



AFRICAN CHEETAHS RELOCATION : ENVIRONMENT

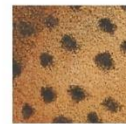
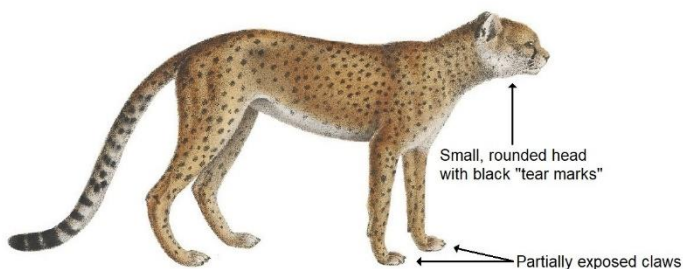
NEWS : After year in enclosures, Kuno cheetahs set to be freed into the wild

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ?

African Cheetahs in India: Key Points

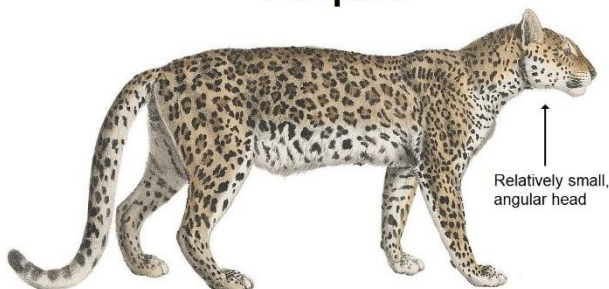
- **Translocation to India:** African cheetahs were translocated to Kuno National Park, India, marking the world's first intercontinental wild cat translocation.

Cheetah



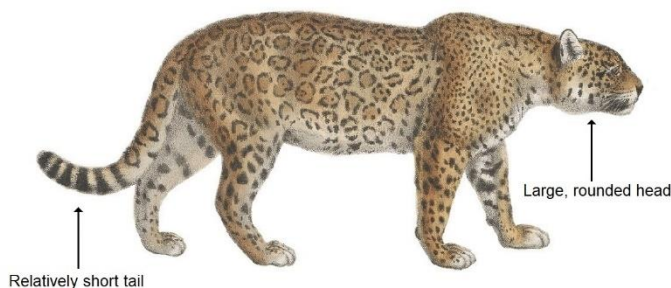
Solid black spots

Leopard



Small, densely packed rosettes

Jaguar



Large rosettes with central spot

- **Current Status:** 25 cheetahs are at Kuno, including 13 adults and 12 cubs. After over a year in enclosures, they are deemed "fit for release" into the wild.
- **Survival Challenge:** The project aimed for a 50% survival rate in the first year but faced challenges due to overestimating Kuno's carrying capacity.



- **Mortality Causes:** Predation is the leading cause of cheetah deaths (53.2%), with leopards likely the chief predators in India. Other causes include transit issues, tracking devices, and wildlife conflicts.
- **Project Considerations:** Options include preparing Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary or relocating some cheetahs to a fenced area in Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, shifting the project from open landscape to restricted area management.

Cheetah Overview

- **African Cheetah:**
 - **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable.
 - **CITES Status:** Appendix I.
 - **Habitat:** 6,500-7,000 in the wild.
 - **Physical Traits:** Larger than Asiatic cheetahs.
- **Asian Cheetah:**
 - **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered.
 - **CITES Status:** Appendix I.
 - **Habitat:** 40-50 in Iran.
 - **Physical Traits:** Smaller, paler, with more fur, a smaller head, and a longer neck than African cheetahs.

Source : <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/kuno-cheetahs-set-to-be-freed-into-the-wild-9531139/>