

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

Wild Animal

مرجع زبان ایرانیان

TRACKERS

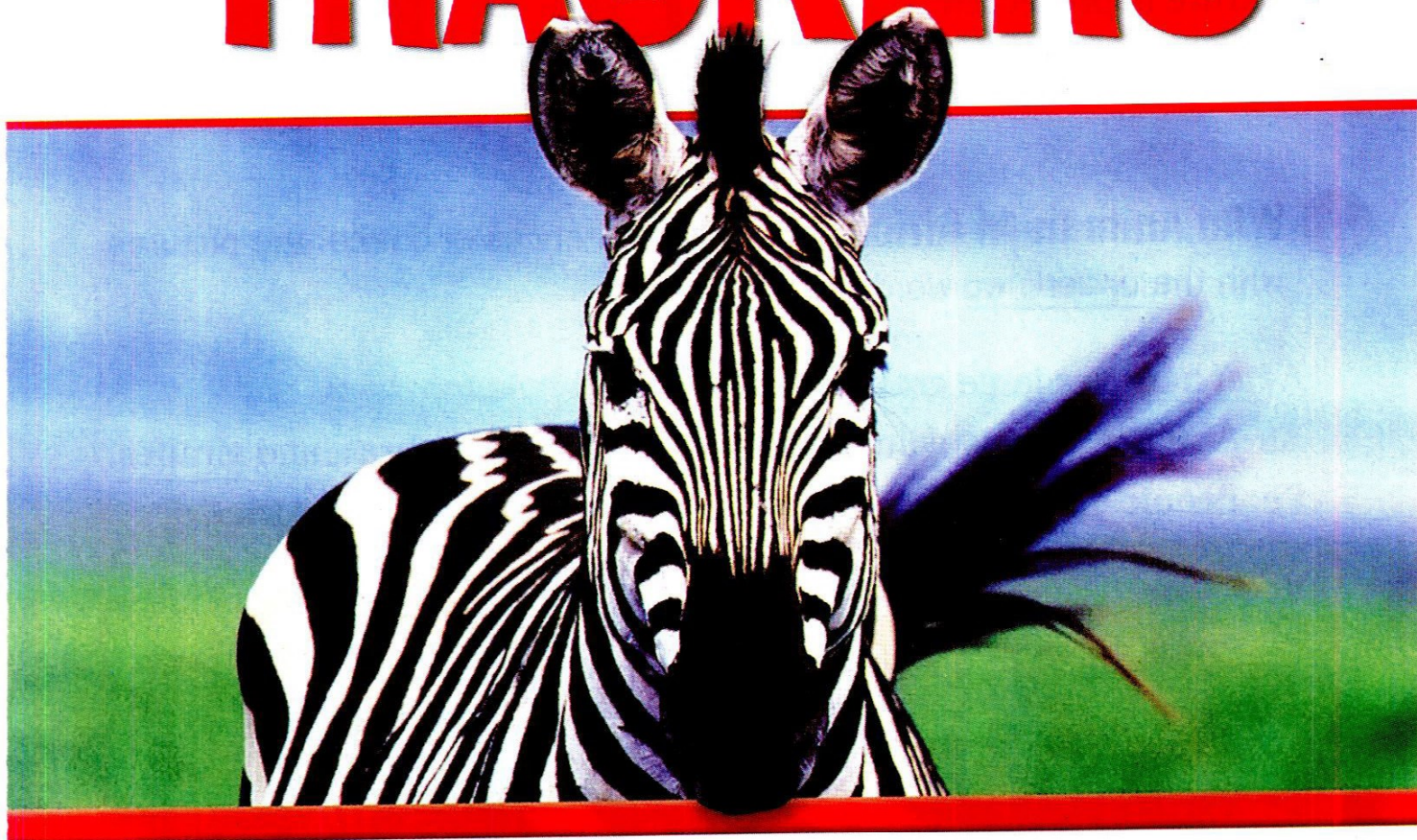


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Wild Animal **TRACKERS**



Rob Waring, Series Editor

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Words to Know

This story is set in South Africa. It happens in Karoo [kəru] National Park.

A **national park** is a special area where nature is protected.



A Wild Animals in Africa. Read the sentences and label the pictures with the underlined words.

A herd is a large group of animals.

Africa has many wild animals like elephants, zebras, and giraffes.

