

Call for Participation in the:



CHEETAH Conservation Action Plan | 2016-2018

Association of Zoos & Aquariums





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Introduction

In mid-2015, AZA SAFE worked with cheetah conservation experts including representatives from the AZA community, IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group, seven national governments, and a multitude of NGOs to identify and prioritize conservation actions. Following these two meetings, a 3-year SAFE Conservation Action Plan was developed using SAFE's new collaborative process to address priority conservation needs and includes projects that are aimed at achieving population sustainability.

These projects fall within four thematic areas including conservation capacity, public action, research, and Species Survival Plan® (SSP). Each Project is designed to incorporate collaborator expertise to maximize efficiency and effectiveness and has detailed goals and actions identified. Each Project will be coordinated by an AZA member who will work to identify key Project Collaborators.

This Project Team will be responsible for refining the project actions as needed and for developing a corresponding 3-year budget and timeline. These resources will facilitate the Project Team in executing their conservation actions, achieving successes, and identifying future needs.

This Call for Participation in the SAFE Cheetah Conservation Action Plan is a living document. It is updated on a consistent basis to recognize Project Coordinators, Collaborators, and Funders. In addition, as Coordinators are identified and Project Teams begin implementing their projects, oftentimes changes to the project's actions are revised and the scope of the suggested ideas for participation is expanded accordingly.

To view the Call for Participation webinar, please visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWgPpK6sUXY&feature=youtu.be>.

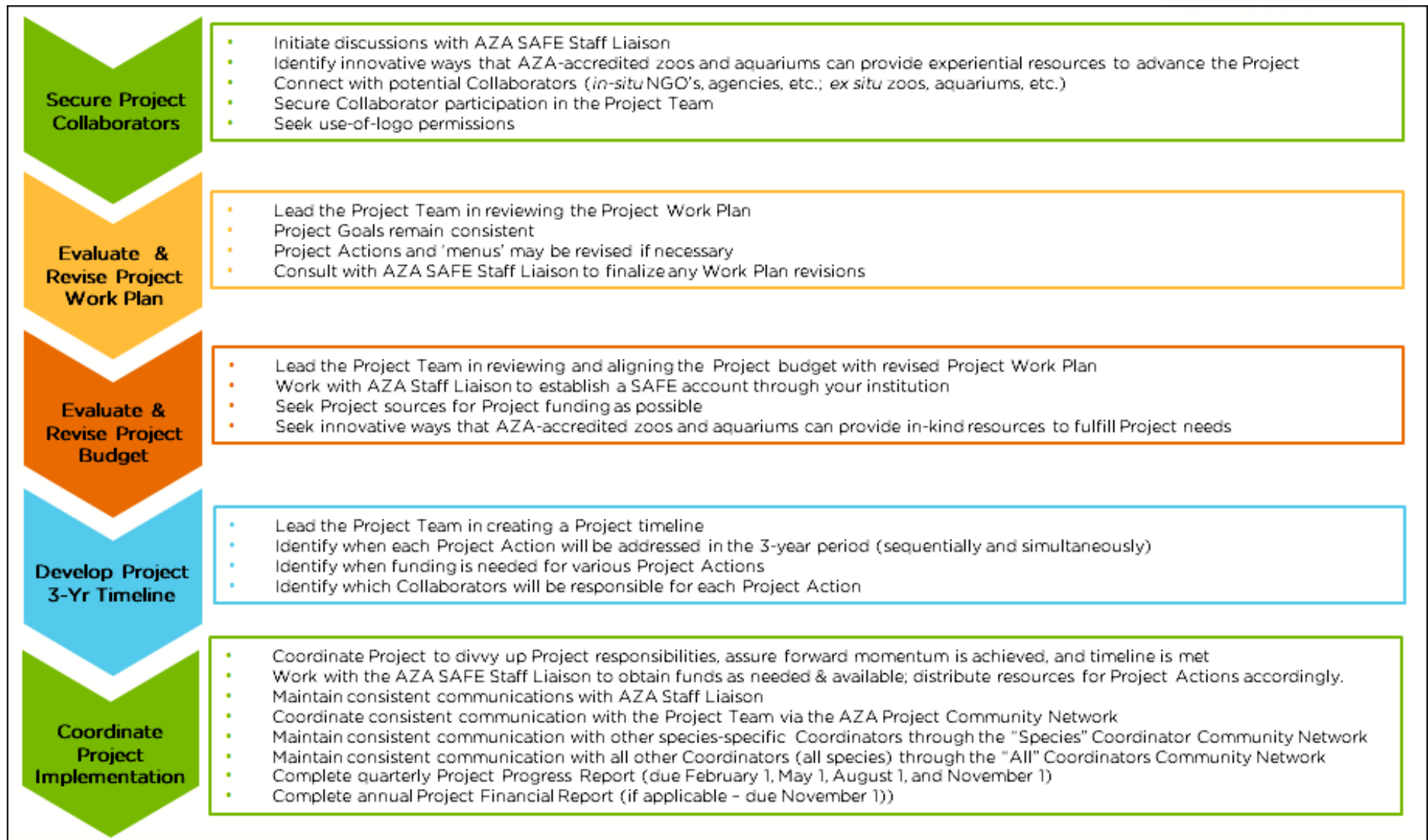
To learn more about how to become a Project Coordinator, please contact SAFEcheetah@aza.org.

