

India halts plan to ship cheetahs from Africa

May 9 2012



A picture taken on February 2, 2012, shows a cheetah at the Amneville zoo, eastern France. AFP PHOTO JEAN-CHRISTOPHE VERHAEGEN

India's Supreme Court has halted a plan to re-introduce cheetahs to the country by shipping animals over from Africa after experts said the idea was "totally misconceived".

The environment ministry had cleared the \$56 million project which involved moving African [cheetahs](#) from Namibia to a wildlife sanctuary in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

But court-appointed adviser P.S. Narasimha said: "Studies show that African cheetahs and Asian cheetahs are completely different, both genetically and also in their characteristics."

He told the court Tuesday: "The African cheetah obviously never existed

in India," adding that the International Union for [Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN) clearly warned against the introduction of [alien species](#).

The Asiatic cheetah was once common on the plains of India but was hunted close to extinction during the British colonial era before disappearing in the 1950s.

About 100 are thought to survive in remote regions of Iran.

(c) 2012 AFP

Citation: India halts plan to ship cheetahs from Africa (2012, May 9) retrieved 11 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-05-india-halts-ship-cheetahs-africa.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.