

O Mopsan LK. 1998. 1996 International Cheetah Studbook - an updated status report  
Washington D.C.: Marker-Kraus, L. (ed), NOAHS Centre, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian  
Institution.

Keywords: 1Afr/1CF/1CG/1EG/1GN/1LY/1MA/1ML/1MR/1TD/1TG/1TN/1ZA/45Asia/Acinonyx  
jubatus/Arabia/CAR/cheetah/Sahara/status/Studbook

Abstract: This article updates of the cheetah status in 1996. In Africa, the cheetah is present in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, and Western Sahara. The cheetah is extinct in Guinea, Morocco, Togo and Tunisia. In Asia, the cheetah is present in India. It is probably extinct in Turkmenistan. It is extinct in Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen. It is extinct in Russia.

Cet article met à jour le statut du guépard en 1996. En Afrique, le guépard est présent au Cameroun, en République Centrafricaine, au Tchad, en République Démocratique du Congo, en Egypte, en Libye, au Mali, en Mauritanie et à l'ouest du Sahara. Le guépard est éteint en Guinée, au Maroc, au Togo et en Tunisie. En Asie, le guépard est présent en Inde. Il est probablement éteint au Turkménistan. Il est éteint en Irak, en Jordanie, au Kazakhstan, au Kirghizstan, au Koweït, en Oman, au Qatar, en Arabie Saoudite, en Syrie, au Tadjikistan, aux Emirats Arabes Unis, en Ouzbékistan et au Yémen. Il est éteint en Russie.

SB 96

In Parker, L. (ed) 1996. International  
Cheetah Studybook. Washington, DC = NOAH'S  
Centre, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian  
Institution

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**The Status of the Cheetah an up date**

By: L Kheireddine O'Mopsan

1998

RAS SUM NIGER!

## THE STATUS OF THE CHEETAH

1- **AFRICA** : Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Togo, Tunisia and Western Sahara.

### 1.1- Cameroon.

Erratum (in The Status of the Cheetah of 1992). From March 1974 to March 1976, L.P. van Lavieren and M.L. Bosch have carried out censuses in Bouba N'djida National Park to estimate the density of its large mammal populations. According to their study, the cheetah and also the gazelles do not exist in this National Park.

National Parks. Probably few cheetachs still live in Waza National Park.

### 1.2. Central African Republic.

Population. Some cheetahs still live in Manovo Gounda- Saint Floris National Park (bordering Chad), Bamingui-Bangoran National Park (bordering Chad) and André-Félix National Park (bordering Sudan). Also possible populations in S E of the city of Obo (SE of the country), bordering Democratic Congo.

### 1.3. Chad.

Population. A small population may still remaining up in the Tibesti Highlands where prey species still relatively abundant. May be also a small population in Ennedi mountains.

### 1.4. Democratic Congo.

Population. There is some cheetahs in Garamba National Park (bordering Sudan). Possible small populations in NE of the city of Gwane (N of the country,

near Central African Republic) bordering C.A.R. and in extreme NE of the country near Sudan- C.A.R. borders.

### 1.5. Egypt.

Legislation. In 1994, tourism was banned in Marsa Matruh Province (where is situated Kattara depression) for 5 years to protect (from poaching) wildlife and especially the gazelles (Gazella leptoceros) and hares. (El Ahram International, 1994). AL

National Parks. No cheetah exist in conservation areas. There was probably cheetahs living in the high lands of Saint-Catherine Reserve, Sinai.

Population History. The Suez Channel, inaugurated in 1869, has probably influenced cheetah's migration habits. Cheetahs may still have been found in Sinai until the late 1940's (Guggisberg, 1975). Cheetah have been recorded in Kattara depression (Osborn and Helmy, 1980). From 1989 to 1994, around a thousand of gazelles were poached in Marsa Matruh Province by some 120 tourists that came from Gulf Arabian countries. ( Al Ahram International, 1994).

### 1.6. Guinea.

Population. Extinct. It is thought that in the 1950's there were cheetahs living to the N of the city of Koundara, N of the country, in the savannahs bordering Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park, and they were probably the last cheetahs of the country.

### 1.7. Libya.

Population. Cheetahs in Libya may still live around Fezzan oasis, SE of the country.

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1. An Egyptian daily newspaper.

Population History. Cheetahs have been reported in Ghadames, Tripoli region and Fezzan (Toschi, 1954, observations before 1941).

### 1.8. Mali.

Population. Possible populations in the NW of the country bordering Mauritania and in the South part of Adghagh n'Ifoga chain, were cheetahs have been reported in late 1970's (Sayer, 1977). <sup>↖=(Adrar des Iforas)</sup>

Population History. In the Sahelian area the last cheetahs were probably living in Gurma National Park.

National Parks. There were few cheetahs in Gurma National Park in the 1970's.