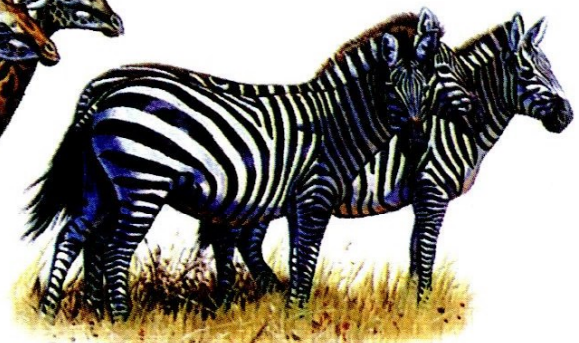
People often find wild animal tracks, or footprints, in Africa.



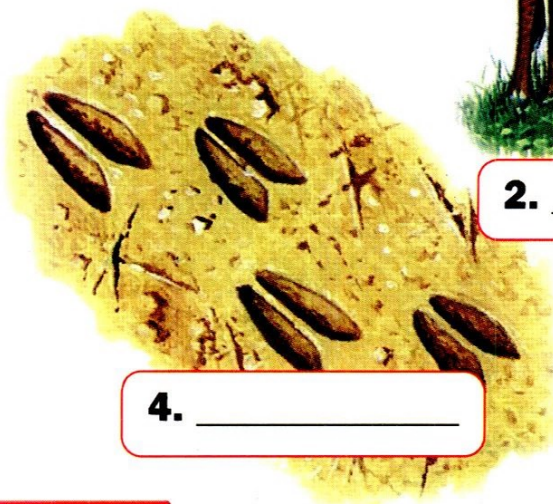
1. _____



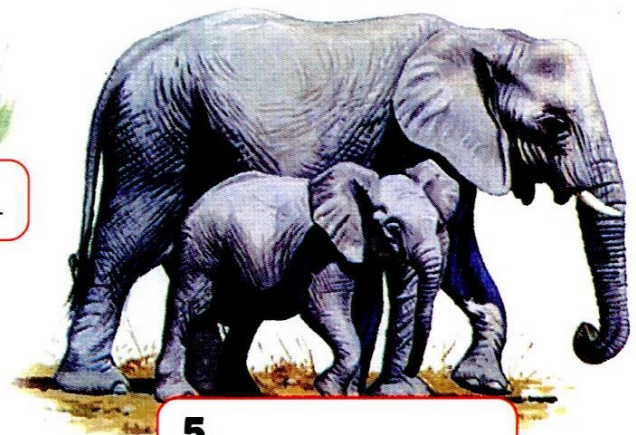
2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____

B

Conservation Technology. Read the paragraph and notice the underlined words. Then answer the questions.

African Bushmen can track, or follow, animals very well. They can learn many things by tracking animals. However, the Bushmen can't always tell other people what they know. They don't always speak the same language. This story is about a conservationist called Louis Liebenberg (libənɜːrg). He is helping to protect Africa's wild animals. He has developed a new type of technology for getting information about the animals. It's a method that doesn't depend on spoken language. It's called the 'Cyber Tracker.'

