**Basic Information: Cheetah (*Ocinonyx jubatus)***

**Common names:** Cheetah,

**Identification pointers:** Very tall cat with greyhound-like build; long, slender legs; slender build; long, thick tail; black tear marks on face; coat a tan colour with solid, round black spots (unlike the rosettes of a leopard); sexes similar.

**Can be confused with:** serval, leopard

**Activity period:** Duirnal

**Length:** 1.8-2.2cm **Height:** 80cm **Weight:** 40-60kg

**Gestation period:** ±3 months

**Diet:** Mostly medium sized antelope such as impala. Coalitions of males can take prey as large as wildebeest.

**Predators:** leopards, lions, hyaenas

**Preferred habitat:** open habitats such as grassland and light woodland. Require good visibility to hunt. Not water dependent.

**Red List status:** Vulnerable but the Asiatic subspecies is critically endangered

**Population:** Decreasing: 7 000-10 000 in Africa, and 60-100 in Asia

**Threats:** Cheetah require huge areas to support a viable populations, habitat loss is causing isolation and extinction of populations. Depletion of their wild prey, particularly in North Africa, is a major problem. Conflict with farmers and herders a major threat in Southern Africa, despite them posing little threat to livestock. Indiscriminate predator control methods like leg traps and poison are a major threat.