



About the cover: Cheetahs were once found throughout the continents of Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America. About 10,000 years ago, climate change resulted in their massive extinction, and a single species (*Acinonyx jubatus*) is now restricted to Africa and Asia. Habitat destruction, poaching, competition with other predators, and killing by farmers and ranchers who believe the cheetah is a threat to livestock has reduced this species to 12,500 cats. Unfortunately, cubs like the one shown on the cover have poor chances of survival. The threats described above result in an approximately 90% cub mortality rate in the wild. The largest population of cheetahs is in Namibia, Africa. Here the cheetah population has been cut in half in the last 10 years to 2,500 cats because of democratic reforms that have resulted in economic expansion accompanied by habitat destruction. This magnificent species' survival depends on our ability to manage wild populations, conserve what genetic diversity exists in captive breeding programs, and protect the cheetah's habitat.

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