in surrounding area
- Non-invasive monitoring through camera traps and footprint identification development with international partners



Translocation and reintroduction project

- Translocated collared animals:
- Cheetahs: 19
- Leopards:9
- Brown hyenas:3
- Leopard survival 100%
- Cheetah survival 79% (1st year after release) and 63% (2nd year) 4 deaths in cheetahs first year (2 x hyena; 1 x heat shock; 1 x starvation)

Translocation and reintroduction

- Preliminary conclusions: Publication pending
- Relocations generally successful 62% of animals have established solid home ranges within 9 months after release
- Distance release site to center of new of home range (averaged 1st year):
- Cheetah: 49.5km
- Leopard: 19.2km
- Single cheetah males will explore/roam considerably further than other cheetahs/leopards/groups
- NO livestock predation documented from any of Naankuse's released animals, none of the animals was shot after release

Lifeline Clinic

- ❖ Located in Epukiro, provides free primary healthcare to the San Bushman since 2003
- Estimated 3,000 Bushman treated per annum for over 8 years
- Lifeline Clinic recognized by the International Health Promotion Awards and honored first prize in the Community Health Award





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Clever Cubs School

- Provides curriculum in English, Math, Art & Crafts, Sports, and Environmental Studies
- Enrollment of 13 Clever Cub graduates into Windhoek Schools



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Outlook

- Create forum for wild dog conservation and implement a meta-population management plan focused on captive stock in Namibia
- Ancient skills training academy i.e. spoor tracking for the younger San Bushman generation
- Depolarization of key conservation stakeholders: Farmers, hunters, government, NGO's
- ❖ Develop further successful public-private partnership avenues with Namibian government MOHSS Dr. Richard Kamwi − Patron of clinic project working for almost 6 years with state clinic in partnership
- ❖ Build on current partnerships i.e. Jolie − Pitt Foundation



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