

**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the  
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC5)**

*Online, 28 June – 9 July 2021*

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Outcome 7

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON  
THE ASIATIC CHEETAH**

The Fifth Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council (ScC-SC5) held from 28 June to 9 July, decided to establish an Intersessional Working Group on the above subject.

This Working Group shall have the mandate to consider options for the recovery of the Asiatic and North-East African Cheetah as set out in the Terms of Reference below, and to report to the Sessional Committee at its 6th meeting on its findings and to inform a decision at COP14.

The Working Group should consist of the Range States concerned, as well as African regional representatives of the Sessional Committee, experts from the IUCN, other interested members, and other experts as appropriate.

The intersessional Working Group should:

- a. consider assessments of the genetic status of the Asiatic Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*, to assess the current population status, and determine whether supplementation from other Cheetah populations is needed to secure its genetic viability;
- b. work in close collaboration with concerned Range States and the CITES Secretariat to explore opportunities to use available Cheetahs of acceptable subspecies, to establish and maintain a well-managed population for eventual reintroduction/reinforcement into North-Eastern Africa, once their protection can be secured, and options to provide support to the recovery of the Cheetah in Western and South Asia;
- c. work in close collaboration with concerned current, historical and potential Range States, the CITES Secretariat, the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group, and other experts as needed, to explore the best genetic, phenotypic, demographic and ecological options and the practical availability of Cheetahs, taking into account various factors including social structures, veterinary health, infectious diseases of the Cheetahs, and the science-policy interface, to establish a managed metapopulation for eventual reintroduction/reinforcement into concerned current, historical and potential Range States, once their protection can be secured and to provide support to the recovery of Cheetah in Western and South Asia;
- d. in collaboration with relevant expert institutions and the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group, support the collation of a catalogue of likely candidates that could be available for a Cheetah recovery programme for North-Eastern Africa and Western and South Asia and identify potential release sites that are sufficiently secure to support population recovery;
- e. offer support to current, historical and potential Range States in developing a new strategy for the conservation of the Asiatic Cheetah; and
- f. report on its findings to the 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.