To learn more about how to become a Project Collaborator, please contact the Project Coordinator as identified in the Project below. If there is not a Project Coordinator identified as yet, please contact SAFEcheetah@aza.org.

To learn more about the progress being made for each of the SAFE African Penguin Projects, please visit:
<https://www.aza.org/SAFE-cheetah-conservation-projects>.

To learn more about the latest on SAFE efforts overall, please visit: <https://www.aza.org/aza-safe-stories>.

Overview of Project Implementation and Management Processes



Carnivore Positive Landscapes Project

Challenge: Land use and livestock-related livelihood practices in cheetah range countries often lead to human-carnivore conflict.

Project: Establish Carnivore Positive Landscapes in focal communities to help people and cheetahs cohabitate effectively.

Project Coordinator:



Contact SAFEcheetah@aza.org to learn more about becoming a Project Coordinator

Possible Project Collaborators:



Project Funders:



Goals	General Actions Needed
Key communities are identified where human/cheetah conflict can be significantly reduced.	Identify appropriate collaborators (e.g., academics/government agencies/NGOs).
	Consult with AZA Research & Technology, Field Conservation, Animal Health, & Animal Welfare Committees to incorporate expertise in project where appropriate.
	Consult with other AZA Committees to incorporate their expertise in project where appropriate.
	Consult with the AZA Population Management Center to assure all genetic and demographic information has been considered/incorporated as appropriate.
	Work with partners to compile a list of communities where human/cheetah conflict is problematic.
	Develop a process for evaluating potential focal communities based on need for and likelihood of success of conflict resolution programs.
Optimal cheetah-friendly land use and livestock protection/husbandry techniques are identified.	Evaluate potential focal communities with this process, prioritize and select focal site(s).
	Collate information/data about existing community land use practice and livestock protection/husbandry improvement programs.
	Evaluate the efficacy of current programs, identify gaps/weaknesses.
Communities are provided resources needed to create and maintain "Carnivore Positive Landscapes."	Identify best practices for land use and livestock protection/husbandry.
	Develop a model community land practice program based on best practices identified.
	Develop training materials and plans for training sessions and a monitoring and evaluation plan.
	Translate and adapt training program(s)/materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc., as needed.
	Implement new/strengthened training programs for focal sites.
	Provide training on regular basis; evaluate need for continuing education.
	Collect data according to monitoring and evaluation plan; evaluate and adapt program as needed.



Goals (continued)	General Actions Needed (continued)
Evaluate opportunities, and if warranted, implement alternative livelihood program(s) for communities to more effectively garner protein sources.	Identify appropriate collaborators (e.g., academics/government agencies/NGOs).
	Collate information/data about existing alternative livelihood and protein source development programs.
	Evaluate the efficacy of current programs, identify gaps/weaknesses.
	Develop a model alternative livelihood and protein source development program based on best practices and available information.
	Develop materials and plans for implementation; develop a monitoring and evaluation plan.
	Identify priority sites for implementation/strengthening/scaling up programs; implement programs.
	Collect data according to monitoring and evaluation plan; evaluate and adapt program as needed.



Carnivore Positive Landscapes Project Participation Menu

Suggested Ideas for Participation Menu

Action Opportunities:

- ☐ Serve as the AZA SAFE Project Coordinator.
- ☐ Participate as a Project Collaborator.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop best practices and a model program for cheetah-friendly land use and livestock protection / husbandry techniques.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop materials and plans for land use and livestock practices training.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to translate and/or adapt training program materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop best practices and a model program for alternative livelihood & protein source transition.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop materials and plans for implementation of alternative livelihood & protein source transition programs.
- ☐ Promote project to visitors (whether you have cheetah in your care or not).

Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities to Support*:

- ☐ Sponsor exercise to develop best practices and a model program for cheetah-friendly land use and livestock protection / husbandry techniques.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to design materials and develop plans for land use and livestock practices training.
- ☐ Provide in-house graphic design and printing services for all project materials developed.
- ☐ Provide in-house services or fund translation and adaptation of training program materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc.
- ☐ Sponsor training sessions for cheetah-friendly land use and livestock protection / husbandry techniques.
- ☐ Sponsor attendance of training sessions by key stakeholders who lack funding.
- ☐ Fund program to monitor the impact of land use / livestock practices optimization programs.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to develop best practices and a model program for alternative livelihood & protein source transition.
- ☐ Fund implementation of alternative livelihood & protein source transition programs.
- ☐ Fund program to monitor the impact of alternative livelihood & protein source transition programs.

* Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities will support the development, implementation, and ongoing management of AZA SAFE Conservation Action Plans.

Monitoring and Enforcement Capacity Building Project

Challenge: Additional capacity is needed among key stakeholder groups and current capacity building programs are insufficient or need to be expanded.

Project: Maximize capacity for in situ cheetah monitoring and law enforcement in focal areas.

Project Coordinator:



Contact SAFEcheetah@aza.org to learn more about becoming a Project Coordinator

Possible Project Collaborators:



Project Funders:



Goals	General Actions Needed
Key areas are identified where cheetah monitoring and law enforcement capacity needs to be established or augmented.	Identify appropriate collaborators (e.g., academics/government agencies/NGOs).
	Consult with AZA Research & Technology, Field Conservation, Animal Health, & Animal Welfare Committees to incorporate expertise in project where appropriate.
	Consult with other AZA Committees to incorporate their expertise in project where appropriate.
	Work with partners to identify locations where cheetah field techniques, monitoring and law enforcement capacity is significantly lacking.
	Develop a process for evaluating potential focal areas based on need for and likelihood of success with field techniques, monitoring and enforcement programs.
	Evaluate potential focal areas with this process, prioritize and select focal site(s).
Optimal cheetah monitoring and law enforcement techniques are identified and training programs are developed, monitored and consistently evaluated.	Identify and prioritize capacity / training needs (i.e., audiences, topics, locations); select area(s) of focus.
	Collate information about existing field techniques, monitoring and enforcement programs for areas of focus.
	Evaluate the efficacy of existing programs, identify gaps/weaknesses.
	Identify best practices and integrate synergies between field techniques, monitoring and enforcement programs/efforts.
	Develop model training program(s)/materials based on best practices identified and a monitoring and evaluation plan.
	Translate and adapt training program(s)/materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc., as needed.
	Implement new/strengthened training program for focal sites.
	Provide training on regular basis; evaluate need for continuing education.
	Collect data according to monitoring and evaluation plan; evaluate and adapt program as needed.



Goals (continued)	General Actions Needed (continued)
Equipment needed to implement or augment conservation programs is provided.	Work with partners to assess broad-scale equipment needs of key conservation practitioner groups.
	Identify existing equipment donation programs, assess suitability for current purpose, integrate synergies.
	Strengthen or create equipment donation program(s) based on outcome of needs assessment.
	Consistently evaluate and adapt program as needed.



Monitoring and Enforcement Capacity Building Project Participation Menu

Suggested Ideas for Participation Menu

Action Opportunities:

- ☐ Serve as the AZA SAFE Project Coordinator.
- ☐ Participate as a Project Collaborator.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop best practices and a model program for capacity building.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop materials and plans for capacity building training.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to translate and/or adapt training program materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc.
- ☐ Assist with assessment of broad-scale equipment needs of key conservation practitioner groups.
- ☐ Assist with assessment of current equipment donation programs and develop an optimal program.
- ☐ Promote project to visitors (whether you have cheetah in your care or not).

Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities to Support*:

- ☐ Sponsor exercise to develop best practices and a model program for capacity building.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to develop materials and plans for capacity building training.
- ☐ Provide in-house graphic design and printing services for all project materials developed.
- ☐ Provide in-house services or fund translation and adaptation of training program materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc.
- ☐ Sponsor capacity building training sessions.
- ☐ Sponsor attendance of training sessions by key stakeholders who lack funding.
- ☐ Fund program to monitor the impact of capacity building programs.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to assess broad-scale equipment needs of key conservation practitioner groups.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to assess efficacy of current equipment donation programs and develop an optimal program.
- ☐ Purchase / donate equipment for donation program.
- ☐ Fund program to monitor the impact of equipment donation programs.

* Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities will support the development, implementation, and ongoing management of AZA SAFE Conservation Action Plans.

Cheetah Distribution, Demographics and Population Connectivity Studies Project

Challenge: Cheetah populations are poorly studied in many portions of its range and assumptions about connectivity of populations are not adequately tested.

Project: Key knowledge gaps about cheetah distribution, demographics and population connectivity are identified and addressed in focal areas.

Project Coordinator:



Contact SAFEcheetah@aza.org to learn more about becoming a Project Coordinator

Possible Project Collaborators:



Project Funders:



