



3 YEARS OF CHEETAH IN INDIA

BRINGING BACK

THE CHEETAH

TO INDIA

Restoring Nation's Natural Heritage, Reviving Open Natural Ecosystems

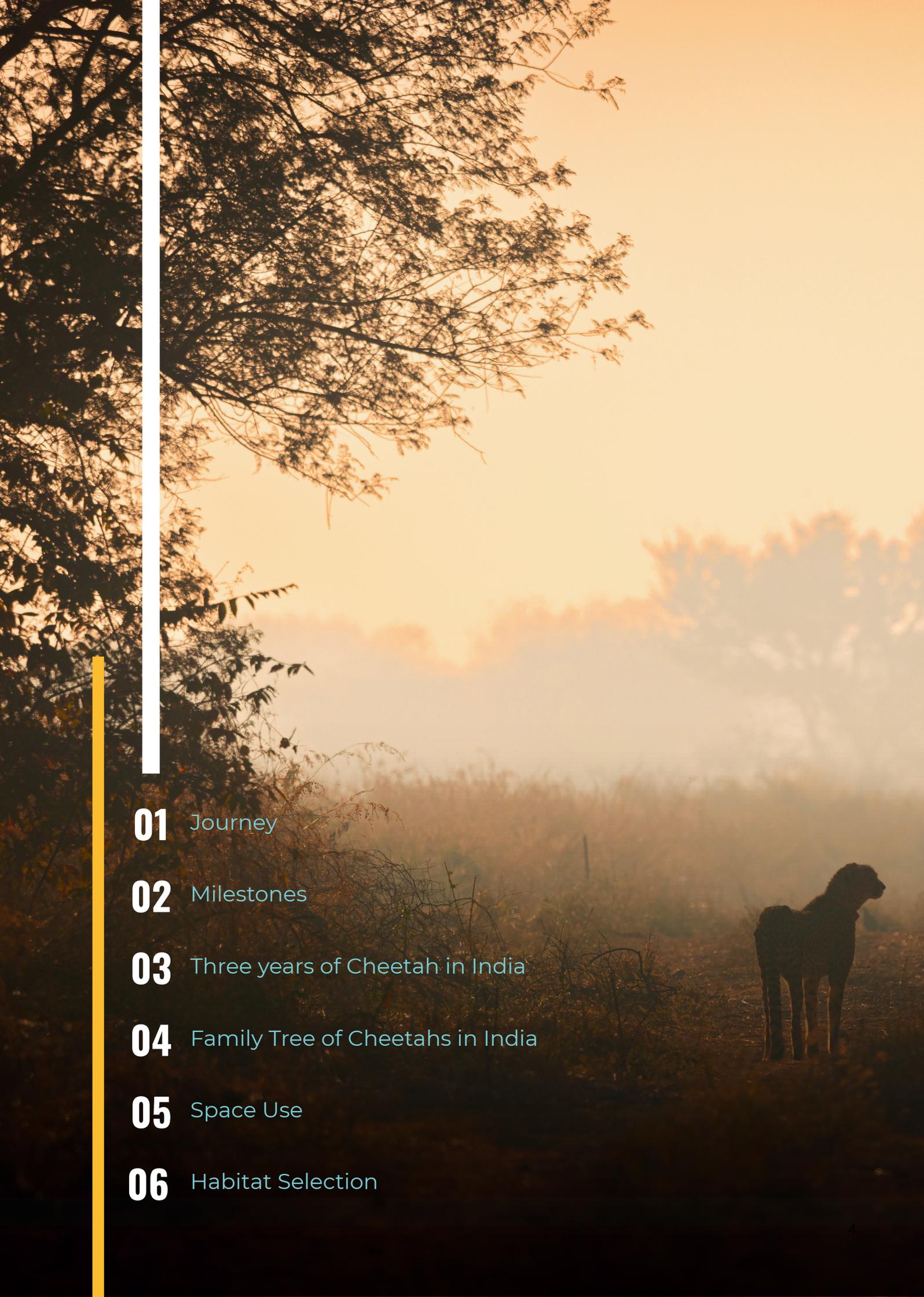


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- A cheetah silhouette stands in a savanna landscape at sunset. The sky is a warm orange, and the foreground is filled with tall grasses and trees. A white vertical bar is on the left side of the page, and a yellow vertical bar is on the right side of the page.
- 01** Journey
 - 02** Milestones
 - 03** Three years of Cheetah in India
 - 04** Family Tree of Cheetahs in India
 - 05** Space Use
 - 06** Habitat Selection



Survival **07**

Predation **08**

Closed Natural Areas **09**

Movement **10**

Landscape **11**

Reclaiming the Past **12**

01 JOURNEY

• **32**

Cheetahs in India
- November 2025



MALES = 12
FEMALES = 10
< 01 YEAR = 10 (1F, 4M & 5U)

• **21**

Indian Born
Cubs



• **09**

Natural
Mortality



• **20**

Cheetahs



Founder
Stock

• **08**

Cheetahs from
Namibia
Translocated to
India in
September 2022



MALES = 3
FEMALES = 5



• **12**

MALES = 7
FEMALES = 5

Cheetahs from
South Africa
Translocated to
India in February
2023

Founders from Namibia and South Africa

02 MILESTONES



29

in Kuno National Park

03

in Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary



5 Females, 11 Males & 5 Sex Unknown



21

Indian born cubs surviving during 2023-25

07

Litters by 06 Females



>50% of Females successfully bred in India

LITTER SIZE VARIED FROM 02 - 06

Cub survival in Kuno: 66.67% in 2.5 years (Muliya et al., 2024)

