



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** Anne Brown goes to Namibia, Africa to help with cheetah conservation. **Name:** Anne Brown

**Other Team Members:**

**Program:** Rural School and Community Trust Program

**Trip Dates:** 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** Namibia, Africa

**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 02

**Project Summary:** My name is Anne Brown and I am a kindergarten teacher in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In November of 2008 I read a life-changing article in Smithsonian Magazine. It was about how Dr. Laurie Marker was helping the wild cheetah in Namibia, Africa. The article stated that Dr. Marker researched and found out many things about wild cheetahs and cheetahs in captivity that many scientists had yet to find out. I was fascinated. The cheetah has long been my favorite animal. I often discussed animals with my students and most of them had never heard of a cheetah. I knew that a trip to Namibia would not only benefit me but my students. The article said that people could become working volunteers and go to Namibia. I looked up her site (Cheetah.org) and found out how much it would cost to go there and got discouraged. I searched for grants and found FundforTeachers.org. I applied for the Fund for Teachers grant to fund a trip to Namibia, Africa. There I learned more of the plight of the cheetahs, helped to feed and care for cheetahs, was educated on the need of a place like the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and how important it is to spread the word to the rest of world to help before the cheetah became extinct.

**Career Impact:** The biggest personal challenge I faced was to make a trip of 4000 miles by myself. I had never traveled abroad, so even preparing for this trip was overwhelming. I booked the expedition through Earthwatch which gave a step by step preparation guide for what to expect of the expedition day by day. I did manage to miss a connecting flight from Johannesburg, South Africa to Windhoek, Namibia because of a flight delay. I ended up getting to Windhoek a day late. I took it all in as a learning experience. Once I was in Namibia I had to adapt to the very dry weather and the altitude. I found out a lot about myself: that I am able to persevere when things get tough, to be flexible when the unexpected happens, and I still love to learn new things. I believe this trip has made me a better teacher and that teaching has made me a better person.

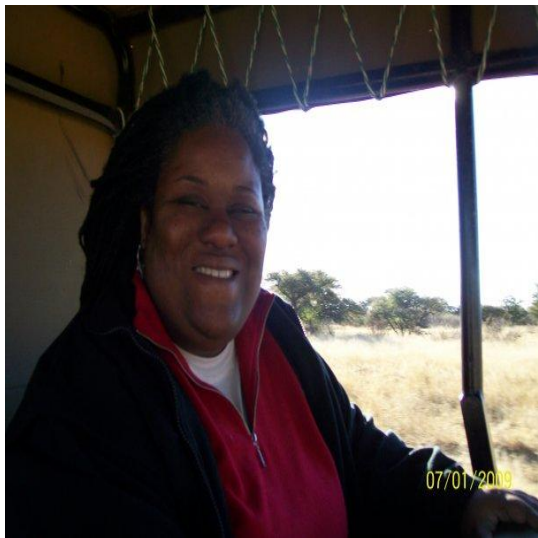
**Classroom/Community Impact:** I received my grant before the 2008-9 school year ended and my students were very happy for me. We discussed why animals become extinct, how I would travel to Namibia, found the country on the globe, what mode of travel I would use to get there, the currency used there, and languages spoken. The school year has just gotten underway here and I plan to:

- \*Introduce cheetahs to my students
- \*Introduce the concept of extinction to my students
- \*Have them find it on the globe and discuss modes of transportation to get there
- \*Discuss other Namibian animals and food chains
- \*Discuss Namibian culture
- \*I will move to initiate projects that include my grade level and then school-wide projects including adopting a cheetah or Anatolian shepherd dog
- \*I will move to initiate community projects to make the community aware of the plight of the wild cheetah

**Open Response:** My fellowship has started a fire in me to start more projects including a return trip to Namibia next summer. I feel that this was a life-changing trip and hope to continue volunteering for future projects that I can bring to my classroom. The biggest problem my students have is they think that their community is all there is. I want them to know there is a whole world out there worth exploring and learning about.

**Quote:** I had a life-changing experience in Namibia, Africa thanks to Fund for Teachers

Photos:



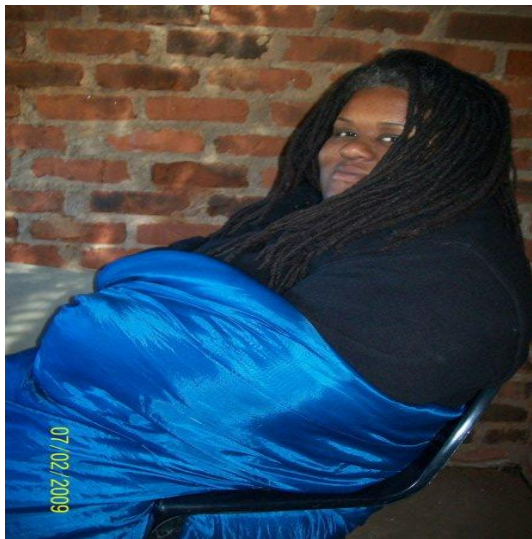
Here I am in a safari vehicle. We went on many game counts.



As a working volunteer I had many tasks to do; some more glamorous than others.



It was great meeting Dr. Marker who started the Cheetah Conservation Fund.



Another task was a 12 hour waterhole count. I was in a blind for 12 hours.



Yes!! I actually got to touch a cheetah!!



I also helped to clean cheetah pens.



Namibia is a beautiful place. This was taken while we were tracking rhino.



This is me with an Anatolian shepherd dog, which helps protect livestock.