Goals	General Actions Needed
Key areas are identified where cheetah distribution, demographic and population connectivity information is needed.	Identify appropriate collaborators (e.g., academics/government agencies/NGOs).
	Consult with AZA Research & Technology, Field Conservation, Animal Health, & Animal Welfare Committees to incorporate expertise in project where appropriate.
	Consult with other AZA Committees to incorporate their expertise in project where appropriate.
	Work with partners to identify locations where knowledge about cheetah distribution, demographics and population connectivity is needed.
	Develop a process for evaluating potential focal areas based on need for and likelihood of success with obtaining these data.
	Evaluate potential focal areas with this process, prioritize and select focal site(s).
Vital information about cheetah distribution, demographics and population connectivity is garnered / augmented.	Collate and synthesize background information and identify current monitoring programs/studies.
	Evaluate the efficacy of existing programs/studies, identify gaps/weaknesses.
	Identify best practices and integrate synergies among current monitoring programs/studies or other data needs/research questions, etc.
	Translate and adapt materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc., as needed.
	Identify appropriate lead party(-ies), collaborators, etc. (e.g., academic/government agency/NGO).
	Develop study designs, obtain permits and site access permissions.
A long-term monitoring program is conducted to determine if and how these metrics change over time.	Implement study(-ies).
	Develop monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan for focal projects, utilizing existing processes as feasible.
	Analyze data, share results/knowledge gained, including in peer-reviewed publication(s).
	Promote/facilitate adaptation of management strategies based on study results.



Cheetah Distribution, Demographics and Population Connectivity Studies Project Participation Menu

Suggested Ideas for Participation Menu

Action Opportunities:

- ☐ Serve as the AZA SAFE Project Coordinator.
- ☐ Participate as a Project Collaborator.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop best practices for cheetah distribution and population connectivity studies.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to translate and/or adapt materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc.
- ☐ Assist with efforts to promote / facilitate adaptation of cheetah management strategies based on study results.
- ☐ Promote project to visitors (whether you have cheetah in your care or not).

Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities to Support*:

- ☐ Fund exercise to develop best practices for studies of cheetah distribution and population connectivity.
- ☐ Provide in-house graphic design and printing services for all project materials developed.
- ☐ Provide in-house services or fund translation and adaptation of materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc.
- ☐ Fund implementation of studies focused on cheetah distribution and population connectivity.
- ☐ Fund efforts to promote / facilitate adaptation of cheetah management strategies based on study results.
- ☐ Purchase equipment for studies of cheetah distribution and population connectivity.

* Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities will support the development, implementation, and ongoing management of AZA SAFE Conservation Action Plans.

Snaring Abatement Project

Challenge: Snaring is a widespread and indiscriminate threat to African wildlife, including the cheetah.

Project: Animal snaring rates in focal cheetah range areas are reduced.

Project Coordinator:



Contact SAFEcheetah@aza.org to learn more about becoming a Project Coordinator

Possible Project Collaborators:



Project Funders:



Goals	General Actions Needed
Key areas are identified where snaring rates in cheetah range areas can be significantly reduced.	Identify appropriate collaborators (e.g., academics/government agencies/NGOs).
	Consult with AZA Research & Technology, Field Conservation, Animal Health, & Animal Welfare Committees to incorporate expertise in project where appropriate.
	Consult with other AZA Committees to incorporate their expertise in project where appropriate.
	Work with partners to identify locations where snaring is problematic.
	Develop a process for evaluating potential focal areas based on need for and likelihood of success with snaring reduction.
Optimal snare detection, removal and enforcement techniques are identified and snare elimination programs are established / bolstered.	Evaluate potential focal communities with this process, prioritize and select focal area(s).
	Collate information about existing snare detection and elimination programs and the types/sources of materials used to make snares.
	Evaluate the efficacy of current programs, identify gaps/weaknesses.
	Assess feasibility and design programs to remove, secure and/or replace materials used to make snares.
	Identify best practices and integrate synergies between programs/technologies (e.g., SMART) and removal/replacement of snare materials.
	Develop model training program(s)/materials based on best practices identified and a monitoring and evaluation plan.
	Translate and adapt training program(s)/materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc., as needed.
	Implement new/strengthened snare detection, removal and enforcement programs for focal sites.
	Provide training on regular basis; evaluate need for continuing education.
	Collect data according to monitoring and evaluation plan; evaluate and adapt programs as needed.

Goals (continued)	General Actions Needed (continued)
A social and political will to reduce and/or eliminate snaring practices in key areas is fostered.	Work with partners to identify locations where attitudes about snaring are problematic.
	Develop a process for evaluating potential focal areas based on need for and likelihood of success with changing attitudes about snaring.
	Evaluate potential focal communities and policy decision making bodies with this process, prioritize and select focal area(s).
	Identify appropriate collaborators (e.g., academics/government agencies/NGOs) and target audiences (e.g., decision-makers, rangers, specific communities).
	Collate information about policy reform opportunities and existing messages/materials/programs to create social and political change.
	Evaluate the efficacy of current policies, programs, identify gaps/weaknesses.
	Identify best practices and integrate synergies between policies/messaging/programs.
	Develop model Snare Aware outreach materials/program(s) based on best practices identified and a monitoring and evaluation plan.
	Translate and adapt materials/program(s) for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc., as needed.
	Implement new/strengthened Snare Aware Programs for focal sites.
	Provide training on regular basis; evaluate need for continuing education.
	Collect data according to monitoring and evaluation plan; evaluate and adapt programs as needed.
A long-term monitoring program is conducted to measure changes in snaring rates over time.	Develop monitoring and evaluation plan to assess changes in snaring rates over time.
	Collect and analyze data according to monitoring and evaluation plan.
	Evaluate and adapt snaring abatement program as needed based on results.



