USING CYBERTRACKER SOFTWARE IN VEGETATION MONITORING

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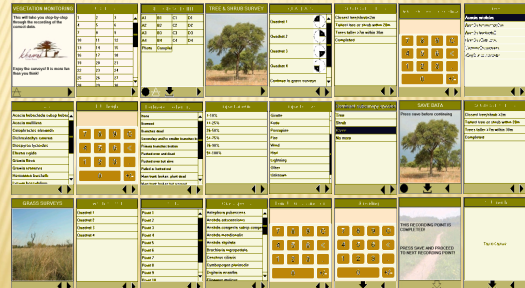
BACKGROUND

- *Cybertracker* software was originally developed for use on a handheld computer to assist illiterate Bushmen trackers to collect field data of their observations
- Over the years the software has developed further into an efficient method of GPS field data collection.
- Still mostly use to collect animal data
- We used the cybertracker software on a handheld computer to assist us in collecting and capturing vegetation data in our annual monitoring programme.

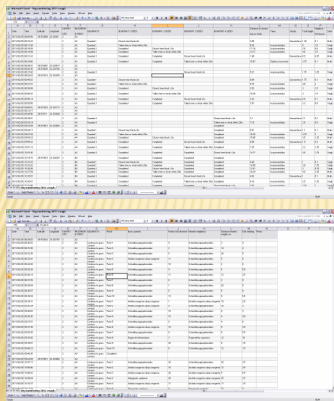**CyberTracker** Towards a Worldwide Environmental Monitoring Network

PROGRAMMING OF SOFTWARE

- Based on a set of screens to which is user programmable to the specific data that needs to be collected.
- Different design screens allows for different types of applications.
- Screens can be programmed to capture pre-determined data types, numerical data, user input by means of text, photos, etc.
- The applications are then build up in a series of screens following on from the previous screen.
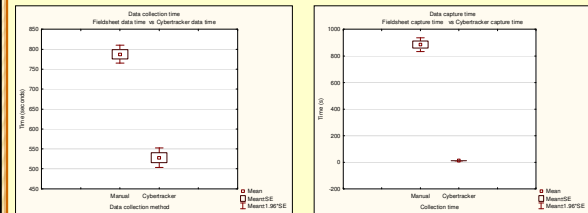

CYBERTRACKER OUTPUT

- Results can immediately be downloaded onto the computer.
- Exported into Excel, comma separated values, tab separated values etc for analysis.
- Fixed-point photographs

RESULTS

- FIELD DATA ENTRY: a total of 139.9 hours would have been spent to enter the data on datasheets in the field, compared to 93.9 hours on cybertracker, therefore saving **46 hours**.

- ELECTRONIC CAPTURE: a total of 157.2 hours would have been spend to manually capture the data from data sheets on the computer, while it only took 11.3 seconds to download data to the computer from the cybertracker, saving **157 hours.**

TOTAL TIME SAVED = 203 hours

- Not only saves time, but also eliminate errors