Cub survival across cheetah range countries: 5% - 60% (Laurenson, 1994; Sievert et al., 2022)

Muliya, S. K., Mathur, V. C., Singh, H., Kumar, A., Kumar, S., & Bhardwaj, G. S. (2025). Beyond rhetoric: debunking myths and misinformation on India's Project Cheetah. *Frontiers in Conservation Science*, 6, 1605871.
Laurenson, M. K. (1994). High juvenile mortality in cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and its consequences for maternal care. *Journal of Zoology*, 234(3), 387-408.
Sievert, O., Fattedert, J., Marnewick, K., Leslie, A. (2022). Assessing the success of the first cheetah reintroduction in Malawi. *Oryx*, 56(4), 505-513.

03 THREE YEARS OF CHEETAH IN INDIA

Oct 2023

Cheetahs released into a large Closed Natural Area & free-ranging conditions in a phased manner.

Feb-May 2024

Addition of 3 litters by 2 Namibian & 1 SA Cheetah females.

Jul-Aug 2023

All Cheetahs shifted back into quarantine due to health complications & mortalities.

May 2023

Release of SA Cheetahs into free-ranging conditions.

Sep 2022

The first batch of 8 Cheetahs from Namibia arrive in (Kuno) India.

Oct 2024-Mar 2025

Addition of 1 litter & preparation of 2nd site as metapopulation management.

Apr-Nov 2025

Addition of 1 litter by the SA female, 1 litter by the Indian born female- Mukhi & Release of 3 Cheetahs in Gandhisagar (2nd site), Currently, 32 Cheetahs (29 in Kuno including 21 cubs) in India.

Apr 2023

SA Cheetahs shifted to large Closed Natural Area as soft release.

Mar 2023

Release of Namibian Cheetahs into free-ranging conditions & Birth of first Cheetah cubs in India.

