

Welcome, we hope you enjoy this Newsletter, to keep you informed on what is happening at the Project, news and all the exciting additions on the Reserve.

Spring 2009

### Jabari and Jafari are back!

Past Volunteers may remember Buhle's two little brothers, we have brought them back from the Reserve which they were on. The great news is that they are doing incredibly well, and hunting superbly. The first prey species which they caught was a scrub hare. The species which they are now catching ranges from springbuck, duiker, steenbok and the biggest catch has been a Nyala bull.

### 5 more Serval

5 New Serval arrived earlier on the Reserve this year which we collected from the Limpopo Province. We erected a lovely large camp for them, and they are also doing very well. Spot has taken to them as well



### African Wild Cats and babies!!

At the end of January this year we also acquired 2 new African Wild cats. Tigger (male) and Joy (female) We are all so excited at the project as they have just had a litter of 3 cubs, which are doing very well, and so cute. Joy is an excellent Mom! We are hoping to breed this endangered species of cat, and then releasing them back in to the wild





### Khanya

Khanya is now just over 3 years old, and doing really well. She goes out regularly and doing extremely well. Recently she kill a young kudu, but most of her prey species is duiker and steenbok.



### Buhle

Playful Buhle is doing well, and her main prey species still remaining scrub hares. She has been catching small antelope species about once a month. She is now 2 years old, and is as loveable as ever.



### Jabulani & Temba

Jabulani and Temba continue to do well, and have done some wonderful hunting. They have had some incredible hunts and have even brought down a kudu, red hartebeest and waterbuck!



*When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light, for your life and strength. Give thanks for your food, and the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies with yourself.*

*- Tecumseh, Shawnee Chief -*

### 2 New Male Cheetahs

In April we received two wild cheetah males, which come from Reserve in the Eastern Cape, and had to be removed to prevent inbreeding within the Reserve. We have named them the "Wild Boys". Hopefully when the Reserve has been electrified they will be released onto the Reserve, and hopefully bred with Khanya and Buhle.



### Interesting facts about African Wild Cats *Felix lybica*

Size: They reach the size of approx. 90 cm, and females weigh approx. 4kg and males 5kg.

Sounds/ Calls: They make sounds that are deeper and harsher than a domestic cat.

Prey: they will feed on small mammals, birds and insects

Reproduction : The gestation period for African Wild Cats is 56 days and they usually have litters of 3 kittens

Threats: These cats are endangered, mainly through the hybridization with domestic cats, lost of habitat, hunting them for their fur, and also farmers killing them through the loss of poultry.



## Milo our little Meerkat Friend

Milo, a year old Meerkat arrived from a lodge in July. He has crept into all our hearts, and definitely the favourite pet in the house (even though he smells).

He follows everyone everywhere, and even goes on game drives. He is super intelligent, and his favourite place in the evening is curled up on someone's shoulder,

foot or in front of the fireplace.



Milo at Sunset



Jabulani

## Great Rains at Modgaji

The past few weeks we have been having the most wonderful rain, and the veld is looking gorgeous. The flowers have been terrific this year, and we have had some great birding. Secretary birds have also been breeding on the Reserve.



## Veld Work

The past year a lot of veld work has been done, with great help from all the volunteers. New pipes have been laid, spekboom planted, alien vegetation removed, and the collection and removal of all fencing. Roads have been repaired, and rock packing done.

We have also just bought a Land rover, and trailer for the Reserve which is a great asset towards running of the Reserve



## Khaya Student Placements

We are very proud to be now associated with Khaya Students Placements, who will now be handling all bookings, payments, and transfers to the lodge. They are also available to assist volunteers with all their other travelling requirements.

www.khayavolunteers.com  
info@khayavolunteers.com



## Thank you

We have had many volunteers over the past few months, a very big word of thanks for your contribution and work.

A special word of Thanks to Jon Knight.

Jon Knight from the UK, did some incredible fund raising before arriving at Modgaji, ranging from a 24 hour Western

technology ban (no electricity, running water etc) 36 hour food fast, and 85 hours of silence. Through thee efforts and canvassing friends and family he managed to collect of R 11 000.00 for the project. These fund we have used for signage for the reserve, printed material, redesign of the logo.

Also a special word of Thanks to Sabine Lang from Germany, a qualified vet who sponsored medication for the cheetah, serval and wild cats. Her knowledge and expertise was greatly appreciated!

He that plants trees loves others besides himself.  
**Thomas Fuller**



**Jon Knight with Jabari**



**Sabine Lang with Milo**

## Volunteers at Modgaji Conservation Projects

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## Modgaji Team - August 2009



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