1. What does 'language' mean? _____
2. What does 'conservationist' mean? _____
3. What does 'technology' mean? _____



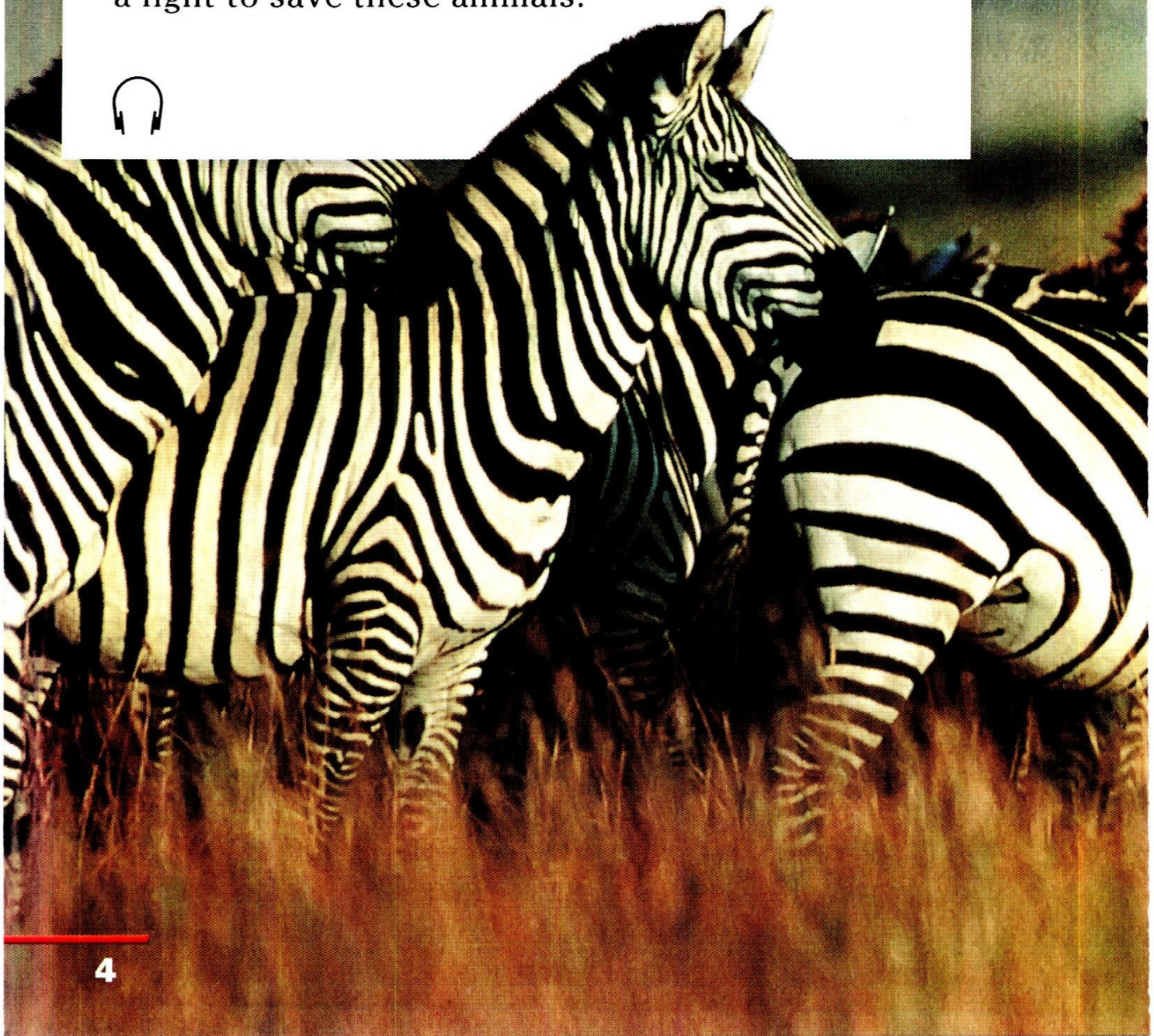
The Cyber Tracker



An African Bushman


In some parts of Africa, there are still big herds of wild animals like zebras, elephants, and giraffes. But today many of these wild animals are in danger because people are taking the land that the animals need.

It's a big problem that worries many conservationists. Conservationists are people who protect wildlife and nature. Some conservationists are now leading a fight to save these animals.









Louis Liebenberg is one of the conservationists who is trying to save the wildlife in Africa. He feels that having good information about the animals is very important for success. "The most important thing is to try and get an understanding of what's happening out there," he says.

Liebenberg reports that people need to know more about animals. He says that people need to understand what happens to plants and animals over time. Are they increasing or decreasing in numbers? What plants are the animals eating?

