

CyberTracker in the Mountain Zebra National Park (MZNP)

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To efficiently monitor, collect and document environmental data in MZNP, the use of the CyberTracker System is of outmost importance. The rangers in MZNP are responsible for the monitoring of all species, especially black rhino and cheetah that were recently introduced to the reserve.



The reintroduction project of black rhino was hugely successful. The cheetah introduction took place in February 2007. These cheetahs were released into the park in May and June, and need to be monitored to determine their distribution and home ranges. The use of

Cybertrackers on a daily basis makes it much easier to maintain an up to date “diary” of area coverage, animal sightings, water provision, alien plants, carcasses found *etc.* in the park. To date this system has enabled us to collect valuable information that would otherwise be lost or not even captured.



For successful implementation of this system MZNP is in desperate need of another four (minimum) windows mobile devices with integrated GPS'. The integrated GPS ensures that latitude and longitude co-ordinates of field observations are recorded, allowing the end user to view sightings on a map. Currently only a quarter of our patrols are issued with CyberTrackers to gather this required information.

Furthermore, with this new hardware in place, the system will be adapted for annual large mammal surveys in the park. The current manual capturing of survey data can take up to three days to access results. Using CyberTracker, these data will be electronically available at a push of a button. **MZNP would greatly appreciate any form of support to help achieve our objective.**

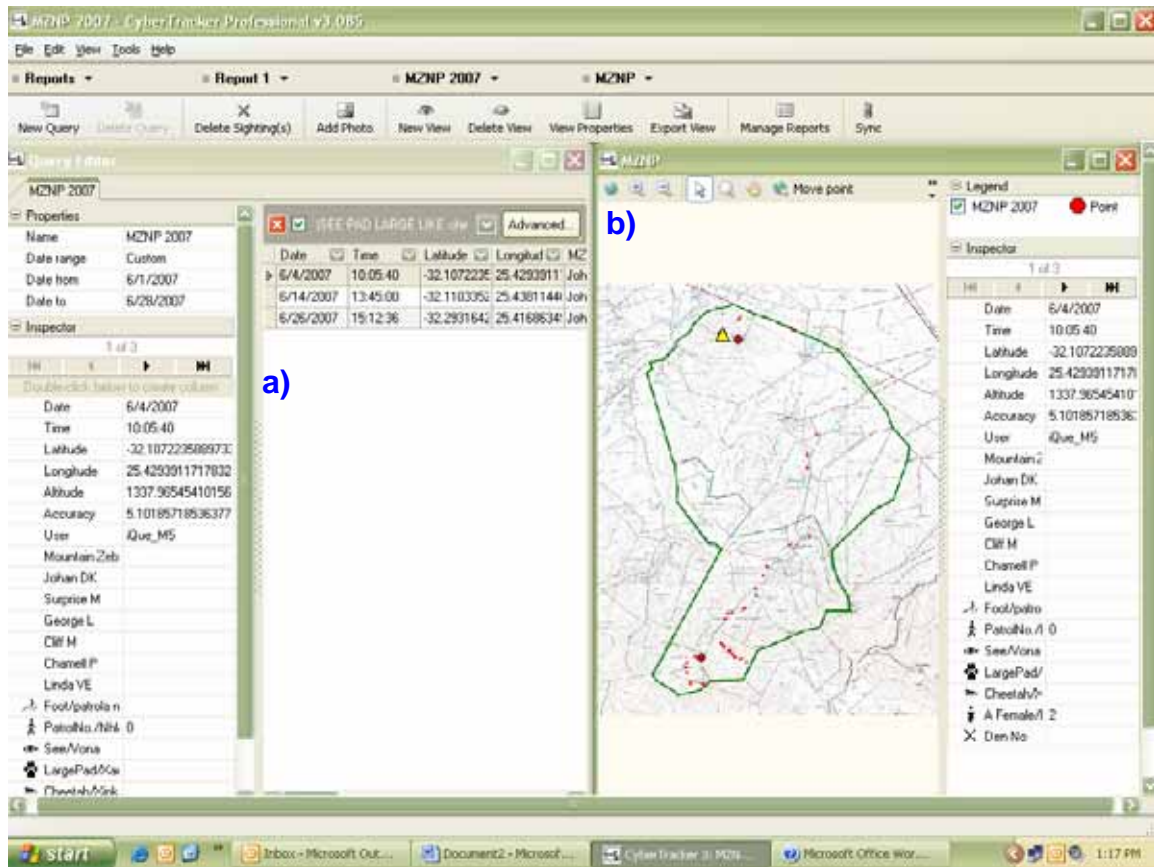


Figure 1: Screen-shot of a) mobile device sequence screen and of b) desktop data base output.