



Cheetah

Acinonyx jubatus

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Photo by: Craig Taylor

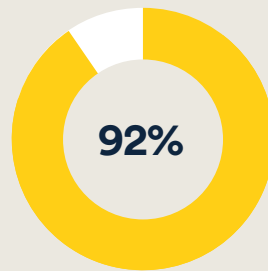
Widely known as the planet’s fastest land animal, the cheetah is also Africa’s most threatened big cat.” Today, there are estimated to be only 7,100 cheetahs left in the wild — and their future remains uncertain.



● CURRENT Cheetah Range ● HISTORIC Cheetah Range

CHEETAH CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern Near Threatened Vulnerable Endangered Critically Endangered



Population

Cheetahs have vanished from approximately 92 percent of their historic range and have only one population of less than 100 individuals in Asia.

Of the 33 surviving cheetah populations, only two exceed 1,000 individuals, and two-thirds have fewer than 100 individuals. Around 20% of surviving cheetah populations have fewer than 10 individuals.

Threats to the Cheetah

- 1 Cheetahs are frequently killed by farmers, either preemptively or in retaliation for livestock predation.
- 2 Cheetahs are profoundly affected by loss of prey from human hunting and the development of land for agricultural purposes.
- 3 Direct hunting in some parts of Africa for skins contributes to cheetah population declines, as does the illegal trade in live cubs and adults, many of which die during transport.

POPULATION

There are estimated to be only 7,100 cheetahs left in the wild, and their future remains uncertain across their range.

Cheetahs are listed as “Vulnerable” by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. In North Africa and Asia, they are considered “Critically Endangered.”

SAVING THE CHEETAH

Panthera’s Cheetah Program aims to protect cheetahs by addressing direct threats to them, their prey base and their habitats. To do this, Panthera gathers critical ecological data by surveying and monitoring populations and their prey, collaborating with local law enforcement officials and partners and working with local communities to mitigate conflict.

In 2014, Panthera launched a range-wide cheetah conservation program based in Zambia’s Greater Kafue Ecosystem. The program’s activities have expanded into the vast Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, Africa’s largest conservation landscape that is home to the largest population of wild cheetahs in southern Africa.