



Project Cheetah | Madhya Pradesh | 06 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a **Kenyan delegation visited India to discuss collaboration on wildlife conservation efforts**, with a particular emphasis on the ongoing **Cheetah Reintroduction Project** ([Project Cheetah](#)).

Key Points

- The delegation presented a draft MoU to the [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\)](#) proposing collaboration.
 - It along with capacity building and knowledge sharing, also included provisions for supplying equipment to Kenyan forest rangers to **enhance field patrolling and wildlife preservation efforts**.
- **Project Cheetah:**
 - The Phase-1 of the project started in 2022, to restore the population of cheetahs, which were declared extinct in the country in 1952.
 - It **involves the translocation of cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park**.
 - The project is implemented by the NTCA in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, and [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#).
 - Under Phase-2 of the Project India is **considering sourcing cheetahs from Kenya due to similar habitats**.
 - Cheetahs will be translocated to [Kuno National Park](#) and **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh)**.

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Cheetah

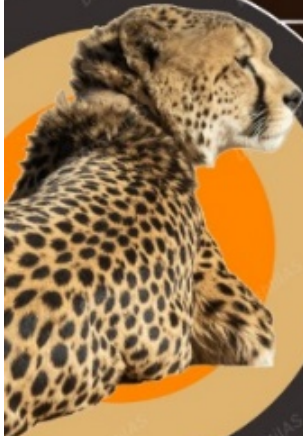
Common Name - Cheetah

Scientific Name - *Acinonyx jubatus*

- *Acinonyx jubatus jubatus* (African Cheetah)
- *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* (Asiatic Cheetah)

Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
 - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have been relocated to the Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- The relocation of cheetahs to India from Namibia is the world's first inter- continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

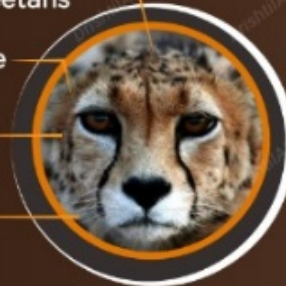


Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

More prominent spots and lines on the face

Found all over the African continent

IUCN Red List Status - Vulnerable



African Cheetah

Slightly smaller than the African ones.

Pale yellowish fawn coloured skin - more fur under body, belly specifically.

Found only in Iran; the country claims there are only 12 of them left. Year 1952 - Asiatic Cheetah officially declared extinct from India.

IUCN Red List Status - Critically Endangered



Asiatic Cheetah

