



Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah Project: Phase II

March 2016

Agency	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
Project Title	Conservation of the Asiatic Cheetah Project (CACP) - Phase II
Thematic area	Environment
Partners	Department of Environment (DoE)
Donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Development Program (UNDP) • Wildlife Conservation Society • Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation • Dana Insurance Company
Financials	UNDP TRAC – US\$ 842,748 Wildlife Conservation Society – US\$ 40,000 Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation – US\$ 60,000 Dana Insurance Company – US\$ 33,356
Funding required for further activities	US\$ 1,000,000
Provinces	Semnan, North Khorasan, Yazd, South Khorasan, Kerman
Project start date	November 2013
Estimated end date	December 2016
Relevance to SDGs	1, 8, 9, 15

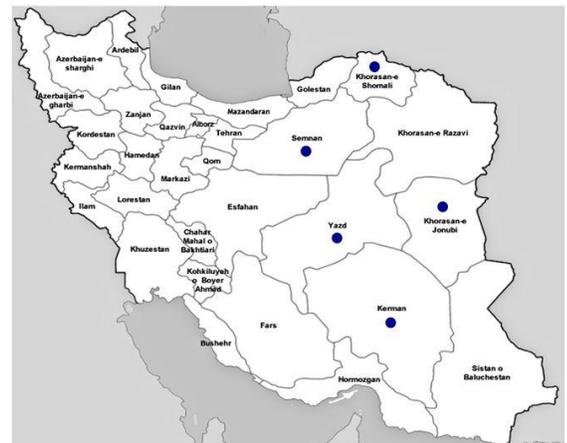
Project Description

Iran’s Department of the Environment and UNDP – together with a number of dedicated and committed national and international partners – originally joined forces in 2001 to attempt to reverse the decline of the endangered Asiatic Cheetah and save it from extinction. Phase I of the project was co-funded by the Global Environment Facility between 2001 and 2008.

Phase II implementation commenced in 2010. It aims to assist the Department of the Environment to fulfill its commitments to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity under Iran’s Programme of Work on Protected Areas. Pilot sites have been selected in cheetah habitats. The ultimate goal is to achieve sustainability of Protected Areas and the Asiatic Cheetah population within them. The project will build on the achievements of the CACP Phase I by strengthening the current Protected Area management in selected cheetah habitats.

It is now estimated that fewer than 100 Asiatic Cheetahs are living in the wild in Iran. The numbers appear to be rising in the northern habitats of Miandasht and Touran. It is believed that this is attributable, in part, the vigilance and the enhanced morale of the game guards who try to protect the animals from poachers.

Map of project locations (by province)





Roadkill – the Asiatic Cheetah, a victim of modernization.



There has been an increase in the number of observations of Cheetah mother and cubs in selected Cheetah habitats.

What we accomplished

- **Protection:** In 2013-2014, enhanced protection manifested in a recorded increase in the prey population by 17% with poaching violations decreasing by 27% in cheetah habitats. This performance was made possible through improved training provided to the game guards and awareness raising provided to local communities.
- **National symbol:** Awareness raising has turned the Asiatic Cheetah into a national symbol – including its images being emblazoned on the Meraj airline fleet and the national football team.
- **Community reserve:** An innovative community reserve is being piloted across 130,000 hectares in the Yazd province.
- **Purchase of traditional rights:** There are ongoing efforts to protect the cheetahs in the face of increased grazing and water rights claims within the Protected Areas. Recently, an agreement was reached with herders to evacuate a core zone within the Touran National Park and relocate to pastures on the periphery of the PA based on a package of incentives.

Future funding requirements to:

- Up-scale ecotourism activities in the Touran National Park.
- Enhance protection and monitoring activities carried out by the game guards including through the use of new technology.
- Address on-going threats to cheetahs, such as traffic accidents that occur in critical motorway accident hotspots and the threat of herder dogs.
- Implement new participatory approaches to sustainable rangeland management and reduce conflicts between ungulates and farmers in the Miandasht reserve of the North Khorasan province.
- Promote advanced biological studies of cheetah and their prey in order to better understand cheetah behavioural traits (e.g. observing the behaviour of cheetahs in wildlife corridors using radio-telemetry).

United Nations
Building, 8 Shahrzad
Blvd,
Darrou, Tehran,
Islamic Republic of
Iran

Tel: +98-21-2286
0691-4, 2286 0925-8
Fax: +98-21-2286
9547

registry.ir@undp.org
www.ir.undp.org