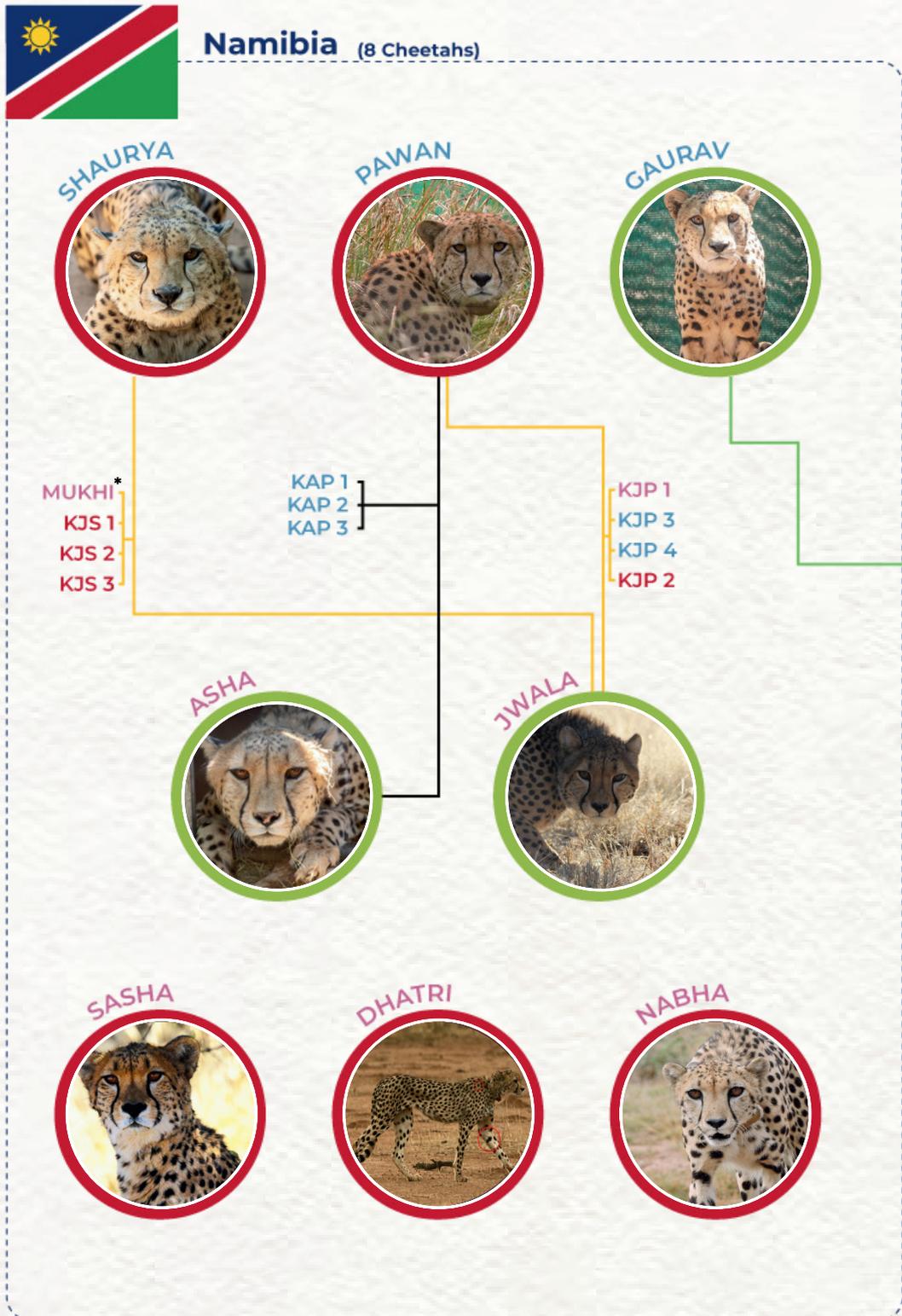
Nov 2022

Namibian Cheetahs shifted to large Closed Natural Area as soft release.

Feb 2023

Second batch of 12 Cheetahs from South Africa (SA) arrive in (Kuno) India.

