

Project Update: June 2009

In April 2009, I organized an anti-snaring exercise with ACK (Action for Cheetahs Kenya) in the Aimi and Konza areas. The aim was to remove wire snares and create awareness that snares are not only dangerous to wildlife but also to livestock. The participants included the Kenya Wildlife Service Community Warden and rangers, ACK staff and some of the youth from the local community who are being encouraged to form a community scouts group. During the de-snaring exercise, we successfully managed to remove four wire snares along wildlife paths. However, we learned that most traps were set late in the evening and removed early in the morning by the poachers.

During the same month, I also visited the Silangabow Youth Group who are engaged in nursery tree production and held discussions with the members on cheetah and environmental conservation.

The whole of May 2009 was devoted to preparing and conducting cheetah conservation awareness and education in the schools in the area. Five primary schools were visited, Marwa, Itumbule, Ngaamba, Kavuko and Kiima Kiu. I used different methods of creating awareness such as video shows, posters and story telling using puppets. The presentations were followed by questions and discussion sessions where the pupils and the teachers participated freely. I conducted a pre- and post-survey evaluation test to find the pupils level of awareness and change in attitudes on cheetah conservation in the area. In each of the schools posters were circulated among the pupils and later pinned on their notice boards. I held discussions with the teachers and encouraged them to mobilize interested pupils to form school wildlife clubs to sustain conservation efforts in the region. Only one school has a wildlife club.



Left: Cheetah conservation education at Marwa Pri School. Right: Participants in the anti-snaring campaign