Snaring Abatement Project Participation Menu

Suggested Ideas for Participation Menu

Action Opportunities:

- ☐ Serve as the AZA SAFE Project Coordinator.
- ☐ Participate as a Project Collaborator.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop best practices and a model program for snare detection and elimination and assess the types / sources of materials used to make snares.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop materials and plans for snare detection, elimination and materials removal program training.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to translate and/or adapt training program materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop best practices and a model program for influencing attitudes about snaring among members of focal communities and political decision-making bodies.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop materials and plans for training to influence community members' and decision-makers' attitudes about snaring.
- ☐ Promote project to visitors (whether you have cheetah in your care or not).

Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities to Support*:

- ☐ Sponsor exercise to develop best practices and a model program for snare detection and elimination programs and assess the types / sources of materials used to make snares.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to develop materials and plans for snare detection, elimination and materials removal program training.
- ☐ Provide in-house graphic design and printing services for all project materials developed.
- ☐ Provide in-house services or fund translation and adaptation of training program materials for different cultures, ages, literacy levels, etc.
- ☐ Sponsor snare detection, elimination and materials removal program training sessions.
- ☐ Sponsor attendance of training sessions by key stakeholders who lack funding.
- ☐ Fund implementation of snare detection, elimination and materials removal programs.
- ☐ Fund program to monitor the impact of snare detection, elimination and materials removal programs.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to develop best practices and a model program for influencing attitudes about snaring among members of focal communities and political decision-making bodies.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to develop materials and plans for implementation of programs to influence attitudes about snaring among community members and decision-makers.
- ☐ Fund implementation of programs to influence attitudes about snaring among community members and decision-makers.
- ☐ Fund program to monitor the impact of programs to influence community members' and decision-makers' attitudes about snaring.

* Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities will support the development, implementation, and ongoing management of AZA SAFE Conservation Action Plans.

Public Engagement Project

Challenge: Currently available tools and programs to effectively engage key stakeholder groups and the general public in conservation of the cheetahs are insufficient.

Project: Public engagement efforts are implemented to increase knowledge of cheetahs and the threats they face and provide measurable calls to action.

Project Coordinator:



Contact Mike Chedester
(mchedester@livingdesert.org) to
learn more about this Project

Project Collaborators:



Project Funders:



Goals	General Actions Needed
Effective educational messaging is used and conservation action opportunities are offered consistently in US and international communities as well as aquarium and zoo audiences.	Identify and work with partners already involved in communications and education/outreach efforts.
	Consult with the AZA Conservation Education and other AZA Committees to incorporate expertise where appropriate.
	Establish a species-specific communications and education/outreach group with field personnel and AZA community experts.
	Identify target audiences for greatest dissemination and impact for saving the species.
	Compile existing species-specific conservation education messages/materials (outreach and interpretive) from field personnel and AZA community experts.
	Identify needs for messaging and public/target group conservation actions and associated gaps in available materials.
	Identify and integrate synergies with conservation education efforts for other species/conservation programs.
	Identify measurable conservation actions that can be taken by target audiences in range communities and by visitors to AZA, and sister associations and their facilities (e.g. PAAZA, WAZA).
Public engagement efforts are consistently measured and evaluated to assure that public awareness of cheetah and calls to action are successful.	Create consistent and updated messages / action opportunities and materials.
	Develop and distribute packages with tested outreach & interpretive messages & actions, training resources, collateral information & materials.
	Identify measurable objectives.
	Analyze data to determine trends in increased knowledge of cheetahs and implementation of calls to action.
	Evaluate usage and effectiveness of communications packages, adapt as needed.
	Share study results with conservation community, including in peer-reviewed literature



Goals (continued)	General Actions Needed (continued)
A Cheetah Partners Program is established to provide enhanced personnel, knowledge and skills transfer among stakeholders.	Assess field programs' needs for volunteers and opportunities for AZA community assets and expertise to assist.
	Vet potential volunteer opportunity actions to ensure measurable impact and positive benefit:cost ratio.
	Develop a personnel exchange program between zoos/aquariums and field programs based on assessment (e.g., keepers, IT).
	Measure and monitor impacts of exchange program, adapt as needed.