04 FAMILY TREE OF CHEETAHS IN INDIA



* Recently gave birth to 5 cubs (sex unknown)



South Africa (12 Cheetahs)

NIRVA



- KNG 1
- KNG 2
- KNG 3
- KNG 4
- KNG 5

VEERA



- KVP 1
- KVP 2

DHEERA



GAMINI



- KGP 1
- KGP 2
- KGP 3
- KGP 4
- KGP 5
- KGP 6

AGNI



PRABHAS



VAYU



PAVAK



DAKSHA



UDAY



TEJAS



SURAJ



05



SPACE USE

Home ranges of free-ranging cheetahs in Kuno: 47 km² (solitary female) - 6888 km² (female with cubs)

Cheetah range countries: 15 km² - 4,862 km² (Farhadinia 2011, Marker 2018)



06



HABITAT SELECTION

Free-ranging cheetahs in Kuno are using a matrix of habitats, including *Senegalia catechu* forest, dry mixed deciduous forest, open natural ecosystem (savannah & grassland), *Boswellia* forest & *Terminalia pendula* forest.

In cheetah range countries, they occur in diverse habitats from hyper- and semi-desert to savannah woodland, dry forest, & dense vegetation (Durant et al., 2015).



07



SURVIVAL

Adult cheetah survival rates in Kuno: Year 1- 70%, Year 2- 85.71% (Muliya et al., 2024)

Adult cheetah survival rates in other cheetah reintroductions: 0-85% in Year 1 (Marnewick et al., 2009, Weise et al., 2015, Boast et al., 2016 & 2018, Schroeder, 2019, Sievert et al., 2022)

Survival rates envisioned in the action plan for reintroduction of cheetah in India: 50% (Jhala et al., 2021)



08



PREDATION

Kill rate of free-ranging cheetahs in Kuno: 2.48- 7.32 days per kill

Kill rate of free-ranging cheetahs in range countries: 1.07- 7.15 days per kill (Mills 2004)

Total number of detected wild prey kills 228 (Chital = 187; Wild pig = 2; Sambar = 9; Nilgai = 11; Hare = 5; Four-horned Antelope = 12; Chinkara = 1; Blackbuck = 1)



