



Northeast African Cheetah

[Source: DTE](#)

Why in News?

Northeast African Cheetah is facing decline in genetic diversity due to illegal trade in cubs to Arab countries.



What are the Key Facts About Northeast African Cheetahs?

- **Scientific Name:** *Acinonyx jubatus soemmeringii*
- **About:**
 - It is a Cheetah subspecies and was first described under the scientific name *Cynailurus soemmeringii* by the **Austrian zoologist Leopold Fitzinger in 1855** on the basis of a specimen from Sudan's Bayuda Desert brought to the Tiergarten Schönbrunn in Vienna.
 - It is also known as the **Sudan cheetah**. This subspecies is more closely related to the **Southern African cheetah** than to Saharan cheetah populations.
- **Distribution:**
 - They are found in Northeast Africa, Ethiopia and In South Sudan.
 - They **live in wide open lands**, grasslands, semi-arid areas, and other open habitats where **prey is abundant such as in the East Sudanian Savanna**.
- **Habitat:**

- Their habitats typically encompassed **a range of environments such as savannas, grasslands, and semi-arid areas**, often with sparse vegetation that allowed for their hunting strategy of high-speed pursuits.
- **Threat:**
 - They are being heavily trafficked across the [Red Sea](#) to **Arab countries** like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
 - Due to habitat loss, human encroachment, and hunting, their numbers have significantly dwindled, with only a few scattered populations remaining, primarily in protected areas.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - [IUCN Red List:](#) Endangered.

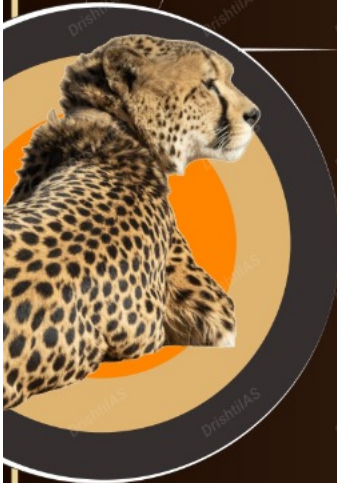


Cheetah

Common Name - Cheetah

Scientific Name - *Acinonyx jubatus*

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



Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

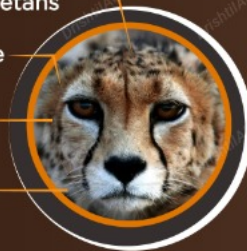
- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
 - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have 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

