Dr L Marker

Cheetah Conservation Fund

Otjiwarongo

Namibia

Dear Dr Marker

I am writing to express my interest in an internship at the Cheetah Conservation Fund. I am exceptionally keen to further expand my practical field work skillset and gain experience of *in situ* conservation efforts, especially where education and changing local perceptions of wildlife plays a pivotal role. I believe that the Cheetah Conservation Fund would be the ideal place for me to do so.

I have previously completed both a BSc and MSc focusing on wildlife biology and conservation, for which both dissertations focused heavily on behaviour observations and latterly on welfare assessment of rhino within UK zoos. My research derived from the need for *ex situ* breeding programmes to support the ongoing *in situ* conservation efforts for African rhinoceros. During my undergraduate degree I had the opportunity to develop wide-ranging practical field work skills completing excursions to both South Africa and Borneo. Such practical field work included vegetation surveys, game drive counts, radio telemetry and camera trapping to identify individual animals. I have further experience as an ecological surveyor working to gain valuable data on the spread of an invasive species for the Forestry Commission. Furthermore, I am currently striving to become a qualified teacher, a step I’ve taken as I believe the emphasis on education as a key aspect of successful conservation is ever growing; I hope the skills developed through my teacher training can be adapted and applied to any number of conservation based education programmes in the future. Such experiences have provided an excellent foundation to build upon as I now look to expand my field work experience and understanding of on-the-ground conservation actions, especially as I seek to gain a PhD position in the future.

I believe the Cheetah Conservation Fund is unique, using the placement of livestock guarding dogs and emphasising education as a driving factors for change in the conservation of cheetahs. An internship at the Cheetah Conservation Fund would provide an excellent opportunity to put the skills I’ve previously learnt into action and provide clarity and understanding on how to successfully educate on the importance of conserving wildlife. I believe my adaptably, resilience and hardworking nature would enable me to thrive during such an internship.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my application and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Emily Hughes