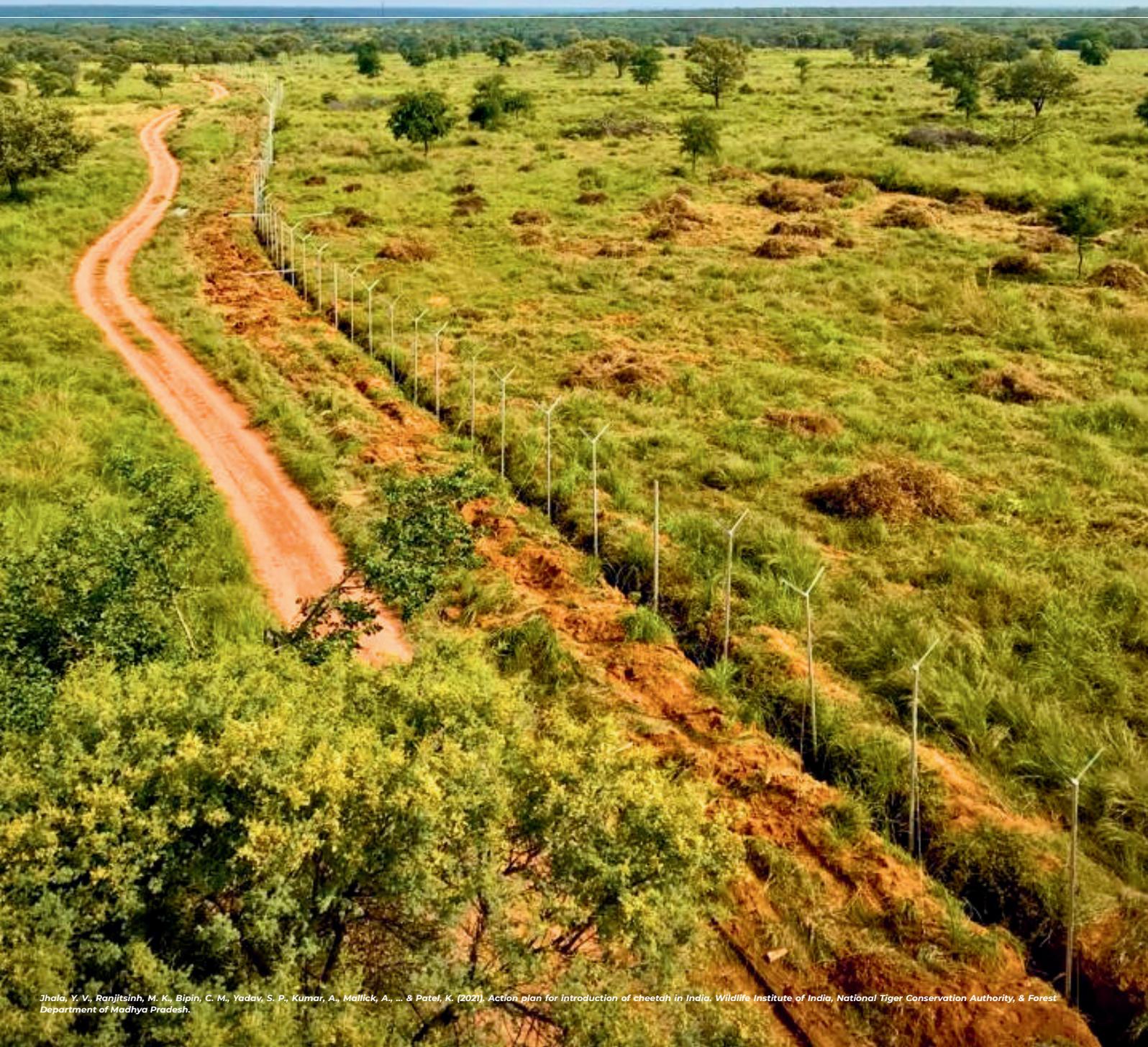
09

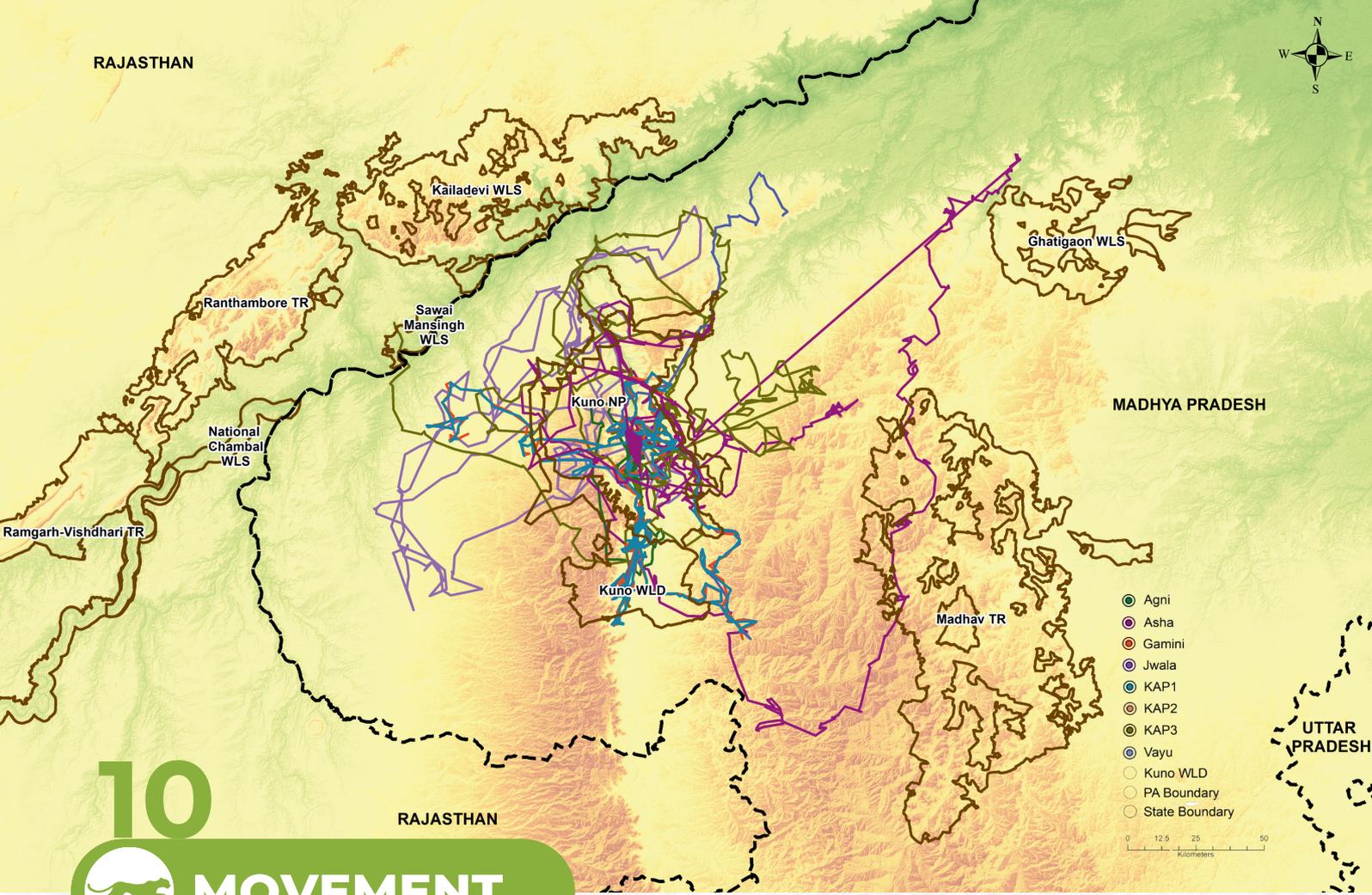


CLOSED NATURAL AREAS

Soft release into large Closed Natural Areas (~6 sq. km.) harbouring wild prey, enabled hunting in natural surroundings before release into free-ranging environment.

These Closed Natural Areas facilitated physiological & behavioural acclimatisation of cheetahs to local climatic regimes & novel biotic stressors - including exposure to unfamiliar insects, ectoparasites & allergic bites - markedly different from those encountered in their native African habitats.