Summarise

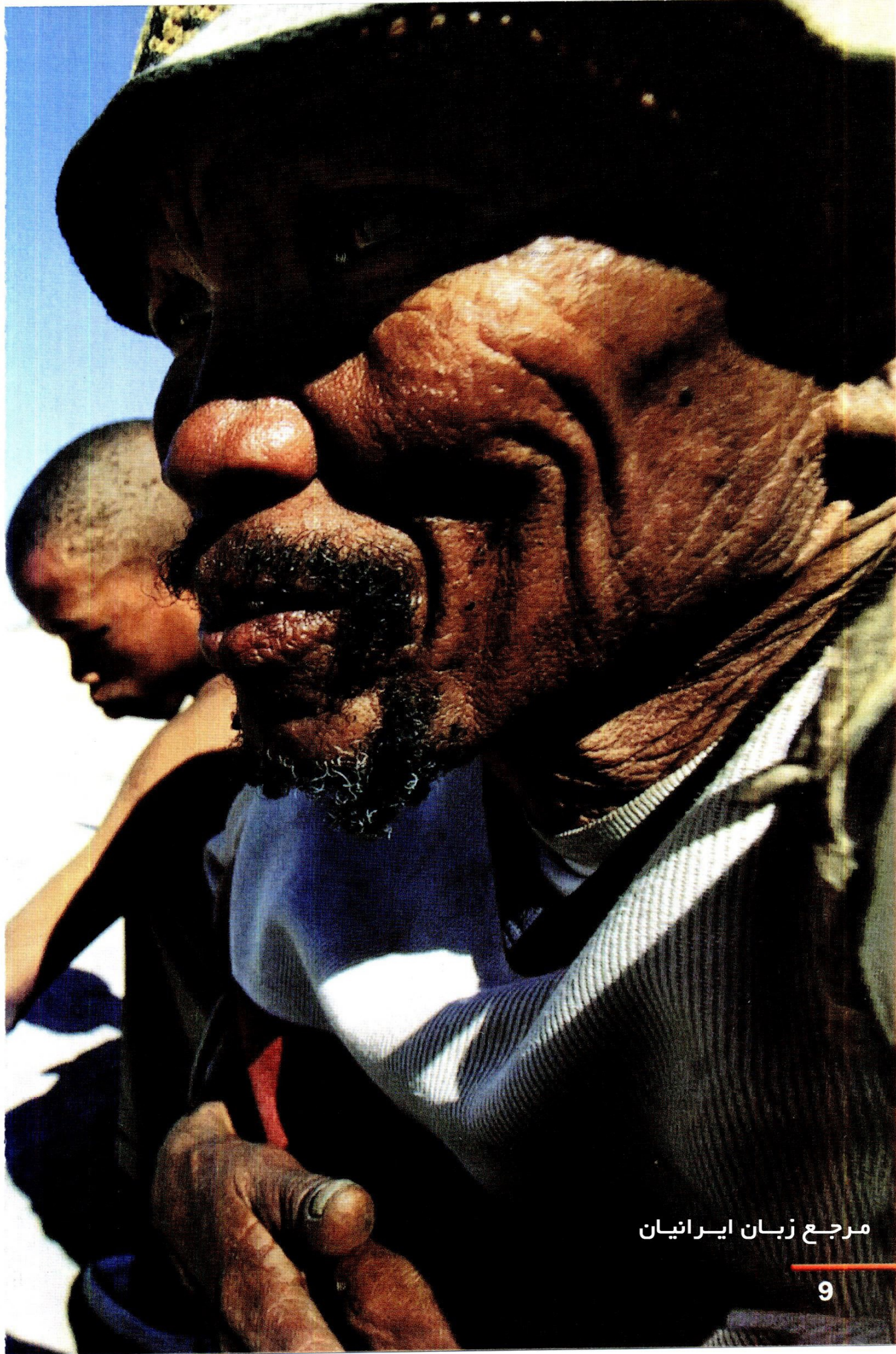
What does Liebenberg mean?

1. Summarise paragraph 1 in one sentence.
2. Summarise paragraph 2 in one sentence.

African Bushmen may be able to help conservationists to answer these questions. For hundreds of years, Bushmen have understood the ways of animals like zebras and giraffes. They're very good wild animal trackers. The Bushmen know what the animals eat. They know where the animals go. They even know where they sleep.

However, there is a problem. The Bushmen don't always speak the same language as the conservationists. This can cause problems when they work together, and communicating information is sometimes difficult. This is where new ideas and new technology can help.