Erratum. In the Status of the Cheetahs of 1992 De Smet means the Algerian part of Adghagh n'Ifogha and not the Malian part.

### 1.9. Mauritania.

Population. Possible isolated groups and individuals in Aouker Plateau, Mauritania Adghagh<sup>1</sup> (Adrar de Mauritanie) and Tidjika.

Population History. Cheetahs in Mauritania were abundant first in extreme south and secondly along the coastal plains from Senegal's border to Western Sahara border, where a very abundant bush vegetation flourish.

National Parks. No cheetah exist in conservation areas. There was a small population of cheetahs in Banc d'Arguin National Park on the Atlantic Ocean coast, which has disappeared following the extermination of their main prey, the Mhorr Gazelle, and the dramatic decrease in Dorcas Gazelle numbers.

<sup>1</sup> At the NE of Banc d'Arguin National Park, NW of the country.

### 1.10. Morocco.

Population. Extinct. Cheetahs have lived probably until the late 1970's in the thorn bush plains, from the Moroccan part of the Dra' Hamada<sup>2</sup> (Hamada du Drâa) to the Moroccan part of the Gir Hamada (Hamada du Guir), SE of the country along the Algerian border.

Population History. In 19th century cheetahs were present in S Morocco from the shores of the Atlantic ocean in the west to the Algerian border in the East and from the Western Sahara border in the south to the high Alfalfa steppes of the south part of the High Atlas (Haut Atlas) in the north. French zoologist L.G. Seurat (1943) wrote about the appearance of 12 cheetahs in the Moroccan Gir Hamada near Figig (Figuig), a settlement situated at 10km far from Algeria.

National Parks. No cheetahs exist. There were very few cheetahs in the Alfalfa steppes which form now Massa National Park, SW of the country.

### 1.11. Togo.

Population. Extinct. The species existed in the savannahs at the N of the country.

National Parks. Until the 1960's there was probably a small population of cheetahs in Keran National Park.

### 1.12. Tunisia.

Population. Extinct. The last Tunisian cheetahs have probably lived on until the 1970's in the Alfalfa - Acacia steppes at the N of the Hammada El Homra near Libyan border.

**Erratum.** (In the Status of the Cheetah of 1992). Bordj Bourguiba and not Bordj Bowgiba.

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<sup>2</sup> Hamada : Almost equivalent of Karoo.

National Parks. No cheetahs exist. Probably some cheetahs existed in early 20th century in the Acacia steppes which form now Bou Hedma National Park (164 km<sup>2</sup>) in centre-east of the country.

Reintroduction Perspectives. The reintroduction of the cheetahs back to Tunisia will be possible by the next few years in Bou Hedma National Park, which is well managed by the government authorities through the efforts of Mr Ahmed Zoghlani, with help from the WWF Mediterranean Programme. This National Park contains a good preys diversity : Dorcas Gazelle, Mhorr Gazelle, Barbary Sheep, Scimitar-Horned Oryx, Addax, Ostrich and Hares. It would be better to reintroduce in this conservation area cheetahs from Algeria's Tassili n'Azger.

**Contacts** (Concerning future reintroduction of cheetahs into Tunisia) :

1. Mr Leonardo Lacerda

WWF Mediterranean Programme Office

Via Garigliano 57

00 198 Rome

Italy.

Fax : +39 6 841 3866.

2. Mr Ahmed Zoghlani (as of now still works in Bou Hedma

National Park as conservationist).

Address of Bou Hedma National Park : Write to Mr Leonardo Lacerda..

3. For to provide in the future some cheetahs from Algeria contact :

Mr Hachemi Amir Bouredjli

ANN,<sup>1</sup>

Jardin d'Essai,

El Anasser, Alger.

Algeria.

Fax : +213 02 67 43 69.

1. Agence Nationale pour la Conservation de la Nature (=National

### 1.13. Western Sahara.

Population. A possible population may still live in the upper lands of East Tiris (SE of the country), a region with relatively abundant vegetation.

National Parks. No Cheetah exist.

Population History. In the sixties the species was still found throughout almost all the country, but it is very probable that it was present in low densities.

Erratum. (In the Status of the Cheetah of 1992). Given to an Algerian zoo (the zoo of Beni Abbes Scientific Research Center?) and not Given to the Algeria zoo.

Bibliography. « Contribution à l'étude de la faune du Sahara Occidental du sanglier au phacochère » (= Contribution to the study of the Western Sahara fauna from the wild boar to the warthog). By Vincent Monteil. Edition : ?, Paris 1951.

2. ASIA : India, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

#### 2.1. India.

National Parks. There were few cheetahs in areas which are now Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary (756 Km<sup>2</sup>), Gir National Park and Ranthambore National Park.

#### 2.2. Iraq.

Population. Extinct. Last Sighting in 1950. The Species has probably lived on in the country until the 1960's.

