



HOEDSPRUIT 015 793 2424 OR 793 1104 bosbokolie@cybertrade.co.za

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5000 French cheetah breeding initiative hope to break new ground



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Cresam (which in French stands for -The Reproductive Centre for African Endangered Species) has recently completed what they believe to be a tremendously successful mission in South Africa, Their quest on this mission was to surgically fertilize a female cheetah Cresam is a non-profit organisation that aims to ensure the survival of endangered African animals. The project is 100% funded by inter-

and now in the Kruger **National** Park

JosMac's 083 320 2160



on Argyle Road.....

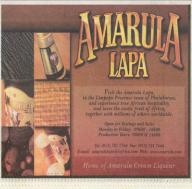
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their work. Should they be successful, they will continue to work for free, and will hopefully be able to contribute to the increase in genetic viability and survival of numerous species in Africa specifically the cheetah. Currently they have funding that will allow them to take DNA tests from any cheetah in the world. Through this they hope to develop a DNA continued..pg3 data bank to increase





## French cheetah breeding initiative hopes to break new ground



Above: The specialized team each have a task to do as they work efficiently in their lab in the bush, Right: The female cheetah has her heartbeat monitored while under anesthetic

the genetic viability of the species. Cresam hopes to donate animals to National On this mission they only managed to collect and Private Parks, as well as fertilize animals in semen from one male (whom they had the wild, where there is suitable habitat. The previously tested in March). It was fortunate only condition being that the animals may not that this male's sperm had an 80% mobility,

be resold or hunted. The team that recently visited Hoedenmit a

window when the fertilisation can occur. which is very high, and a rarity in cheetah. The

HOEDSPRUIT - The searing heat of the last only be done when it is hot. Therefore the has had a devastating effect on the newly do this." surfaced roads in Hoedspruit.

(Maruleng Municipality) and the main to late payment and this is hampering the contractor (Selby Construction) that make it contractor from returning to complete and finish difficult to discuss the various issues at the off the contract. This in turn means that the moment, which hopefully will be resolved by contract is not complete, and so the contractor the 29th of November 2004" he continued. will not get paid for the balance of the project

few weeks (with temperatures reaching 40°c) contractor needs to wait for the best days to

It appears that the problem is that the finishing "There are sensitive issues between the client off of the road surface is not being done due There are certain contractual obligations that until it is finished. It all seems to be a vicious

and a large contingent of top international hours. media who were sponsored to come to South The female was darted for the last time and the road surfaces as soon as their account is According to the project manager, there were Africa by SATOUR - Paris.

founder of Cresam.

The cheetah species lacks genetic potency produces cubs - the team will know if they as a result of a genetic "bottle-neck" that the have succeeded in fertilizing a cheetah in the species went through a million years ago. To wild. The entire process was done out in the an "S-bend" making regular artificial and other mobile equipment. exception of one cub that was bred in a zoo in drugs used for darting the animals. Because to be 'blinded'." America. A further difficulty is that the female their method involves the female being darted "Bitumen remains 'alive' for about four to five should be addressed and faxed to both firms is reliant on the mating process to stimulate a number of times, it is a top priority for them months and when it is hot, the traffic kneads as well as the project manager on the following: her ovulation.

extensive research in France over the past six the future. months. They have developed techniques; While out here they also began research on using new technology that they believe will lion, which are much easier to breed because enable them to:

Enduce the female into season

cheetah

sperm of the male cheetah for up to centres that he has approached. eight hours

female, and finally

· to surgically fertilize her hormone that stimulates her to come into go back to the wild and most get sold to the scason. Three days later she was darted again, overseas market." and vaginal tissue was taken and viewed under "I'd like to know why these centres have thirty if the ovary follicle was ready to release the wild?" asks Michel. ovary. A second hormone was then injected "With game parks being fenced the gene pools to stimulate ovulation. In nature the mating are limited and that could be contributing to process stimulates this. Two days later she the decline in numbers, we could make a was again darted to check that she had in fact valuable contribution by introducing new ovulated. This is a critical phase as sperm must genes. Our contribution is for free, we are here

key one being the complications of the female of success. She recovered well and was done thus far. cheetah herself, said Michel Laforet the released form her holding camp three days after "The roads are deteriorating rapidly and need the surgery. In three months time - if she

to use the minimum dosages possible. The team According to Michel, Cresam has done also aspire to reducing the entire process in

their quality and quantity of sperm is excellent. Michel voiced his concern that thus far their Stimulate the ovulation of the female project has been snubbed by nature of the road, and can conservation, national parks and all the Successfully collect and store the cheetah breeding projects and rehabilitation

"I don't understand this mentality. If there are Check the ovulation process of the only 70 cheetah left in the Kruger National Park. people must move their behinds to save them," he stressed. "Cheetah breeding centres are just The process followed during the past few jails for cheetah, and they don't have much weeks was to dart a female, inject her with the success with breeding. There are few cubs that

microscope to confirm that she had effectively to forty adults lying in camps and cages all gone into season. With the newest echo-graph their life and not breeding very successfully, technology her ovaries were checked, to see why don't they release them back into the

be gathered, preferably from three males, and at the service of wildlife, and not for profit," there is only an eight to twelve hour time concludes Michel.

half the sperm used to fertilise the one ovary brought up to date. They are not willing to do engineers on site while the contractors were Numerous obstacles stood in their way, the and half for the other, to increase the chances any repairs until they are paid for the work working to make sure that certain specifications

to be attended to immediately," the project People with vehicles that have been damaged manager agreed. "What has happened is that as a result of the roadworks either by bitumen the bitumen in the road surface has been staining their paint or stones being flicked up add to this the cheetah female's uterus does bush with the use of the mobile echo-graph kneaded to the surface by traffic, this is known and cracking windscreens, should direct their as bleeding," the project manager explains, claims in this regard to the main contractors insemination impossible. Surgical insemination The Cresam team have also done extensive "This is not a bad thing for a new road, but (Selby Construction) and their sub contractor has been unsuccessful to date with the research during the past six months on the when bleeding occurs, the surface then needs (Hillary Construction).

the bitumen to the surface. The contractor then (Selby Construction) Att: Selby Mahthata P.O needs to return and seal the tar by means of a Box 4296, Aqua Park, Tzaneen 0850 Fax: 015 process called blinding. This is when crushed 307 2048, and to (Hillary Construction) Att: Ed stone is rolled into the surface of the road in Hillary P.O Box 288, Ladanna, Polokwane Fax: increases the life span

"It's HOLIDAY time again, don't forget to drive carefully and have plenty of fun on the way there and back!!"



Apparently the contractor has agreed to repair adding to the complicated and costly problem. and regulations were met.

Letters regarding damage caused to vehicles

