***Gazella* *bennetti* (Indian Gazelle or Chinkara) of Pakistan: Genetic Profiling and Conservation Priorities**

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**ABSTRACT**

Indian Gazelle (*Gazella bennetti*) is endemic to wild northern Punjab, Pakistan and also an endangered species according to red list categories of International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Better understanding of genetics of immune response of this species can be helpful to design effective conservation strategies. The objective of this study was to assess the molecular genetic diversity on interleukin 2 (IL-2) gene sequences of endangered Indian Gazelle (*Gazella bennetti*) as a gene encoding a cytokine involved in some vital activities of immune response regulation. The IL-2 gene (492 bp) was amplified and sequenced in DNA samples collected from wild as well as captive Indian Gazelle, followed by alignment and phylogenetic analysis. The neighbour joining tree constructed from MEGA6 showed that Indian Gazelle (*Gazella bennetti*) is different from others by falling in a separate clade. The analysis of study results showed that *Gazella bennetti* is a unique isolated population found in Pakistan which is endemic as well as endangered. Therefore, in-situ and ex-situ conservation techniques for *Gazella bennetti* present a good solution to preserve this endangered species from extinction.