



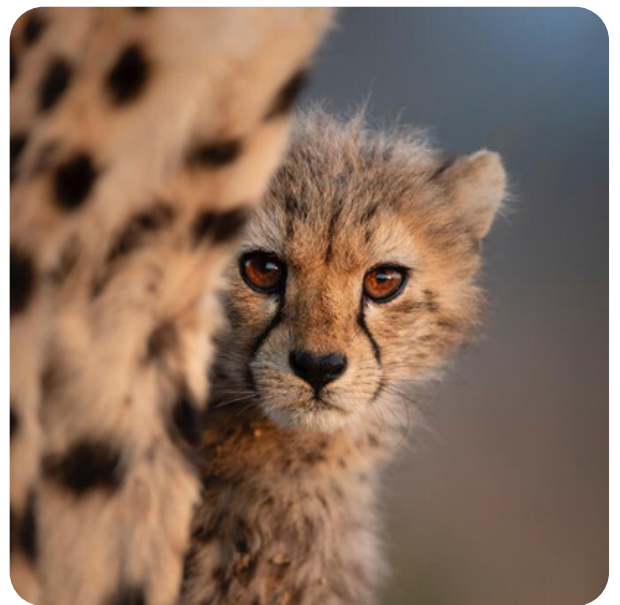
THE METAPOPOPULATION INITIATIVE

CHEETAH METAPOPOPULATION PROJECT

CHEETAH REINTRODUCTION

Conservation translocations to reintroduce extirpated large carnivores across their former range are gaining recognition as a strategy to halt and potentially reverse species population decline.

Wild cheetahs have been successfully reintroduced into 72 privately- and state-owned-fenced reserves in Southern Africa; however, reintroduction success into an unfenced protected area has yet to be achieved – worldwide.



FENCED REINTRODUCTIONS

Advantages

- Anchors wide-ranging species to target area
- Reduces human-wildlife conflict and the spread of disease between wildlife and livestock
- Provides defined management unit (limits encroachment and creates an obstacle for poachers)

Disadvantages

- Barriers restrict wildlife movement
- Intensive and long-term metapopulation management required
- Financially costly

UNFENCED REINTRODUCTIONS

Challenge 1

Loss of communication network and its reestablishment

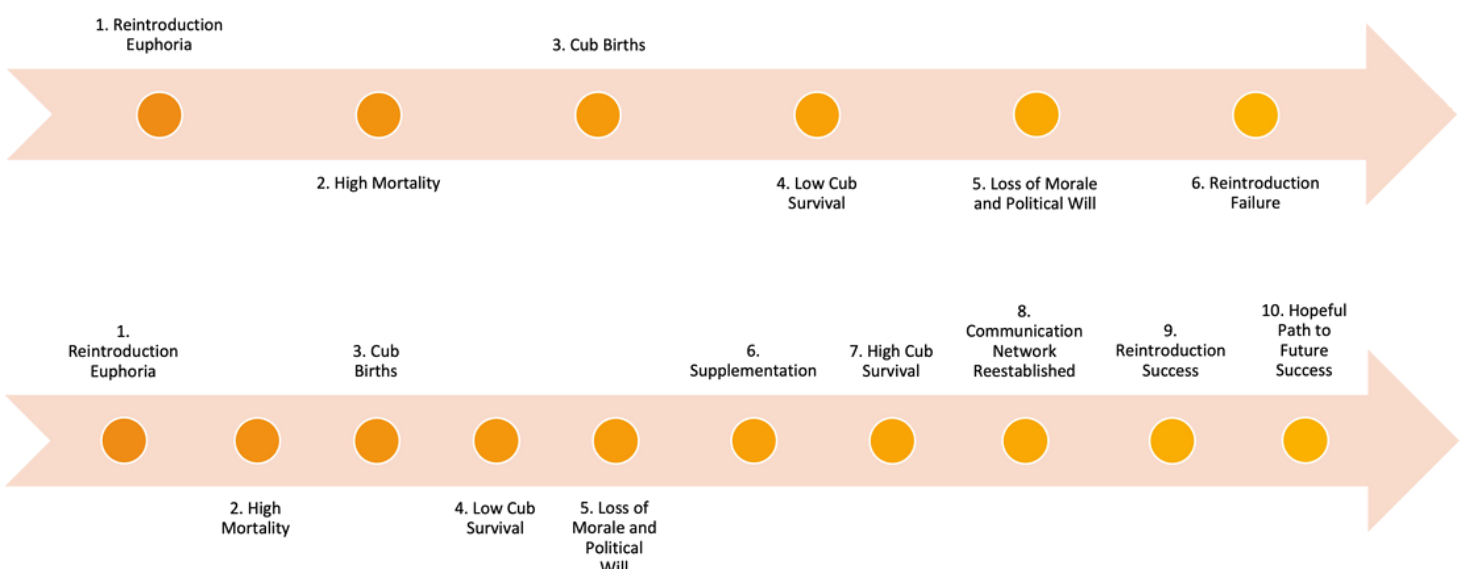
Challenge 2

High mortality rates during initial phases of release (>50% may be attributed to anthropogenic mortality)

Challenge 3

Low cub survival initially

OUTCOME OF UNFENCED REINTRODUCTION ATTEMPTS TO DATE



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