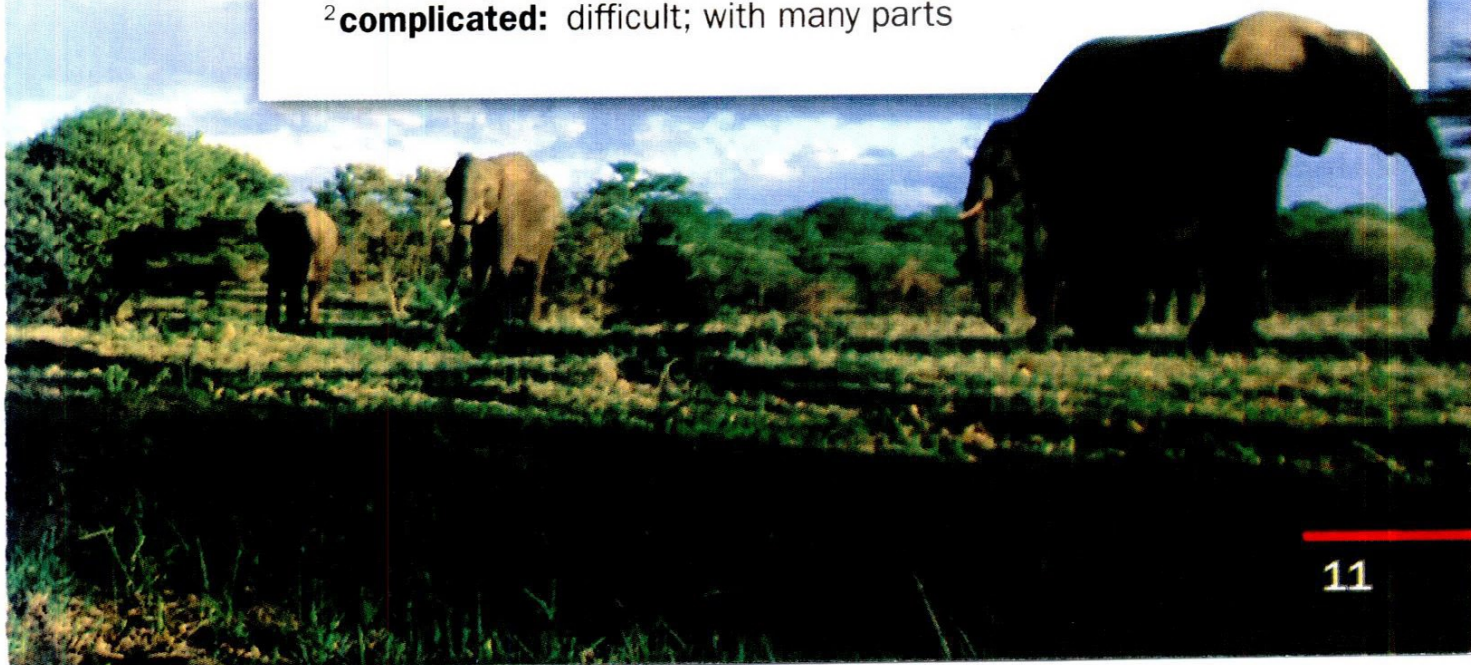


The Cyber Tracker is an **invention**¹ created by Louis Liebenberg. Liebenberg has brought the invention to Karoo National Park in South Africa. He hopes that the Bushmen can help to protect the animals using the Cyber Tracker. He thinks it's a perfect match of modern technology and old knowledge. But what is the Cyber Tracker?

Liebenberg explains that it's a small computer that helps collect information about animals. It uses pictures, called 'icons,' instead of words to record information. This way, the Bushmen can record what they see without words. They don't have to read or speak the same language as Liebenberg and other conservationists. According to Liebenberg, the Cyber Tracker can collect very detailed and **complicated**² information very quickly.

¹**invention:** a new machine that has never been made before

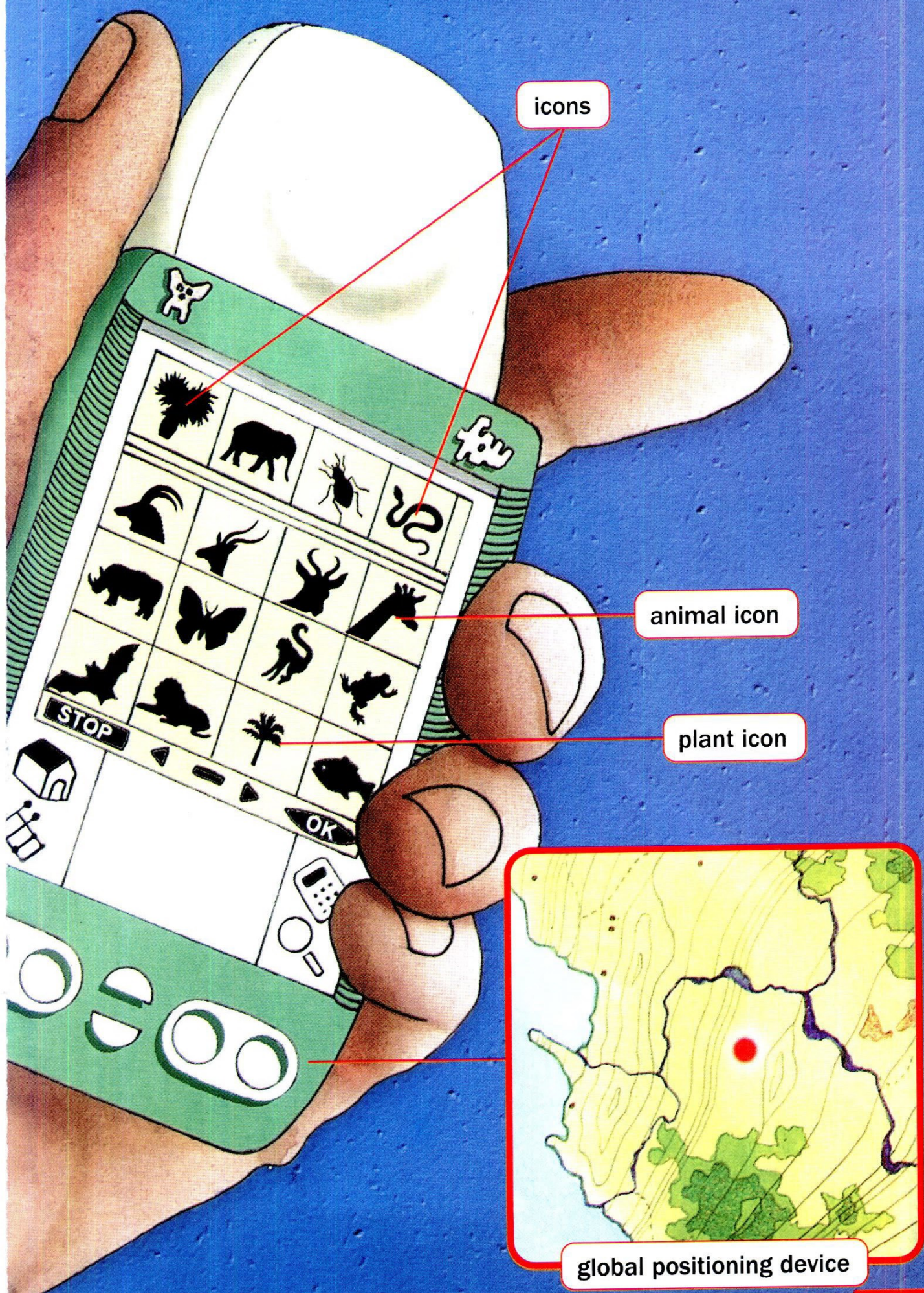
²**complicated:** difficult; with many parts



