ARGOS JTA-31 Meeting
Botswana Country Report
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Cheetah Conservation
Botswana
Cheetah Conservation Botswana (CCB)

- Small NGO formed in 2003
- Funded by project grants and donor funds
- Use cheetah as a flagship species to help conserve Botswana biodiversity through working with the community and direct action
- Has research group to help answer conservation questions about cheetah
Use of ARGOS in Botswana

- Animal tracking only
- 3 users; Cheetah, Lions and Wild Dog
- Only approx 14 PTTs
CCBs use of ARGOS

• Two main projects
  – Tracking relocated ‘problem cheetah’
    • Investigate survivorship
    • Investigate movements and setting up of new territories
  – Tracking cheetah within existing territories
    • Home range size
    • Habitat use
    • Dispersal of young
CCBs use of ARGOS cont.

- Use GPS-ARGOS collars (with VHF)
  - Sirtrack
- 2 – 10 GPS positions per day
- Upload to ARGOS every 4 days
  - i.e. ¼ day charge every 4 days
- Currently 3 collars (PTTs) in use
  - Operate for approx 2 years
  - Timed drop-off
- Likely 3-4 cheetah collared per year
CCB Issues with ARGOS

• Cost
  – PTTs & Comms
• Communication with collar
• Up-to-date GPS data
  – was vs. Is (real time)
Other Users Issues

• Charging blocks when using ARGOS for position
  – 6 hour blocks mean when tracking a crepuscular animal will have to pay for all day when only tracking for 8 hours
• Poor understanding to optimise use of the PTTs and or PMTs
• Battery life and Unit Size
Thank you