10 MOVEMENT



2024 - 25

5560.3 km



Total Distance Walked by Cheetah on Indian Soil

4.27 km per day



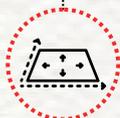
Average Daily Distance

1452

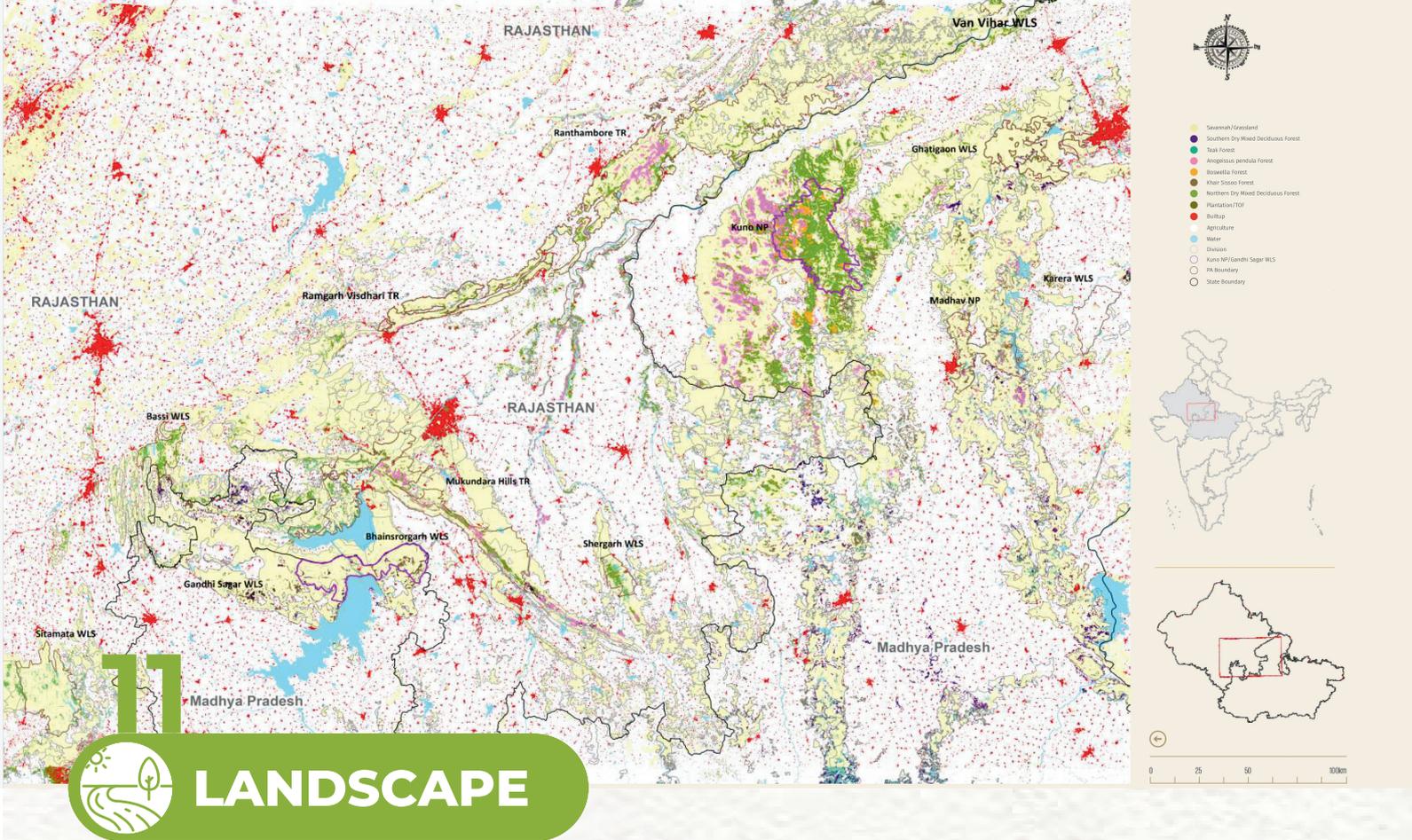


No. Of Cheetah Tracking Days

267 Sq. km



Area traversed in Free Ranging (Average Per Cheetah)



11 LANDSCAPE

Delineation of Kuno-Gandhisagar Cheetah Metapopulation Management Landscape spanning an area of ~ 17,000 km²

Kuno-Gandhi Sagar Cheetah Metapopulation Landscape in the States of Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan

~17,000 km²
Forested Area

~10,500 km²
Madhya Pradesh

~6,500 km²
Rajasthan

Kuno Cheetah Metapopulation Landscape in the States of Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan

~11,566 km²
Forested Area

~6,650 km²
Madhya Pradesh

~4,900 km²
Rajasthan

Gandhi Sagar Cheetah Metapopulation Landscape in the States of Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan

~5,450 km²
Forested Area

~3,850 km²
Madhya Pradesh

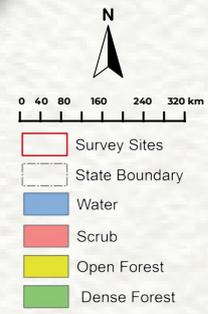
~1,600 km²
Rajasthan

PROPOSED CHEETAH METAPOPULATIONS IN INDIA

5 States in India | 7 landscapes across the Arid and Semi-Arid Zones



-  **Desert National Park**
-  **Shahgarh Landscape**
-  **Banni & Kachchh Desert**
-  **Kuno - Gandhi Sagar Landscape**
-  **Nauradehi**
-  **Sanjay-Dubri-Guru Ghasidas**
-  **Bagdara - Kaimur**



To establish breeding cheetah populations in safe habitats across their historical range.



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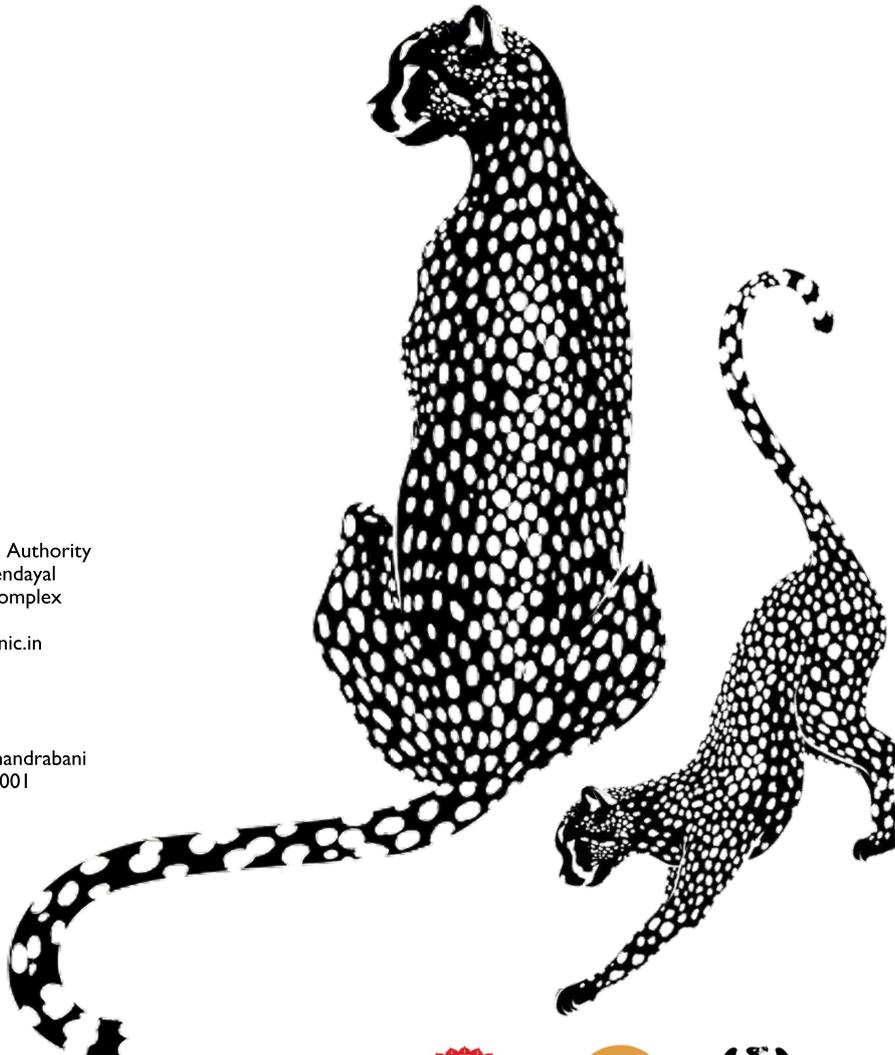
“Establish viable cheetah metapopulation in India that allows the cheetah to perform its functional role as a top predator and provides space for the expansion of the cheetah within its historical range thereby contributing to its global conservation efforts.”



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