However, that's not the only thing the Cyber Tracker can do. The small computer also contains a **global positioning device**.³ Each time a Bushman sees something interesting about an animal or plant, he pushes a **button**.⁴ The Cyber Tracker records exactly where the Bushman is. That way, even if the Bushman can't read or write, he can record what he sees and where. But how does the Cyber Tracker record information?

³**global positioning device (GPD):** a machine that tracks where things are on the Earth

⁴**button:** a small key on a machine



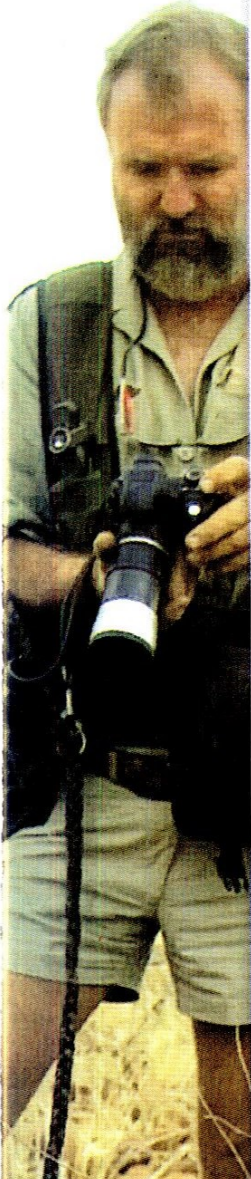
icons

animal icon

plant icon

global positioning device





Liebenberg explains that the Cyber Tracker uses icons to communicate. There are pictures for drinking, walking, fighting, sleeping, eating, and other things. With the Cyber Tracker, the user can even report whether an animal is sick or dead. The Bushman can also record other meanings by pushing different buttons. With this option, they can name about 50 different plants. This becomes very useful when the Bushmen want to record what the animals are eating.

