

Cheetah Extinction-Unable to recover?

And the effects on its Food Pyramid

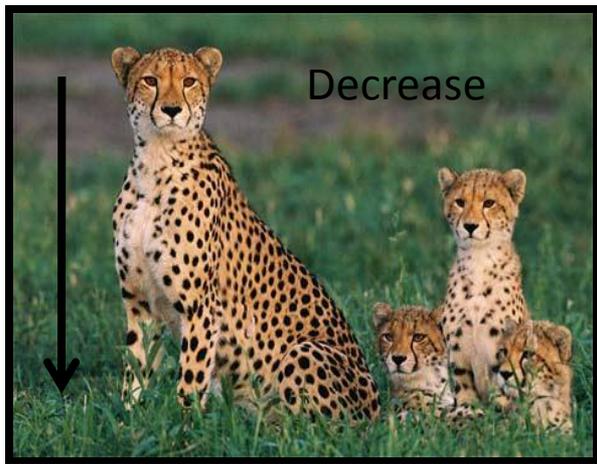
Daniel O'Connell, Ashley Humphries, Alex Haffner, Jocquil Givens

High cheetah cub and adult mortality rate makes it nearly impossible for cheetah population to recover and increase.



Cheetahs-The Asiatic Cheetah and more

- At one point in time, the Asiatic cheetah once had distribution that extended across the Middle East, Central Asia, northern and southern Kazakhstan, and India. Now they are only in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- This is because humans in those areas don't understand the behaviors of cheetahs. They think they do and this causes cheetahs to become overhunted, lose their land, and lose their prey.
- The Asiatic cheetah is a great example of what humans have done to all cheetahs. Because of us, their population has decreased drastically, and in order for an endangered species to recover, they must receive proper attention and help. Humans do completely the opposite, which is continuing to decrease cheetah's population.
- The first problem with cheetah's endangerment is overhunting them, of course. This not only is a leading cause in cheetahs' extinction but in the decrease of other species. By eliminating more and more cheetahs, their natural prey automatically increase, which leads to overpopulation in an area, and less resources, and many other species become affected. It is a deadly chain reaction.

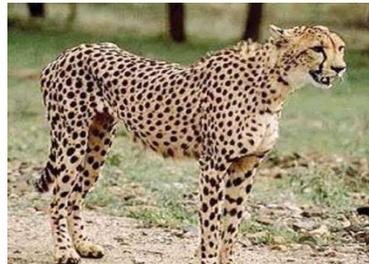


Changes in one causes changes in all. There is always a chain reaction in a food pyramid.

Human Impact on a Fragile Pyramid

- Farmers who live near cheetahs are constantly taking their land, causing less space for the cheetahs and deer (cheetah prey) and eventual depletion of all of their resources. Cheetahs have no fighting chance too, because humans do this so rapidly. Animals often can't keep up and adjust quick enough to survive.
- A direct and huge cause in cheetah extinction is over hunting. By always decreasing their numbers, cheetahs can't recover and expand their population. They are simply always decreasing. With no attention and care, an endangered species will never recover.
- All problems related to cheetah extinction and their cascading food pyramid can be traced back to one gigantic fault in humans: misconception.
 - Farmers often think they lose their cattle to cheetah, when really cheetahs hardly ever venture so near to civilization. The truth is other animals, conflict animals, or inadequate practice of livestock is causing their economic loss.
 - Humans don't realize that cheetahs are competing directly with us. We take all of their prey for ourselves, often leaving none left for them, which causes starvation. Humans don't see how much that affects their population.

Cheetahs tend to stay away from farmers' livestock, but farmers have convinced themselves differently.



Learn your boundaries

Finding a line between habitat and humans

Pros

- By limiting the amount of space we use from a cheetah's habitat, humans can ensure it isn't overcrowded and stop the depletion of resources.
- If farmers are far enough away from their



Cons

- There is the possible loss of economic profit, but that is a definite risk worth taking.



Stop the slay

Stopping the hunting of cheetahs

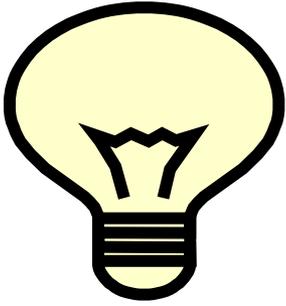
Pros

- Apparently for farmers, just having laws is not enough to stop them from killing too many cheetahs. There needs to be more security and punishment on the poaching being done.
- By stopping the amount of deaths to cheetahs, they will actually have a chance to recover their numbers thus dominating their pyramid again.

Cons

- This could definitely cause an uproar from the farmers, but they need to realize sometime that they are selfish and wrong for not only taking their land, but taking their lives. There is really no need.





Know the truth

Pros

- If humans understood more about cheetahs, we could do a lot more to save them.
 - Cheetahs truly don't affect livestock most of the time, so there is no use in killing them.
 - We don't have to hunt their prey in their habitat, there is other sources.
 - We don't have to invade their space. There is a lot of other places to go
- Perhaps if more people knew what they were doing to the environment and the ecosystem, they would have more sympathy and more drive not to destroy cheetahs' home and food source.

Cons

- The worst of people could abuse this knowledge for their own benefits, but naturally, the chance is low.



Who wouldn't want to save this?