



# THE METAPOPOPULATION INITIATIVE

## CHEETAH METAPOPOPULATION PROJECT

### METAPOPOPULATION MANAGEMENT

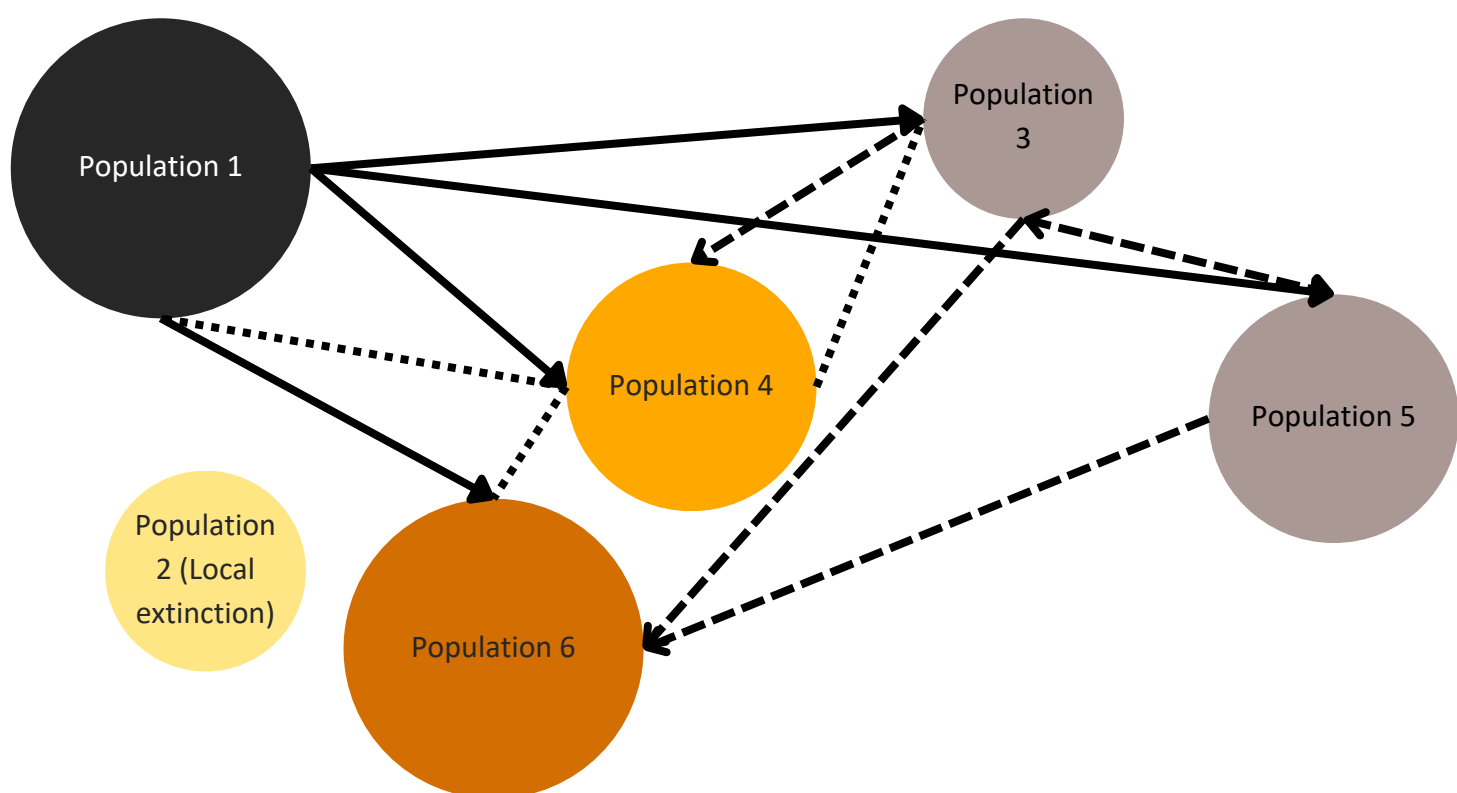
A metapopulation is a set of geographically isolated populations of the same species that may exchange individuals through dispersal or migration or, when implemented as a management strategy, through human-mediated movement. Human activities have altered the landscape, leaving only small habitat patches in their natural state. Metapopulation management is a conservation strategy to maintain viable species populations as interconnected subpopulations within a fragmented landscape.

### BENEFITS OF METAPOPOPULATION MANAGEMENT

Prevent inbreeding 


Prevent overpopulation 


Prevent local extinction 



### METAPOPOPULATION DYNAMICS

Some subpopulations may be **usually overpopulated (source)**, others **usually underpopulated (sink)**, and others are **sometimes source** and **sometimes sink**.

 Source subpopulation ( $b \gg d$ ). Produce individuals for dispersal.

 Sink subpopulation ( $b \ll d$ ). Produce few or no individuals for dispersal.

### THE CHEETAH METAPOPOPULATION PROJECT

The Cheetah Metapopulation Project was established in 2011 to ensure the genetic and demographic integrity of the cheetah metapopulation by coordinating translocations between participating reserves and increasing resident range through reintroductions into the species' historical distribution. The current metapopulation comprises >537 cheetahs on 75 reserves distributed across five countries.

Translocations Coordinated	659
Reintroductions Coordinated	34
Number of Wild Cheetahs	537
Number of Participating Reserves	75
Number of Participating Countries	5
Safe Space Created (sq. km)	33,108