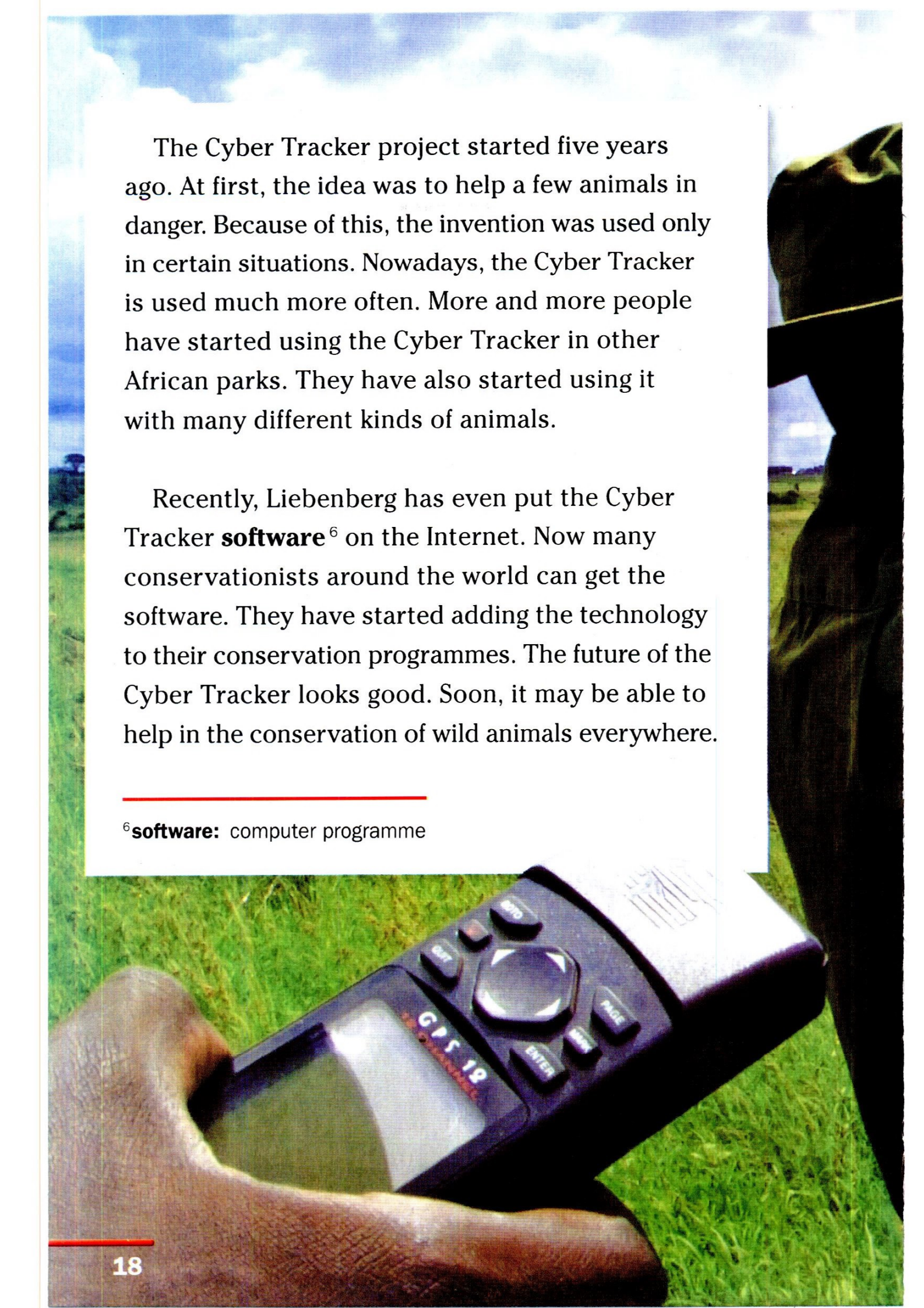
However, Liebenberg adds that it's not just about the technology. According to him, the human factor is also very important. Liebenberg says that a big part of using the Cyber Tracker is the Bushman's ability to record the information. He must be able to understand and correctly report everything he sees. The combination of machine and man seems to be working very well.



When the trackers return to their base, they connect the Cyber Tracker to a personal computer. Then, Liebenberg looks at the data and uses it to create **maps**.⁵ These maps show where the animal herds are. They also give information about what the animals are eating, and indicate facts about their health. Liebenberg can get a lot of detailed information about a lot of wild animals.

⁵**map:** a detailed picture of a specific area





The Cyber Tracker project started five years ago. At first, the idea was to help a few animals in danger. Because of this, the invention was used only in certain situations. Nowadays, the Cyber Tracker is used much more often. More and more people have started using the Cyber Tracker in other African parks. They have also started using it with many different kinds of animals.

Recently, Liebenberg has even put the Cyber Tracker **software**⁶ on the Internet. Now many conservationists around the world can get the software. They have started adding the technology to their conservation programmes. The future of the Cyber Tracker looks good. Soon, it may be able to help in the conservation of wild animals everywhere.

⁶**software:** computer programme

A photograph of two individuals in a savanna landscape. They are wearing hats and a patterned shirt, looking through binoculars. The background shows a vast green field under a cloudy sky.