Population History. Cheetahs were living in the most part of the country from the south near Saudi and Kuwait borders to the north, in south Kurdistan (Iraqi Kurdistan).



### 2.3. Jordan.

Population. Extinct. The species has probably lived on until the 1950's in the remote steppes bordering Syria.

National Parks. No Cheetah exist. There were very few cheetahs in the steppes where we found now Azraq Desert Reserve.

Population History. In 1935 still many skins were sold in Be'er Sheva' (now in Israel territory) (Guggisberg, 1975).

### 2.4. Kazakhstan.

Population. Extinct. The last cheetahs have probably lived on until the 1950's in the Usty Urt Plateau bordering Uzbekistan.

### 2.5. Kyrgystan.

Population. Extinct. Cheetahs lived in the steppes of Ferghana Valley probably around 1900.

### 2.6. Kuwait.

Population. Extinct. The species lived probably until 1940's near Saudi-Iraq borders.

### 2.7. Oman.

Population. Extinct. It is probable that the last cheetahs have lived on until the early 1970's on the Jiddat al Harasis Plateau, Dhofar province.

National Parks. There were very few cheetahs in the plains that are now the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (20.000 Km<sup>2</sup>) where they preyed upon Oryx, Goitered gazelle (G.Subguturosa) and Arabian gazelle (G.arabica).

Contacts : Mr Kamal Abdulredha Sultan,

Vice President,

The Historical Association of Oman,  
P.O. Box 6941, Ruwi,  
Sultanate of Oman.

### 2.8. Qatar.

Population. Extinct. The species has probably lived on until the 1940's in the remote regions of the country.

Population History. Around 1900, Cheetahs were probably very scarce in the Qatar peninsula because of the very low density of preys, due to the extreme poverty of the ecosystem (rocky desert).

### 2.9. Saudi Arabia.

Population. Extinct. It is very probable that the last Cheetahs in this country have lived on until 1970's in the remote parts of Rub' Al-Khali desert.

National Parks. No cheetah exist. There were very few Cheetahs in Asir National Park (1000 Km<sup>2</sup>)

Population History. In 1900, the Cheetah populated probably almost all the territory of the country from the heavy Acacia bush in the S W to the southern temperate Syrian steppes in the north (South part of Badiyat ash-sham). It is thought that it is only in these two regions that Cheetahs were not present in very low densities.

### 2.10. Syria.

Population. Extinct The last Cheetahs of the country have probably lived on until the 1960's in the eastern temperate Syrian steppe (Badiyat ash-sham) near Khabur river.

### 2.11. Tajikistan.

Population. Extinct. Cheetahs were living in the north of this country in the steppes of the Naryn river Valley (that constitutes a part of Ferghana Valley).

### 2.12. United Arab Emirates.

Population. Extinct. Local bedouin hunters may have killed the last Cheetahs of the country in the Rub al-Khali desert of Abu Dhabi emirate around the 1960's.

Population History. The cheetah lived in UAE territory from the salt pans desert region in the W to the oases region and mountain valleys bordering Oman in the E. But it was probably present in very low densities everywhere.

Reintroduction Perspectives. UAE is today the best country in all Middle - East for the reintroduction of the cheetah. Its conservation areas contain the largest herds of Arabian Oryx and Gazelles in the Middle-East (~~this~~ <sup>these</sup> good conservation measures have been the work of the president of this country, H.H.Shaykh Zayed).

### ography Bibliography.

His Highness Shaykh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, has once published a book on hawking in UAE (Information issued in an arabic magazine in late 1980's). We think this nature lover wise has talked about cheetahs used as hunting leopard in UAE in this book.

### 2.13. Uzbekistan.

Population. Extinct. The last Cheetahs of the country may have been killed in the Usty Urt Plateau.

### 2.14. Turkmenistan.

Population. Extinct ?

National Parks. Probably some Cheetahs still live in Badkhyz Preserve where there were very few individuals in the 1970's.

### 2.15. Yemen.

Population. Extinct. The last Cheetahs in Yemen have been probably killed in the 1960's near the eastern frontier bordering Oman.

Population History. Cheetahs in Yemen probably occupied areas with abundant preys of the Yemeni highlands.

### 3. EUROPE. Russia.

#### 3.1. Russia.

Population. Extinct. The last Cheetahs of Russia have been killed probably in N Daghestan.

Population History. Cheetahs in Russia lived in Daghestan and Kalmykia. In this latter republic the cheetah population was probably the most nordic of all the species populations in historic times.

#### Post-script \* Israel and Jordan :

→ Population History. The cheetah is not mentioned in the Talmud nor in the Bible, whereas other large predators such lion, leopard and Bear are mentioned too many times. This maybe shows that in the Palestine of early historic times, the cheetah lived only in the S of this country (Negev desert) and at very low densities.