

Project Update: July 2009

Cheetah conservation awareness and education in schools and the community continued through the months of June and July 2009. Two more schools were visited - Tangu and Ulu primary schools. At Tangu primary, I combined puppets and a story entitled *How the Cheetah Got its Spots* in conducting awareness and at Ulu primary presented a video show on cheetah conservation. As in the other preceding schools, the presentation was followed by a discussion and question session with the pupils and the teachers. Cheetah conservation posters were circulated among the pupils and teachers encouraging them to form wildlife clubs in their schools.

On 28th June 2009, I held a meeting with the Silangabow youth group and some members of the community. The group through the Rufford grant has managed to establish a tree nursery where they have been trained on how to raise a variety of trees (*Croton megalocarpus*, *Cassia siamea*, *Grevillea* spp.), fruits (avocados, paw paw, mangoes) and vegetables (kales). As part of improving their income base and discouraging them from bushmeat trade they are already getting income from the vegetable sales and they have now started understanding that trees not only improve the environment but are a source of income.

On 22nd and 23rd July 2009, we held two more public meetings at Marwa and Ngaamba. After showing cheetah conservation video in the evenings, we engaged the communities in discussions on conservation, poaching and bushmeat issues.



Left: A meeting at the Silangabow Youth Group tree nursery site. Right: Conservation education using puppets at Tangu pri. School.