Scan for Information

Scan page 18 to find the information.

1. When did the Cyber Tracker project start?
2. What was it first used for?
3. Where can people get the software now?
4. What may the Cyber Tracker soon be able to do?

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After You Read

1. Which of these is happening to herds of animals in Africa?
 - A. Conservationists are moving them.
 - B. They are in danger from the Cyber Tracker.
 - C. They are increasing in number.
 - D. The land they need is being taken.
2. On page 4, the phrase 'leading a fight' is closest in meaning to:
 - A. working hard
 - B. arguing
 - C. disagreeing
 - D. talking to people
3. Liebenberg thinks an important aim of conservation is:
 - A. To know the exact number of animals in Africa.
 - B. For people to understand more about plants and animals.
 - C. To prove animal numbers in Africa are increasing.
 - D. To count every plant.
4. The best heading for page 8 is:
 - A. Conservationists Can't Answer Questions.
 - B. Bushmen Know Too Much About Animals.
 - C. Bushmen Use Software to Communicate.
 - D. Bushmen Can Help Conservationists.
5. Bushmen know _____ about animals.
 - A. very
 - B. nothing
 - C. a lot
 - D. too
6. On page 8, who is 'they' in 'they sleep'?
 - A. animals
 - B. bushmen
 - C. conservationists
 - D. Liebenberg

- 7.** The purpose of the Cyber Tracker is to:
- A.** help with communication.
 - B.** record interesting facts.
 - C.** record complicated information.
 - D.** all of the above
- 8.** How does the Cyber Tracker make communication easy?
- A.** People can see where the Bushmen are.
 - B.** The invention uses pictures to communicate.
 - C.** The software can identify 50 different plants.
 - D.** Conservationists can track Bushmen.
- 9.** The Cyber Tracker helps to make _____ about the animals and plants.
- A.** trackers
 - B.** computers
 - C.** maps
 - D.** inventions
- 10.** The original aim of the Cyber Tracker was to help a few animals.
- A.** True
 - B.** False
- 11.** The writer probably thinks that:
- A.** Technology is making conservation easier.
 - B.** The Cyber Tracker is difficult for conservationists.
 - C.** Louis Liebenberg is a famous software maker.
 - D.** Every student should have the Cyber Tracker.

DAILY News

GLOBAL POSITIONING DEVICES BECOME INCREASINGLY COMMON

The invention of the satellite over fifty years ago opened the way for the Global Positioning System (GPS). GPS uses a series of satellites to provide exact information about the location, or position, of certain objects. There are currently 24 GPS satellites in use. There are also three additional satellites if one of the 24 stops working. Originally, only the United States government was able to use the system. Today, however, people everywhere can use GPS technology for free. This is making Global Positioning Devices (GPDs) much more common.



GPS uses a series of satellites.



Most GPDs are very small.

A GPD is usually a small machine with a screen and several buttons on the front. They are often about the size of a mobile phone. First, a GPD sends information to several satellites. This information tells the system where the user is; however, it must reach at least three satellites to work correctly. Next, GPS measures the GPD's exact distance from each satellite. It then sends this information back to the GPD. Finally, the GPD uses special software to change this information into a map with marks on it.

GPDs are like having a map that follows you wherever you go. They allow the user to see where he or she is at any moment. People can use the information to track where they have been or to plan

where they want to go. Fishermen have discovered how useful GPDs can be when they are out on the open water. Many of today's new cars include GPDs. Drivers choose a destination and the GPD shows them the best way to get there. Some people are even placing GPDs on other people. They want to know where the person is at all times. The possible applications for GPDs are endless. Who knows where they'll turn up next?



Word Count: 319

Time: _____



Vocabulary List

animal track (2)
button (12, 13, 15)
complicated (11)
conservationist (3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 18)
elephant (2, 4)
giraffe (2, 4, 8)
global positioning device (GPD) (12, 13)
herd (2, 4, 16)
invention (11, 18)
language (3, 8, 11)
map (16)
software (18, 19)
technology (3, 8, 11, 15, 18)
zebra (2, 4, 8)

AMAZING SCIENCE

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Wild Animal Trackers

In Africa, there is a group of people called 'Bushmen.' These people know a lot about wild animals. However, sometimes they can't tell others about the animals, because they don't speak the same language. How can the Bushmen share what they know?

Welcome the sights and sounds of the world with the *Footprint Reading Library*. Accompanied by original video material developed by **National Geographic Digital Media**, this is the first non-fiction reading series to present fascinating real-world stories in three formats: print, audio, and video.

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