Public Engagement Project Participation Menu

Suggested Ideas for Participation Menu

Action Opportunities:

- ☒ Serve as the AZA SAFE Project Coordinator(s).
- ☐ Participate as a Project Collaborator.
- ☐ Participate in education / outreach group organized to create educational messages and conservation action opportunities for guests and audiences in range countries.
- ☐ Send your latest cheetah-focused conservation education resources/materials (e.g., photos of graphics/signage, interpretation plans, exhibit talking points, docent/volunteer training materials, fact sheets, conservation related messages, etc.) to Project Coordinator Mike Chedester (mchedester@livingdesert.org).
- ☐ Participate in evaluation of messages/actions to determine reach and effectiveness.
- ☐ Participate in development of messages and materials based on assessment of existing materials / programs.
- ☐ Participate in evaluation of usage and effectiveness of communications packages.
- ☐ Participate in efforts to identify projects/collaborations for Cheetah Partners Program.
- ☐ Send appropriately trained staff to participate in Cheetah Partners program between AZA institutions and field programs led by agencies/NGOs.
- ☐ Incorporate / deliver updated educational messages and materials into appropriate exhibits and programs.
- ☐ Promote new / updated conservation action opportunities in your institution.
- ☐ Promote project to visitors (whether you have cheetahs in your care or not).

Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities to Support*:

- ☐ Fund distribution of educational messages and materials to appropriate audiences and locations.
- ☐ Fund evaluation of messages/actions to determine reach/ effectiveness.
- ☐ Fund evaluation of usage and effectiveness of communications packages.

* Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities will support the development, implementation, and ongoing management of AZA SAFE Conservation Action Plans.

Southern African Managed Reserve Metapopulation Project

Challenge: Managers of populations of cheetahs and other African wildlife within fenced reserves in Southern Africa lack the necessary tools to optimally maintain the individual and population-level health of

Project: The health and genetic diversity of cheetahs managed within fenced reserves is maximized.

Project Coordinator:



Contact SAFEcheetah@aza.org to learn more about becoming a Project Coordinator

Possible Project Collaborators:



Project Funders:



Goals	General Actions Needed
Population management and training resources are provided to stakeholders involved with managing cheetahs in fenced reserves.	Identify appropriate collaborators (e.g., academics/government agencies/NGOs).
	Consult with AZA Research & Technology, Field Conservation, Animal Health, & Animal Welfare Committees to incorporate expertise in project where appropriate.
	Consult other AZA Committees to incorporate their expertise in project where appropriate.
	Consult with the AZA Population Management Center to assure all genetic and demographic information has been considered/incorporated as appropriate.
	Consult with the AZA Reproduction Management Center to assure all contraception/reproductive factors have been considered/incorporated as appropriate.
	Consult with the AZA Animal Welfare & Animal Health Committees to assure animal well-being provides optimal reproductive health.
	Provide population management software (e.g., PMx) to metapopulation managers.
	Provide training on use of population management software.
	Conduct Population Viability Analyses for managed species; repeat every 3-5 years or as needed.
	Assess need for and provide regular training, continuing education & mentorship, as needed.
A studbook is developed and maintained for the entire managed metapopulation in southern Africa.	Adapt management/breed and transfer animals according to results of analyses.
	Gather all existing relevant managed metapopulation data (e.g., breeding and transfer records, pedigrees).
	Confirm that current marking techniques are effective for long-term population management.
	Provide studbook development and management software (PopLink) to metapopulation managers.
	Develop appropriate conventions for metapopulation data.
	Provide training on use of studbook development and management software.
	Enter historical data into studbook following data conventions and maintain databases moving forward.



Goals (continued)	General Actions Needed (continued)
Optimal husbandry, care and welfare practices are identified and implemented for cheetahs in temporary care.	Conduct assessment of husbandry needs specific to managed metapopulation.
	Provide husbandry best practices (e.g., AZA Animal Care Manual) to metapopulation managers, identify gaps.
	Develop expert consensus-based recommendations for all husbandry elements.
	Develop husbandry best practices tailored to managed metapopulation.
	Develop protocol for animal health monitoring.
	Monitor animal health and key demographic parameters to assess success and inform adaptive management.



Southern African Managed Reserve Metapopulation Project Participation Menu

Suggested Ideas for Participation Menu

Action Opportunities:

- ☐ Serve as the AZA SAFE Project Coordinator.
- ☐ Participate as a Project Collaborator.
- ☐ Assist with / facilitate provision of training sessions on use of population management software (PMx).
- ☐ Assist with / facilitate provision of training sessions on studbook development and management software (PopLink).
- ☐ Provide related expertise to assess animal husbandry needs specific to the Southern African managed metapopulation.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop best practices and recommendations for husbandry needs specific to managed metapopulation.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop protocol for monitoring of animal health within the managed metapopulation.
- ☐ Assist with / facilitate adaptive management / decision-making based on outcomes of monitoring program.
- ☐ Promote project to visitors (whether you have cheetah in your care or not).

Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities to Support*:

- ☐ Fund / provide population management software (e.g., PMx) to metapopulation managers.
- ☐ Sponsor training sessions on use of population management software.
- ☐ Sponsor attendance of training sessions by key stakeholders who lack funding.
- ☐ Sponsor Population Viability Analyses for species in managed metapopulation.
- ☐ Fund / provide studbook development and management software (e.g., PopLink) to metapopulation managers.
- ☐ Sponsor training sessions on use of studbook development and management software.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to assess animal husbandry needs specific to the Southern African managed metapopulation.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to develop best practices and recommendations for husbandry needs specific to managed metapopulation.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to develop protocol for monitoring of animal health within the managed metapopulation.
- ☐ Fund program to monitor health and key demographic parameters for species in the managed metapopulation.

* Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities will support the development, implementation, and ongoing management of AZA SAFE Conservation Action Plans.



SSP® Sustainability Project

Challenge: Despite demonstrated success over many years, additional information and refined tools and practices are needed to optimize the demographic and genetic health of the AZA Cheetah SSP®.

Project: The demographic and genetic health of the AZA cheetah SSP® is maximized and the population size meets AZA-accredited aquarium and zoo needs.

Project Coordinators:



Contact Adrienne Crosier
(crosiera@si.edu) to learn more about this Project

Project Collaborators:



Project Funders:



Goals	General Actions Needed
Genetic analyses and factors influencing reproductive health are optimized to increase SSP® reproductive potential and facilitate population modeling.	Obtain biological samples (e.g., blood/tissue/buccal) and conduct genetic analyses for all AZA Cheetah SSP animals (current population and all future recruits).
	Identify appropriate collaborators (e.g., academics/government agencies/NGOs).
	Consult with AZA Research & Technology, Field Conservation, Animal Health, & Animal Welfare Committees to incorporate expertise in project where appropriate.
	Consult with other AZA Committees to incorporate their expertise in project where appropriate.
	Consult with the AZA Population Management Center to assure all genetic and demographic information has been considered/incorporated as appropriate.
	Consult with the AZA Reproduction Management Center to assure all contraception/reproductive factors have been considered/incorporated as appropriate.
	Consult with the AZA Animal Welfare & Animal Health Committees to assure animal well-being provides optimal reproductive health.
Knowledge and tools available for assisted reproductive technology are improved and disseminated to animal managers in breeding centers.	Use information gathered to refine management strategies, as needed.
	Assess gaps in available tools for/information about assisted reproductive technology (ART) for cheetahs, determine research priorities.
	Develop study designs and protocols, obtain necessary permits.
	Implement studies, analyze data, share results/knowledge gained, including in peer-reviewed publications.
	Train staff at breeding centers (current and any future recruits) in current cheetah breeding best practices.
	Assess feasibility of incorporating currently non-breeding animals of reproductive age into breeding population.



Goals (continued)	General Actions Needed (continued)
Causes of gastritis in cheetahs are better understood and effective treatments are implemented.	Assess gaps in available information about gastritis in cheetahs (including causes and treatments), determine research priorities.
	Develop study designs and protocols, obtain necessary permits.
	Implement studies, analyze data, share results/knowledge gained, including in peer-reviewed publications.
	Adapt management of cheetahs in human care based on results obtained.
	Prepare and finalize an AZA Cheetah Animal Care Manual.
The operational model of the Cheetah SSP® Sustainability Program is optimized.	Assess current challenges to Cheetah SSP® Sustainability Program.
	Organize and implement a strategic planning workshop for the Cheetah SSP® Sustainability Program to address challenges.
	Make any needed changes to Cheetah SSP® Sustainability Program (e.g., organization, funding model, etc.) based on outcomes of workshop.



SSP® Sustainability Project Participation Menu

Suggested Ideas for Participation Menu

Action Opportunities:

- ☒ Serve as the AZA SAFE Project Coordinator.
- ☐ Participate as a Project Collaborator.
- ☐ Obtain appropriate biological samples from cheetahs in your care and ship to designated location for analysis (holding facilities only).
- ☐ Provide related expertise to determine research priorities for ART.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop study designs and protocol for ART studies.
- ☐ Participate in studies focused on ART (holding facilities only).
- ☐ Support staff participation in cheetah breeding best practices training.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to assess feasibility of and process for incorporating currently non-breeding animals of reproductive age into breeding population.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to determine research priorities for management of gastritis.
- ☐ Provide related expertise to develop study designs and protocol for gastritis studies.
- ☐ Participate in studies focused on gastritis (holding facilities only).
- ☐ Participate in preparation and finalization of an AZA Cheetah Animal Care Manual.
- ☐ Participate in strategic planning workshop for the Cheetah SSP® Sustainability Program.
- ☐ Incorporate cheetah into your institution and participate in the SSP.

Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities to Support*:

- ☐ Fund genetic analyses of biological samples from AZA Cheetah SSP® animals.
- ☐ Fund studies focused on ART techniques.
- ☐ Fund training in cheetah breeding best practices at breeding centers.
- ☐ Sponsor exercise to assess feasibility of and process for incorporating currently non-breeding animals of reproductive age into breeding population.
- ☐ Fund studies focused on gastritis.
- ☐ Fund strategic planning workshop for the Cheetah SSP® Sustainability Program.

* Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities will support the development, implementation, and ongoing management of AZA SAFE Conservation Action Plans.



Collaboration Project

Challenge: An approach and process that draws from the strengths and expertise of the entire cheetah conservation community is needed to protect the species.

Project: Conservation impact and efficacy is maximized through a collaborative and adaptive process that is applied throughout the CAP's development, implementation, evaluation and ongoing management processes.

Project Coordinator:



Contact SAFEcheetah@aza.org to learn more about becoming a Project Coordinator

Project Collaborators:



Project Funders:



Goals	General Actions Needed
Agreed-upon conservation priorities are identified and detailed plans are developed to address them.	Identify and connect stakeholders (within existing conservation frameworks, as applicable).
	Identify conservation needs, gaps in existing efforts and priority actions.
	Identify AZA SAFE Areas of Focus by aligning AZA strengths with conservation needs.
	Create 3-Year AZA SAFE Conservation Work Plan and Conservation Action Plan (CAP), project budgets and timelines.
CAP projects are implemented in an adaptive fashion, informed by consistent evaluation processes.	When funding is secured, representatives from AZA Facilities coordinate / facilitate implementation of CAP projects.
	Consistently coordinate project implementation and promote CAP projects.
	Monitor and evaluate progress of project implementation and use this to adapt plans as needed.
Efforts of AZA members and partners are catalogued and combined visually for effective messaging.	Identify and catalog AZA member and partner conservation, research, husbandry, and educational outreach efforts relevant to the SAFE Cheetah CAP.
	Expand AZA database programming to input, track, coordinate and communicate assets, outputs, and resources relevant to the SAFE Cheetah CAP (e.g. Miradi, ARCS, etc.).
	Develop spatial illustration of AZA efforts and maintain information for proper dissemination.
	Provide consistent messaging content & materials relevant to the SAFE Cheetah CAP.
Stakeholders meet consistently to maximize collaboration, communication, and efficacy.	Provide funding for recurring stakeholder meetings at intervals decided by stakeholders.
	Develop a collaborative process that is adopted and accepted by all stakeholders.
	Conduct collaborative stakeholder analyses to evaluate how conservation efforts are impacting communities, perceptions of efforts, and provide realistic measures of how to progress.



Goals (continued)	General Actions Needed (continued)
Communication and decision-making opportunities are optimized among stakeholders and Project Coordinators.	Create and distribute meeting reports appropriately.
	Provide regular updates to stakeholders and Project Coordinators.
	Investigate and adopt new decision-making, consensus building models to assure the Conservation Action Plan remains adaptive.
Measurement and communication of the CAP's overall conservation impact is consistently disseminated.	Identify and implement methods to measure the collective impact of CAP projects.
	Adapt measurement and communication methods as needed over the 3 year CAP life cycle.
	Identify mechanisms to communicate CAP progress and success stories internally (e.g. membership, partners, agencies, etc.).
	Identify mechanisms to communicate CAP progress and success stories externally (e.g. member audiences and communities, social media, etc.).
	Disseminate CAP progress in conferences and peer-review literature opportunities.
Stakeholders will complete a comprehensive review, evaluation and adaptation of the CAP every three years to maximize conservation impact.	Maintain an adaptive list of stakeholders and partners and adjust as needed.
	Provide funding for 3-year CAP workshop.
	Conduct comprehensive review of CAP progress documenting successes and future needs.
	Develop subsequent 3-year CAP.



Collaboration Project Participation Menu

Suggested Ideas for Participation Menu

Action Opportunities:

- ☒ Serve as the AZA SAFE Project Coordinator.
- ☐ Participate as a Project Collaborator.
- ☐ Develop SAFE Areas of Focus and align AZA strengths with conservation needs.
- ☐ Create 3-year CAP documents with budgets and timelines.
- ☐ Coordinate and promote CAP projects.
- ☐ Monitor and evaluate progress of projects.
- ☐ Develop collaborative process agreed upon by all stakeholders.
- ☐ Investigate relevant consensus-building models.
- ☐ Identify and implement methods of measuring impact of CAP projects.
- ☐ Attend and participate in relevant meetings.
- ☐ Create and distribute meeting notes and other relevant materials.
- ☐ Identify internal and external communication mechanisms.
- ☐ Create and submit conference abstracts.
- ☐ Create and submit papers to peer-reviewed journals.
- ☐ Conduct review of 3-year CAP with documented successes and future needs.
- ☐ Develop subsequent 3-year CAP.

Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities to Support*:

- ☐ Sponsor recurring stakeholder meetings.
- ☐ Fund distribution of materials related to meetings.
- ☐ Sponsor 3-year CAP workshop.
- ☐ Fund conference attendance and journal submission (if open-sourced).
- ☐ Fund training needs (e.g. software, consensus-building tools, facilitation workshops).

* Potential Tier-Leveled Funding Opportunities will support the development, implementation, and ongoing management of AZA SAFE Conservation Action Plans.