

More Photos of Rare Saharan Cheetah and Other Wildlife

Curious Cat Science and Engineering Blog



Photo of a sand cat by Thomas Rabeil of the Sahara Conservation Fund

In March of 2009 we posted about [photos of the rare Saharan cheetahs caught on wildlife cameras](#) [1]. Recently more photos have been released by the [Sahara Conservation Fund](#) [2] showing a ghostly cheetah and other wild cats and other wildlife, including this wonderful photo of a sand cat.

[Elusive Saharan Cheetah Captured in Photos](#) [3]

The animal is so rare and elusive scientists aren't sure how many even exist, though they estimate from the few observations they've made of the animal and tracks that fewer than 10 individuals call the vast desert of Termit and Tin Toumma in Niger home. Fewer than 200 cheetahs probably exist in the entire Sahara.

...

Their home can reach sizzling temperatures up to 113 degrees Fahrenheit (45 degrees Celsius), and is so parched no standing water exists. "They probably satisfy their water requirements through the moisture in their prey, and on having extremely effective physiological and behavioral adaptations,"

...

The Saharan cheetah is listed as critically endangered on the 2009 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



The elusive Saharan cheetah in Niger, Africa. Sahara Conservation Fund

The photos are part of the [Sahara Carnivores Project](#) [4]

The Saharan race of cheetah (*Acynonix jubatus hecki*) is very rare, and one of the most specialized and threatened in Africa. As part of a major strategy to conserve Sahelo-Saharan wildlife, in collaboration with the Sahara Conservation Fund we are establishing a project to study and protect Saharan carnivores in the Termit/Tin Toumma region of north Niger. We aim to improve our understanding of sympatric Saharan carnivores, and evaluate the impact of human activities on carnivore populations, and that of carnivore predation on livestock. One of the projects aims is to produce an action plan prepared jointly with local land-users to minimize human-carnivore conflict in the Termit/Tin Toumma.

More ghostly cheetah photos: [blurry](#) [5] and [walking away](#) [6]

[‘Ghostly’ Saharan cheetah filmed in Niger, Africa](#) [7]

it not yet known if Saharan cheetahs are more closely related to other cheetahs in Africa, or those living in Iran, which make up the last remaining wild population of Asiatic cheetahs.

Saharan cheetahs appear to have different colour and spot patterns compared to common cheetahs that roam elsewhere in Africa.

However, “very little is known about the behavioural differences between the two cheetahs, as they have never been studied in the wild,” says Dr Rabeil.

“From observations of tracks and anecdotal reports they seem to be highly adaptable and able to eke out an existence in the Termit and Tin Toumma desert.”

Other posts of animals filmed with [remote wildlife monitoring cameras](#) [8]:

[Sumatran Tiger and Cubs](#) [9] - [Jaguars Back in the Southwest USA](#) [10] - [Scottish Highland Wildcats](#) [11] - [Rare Chinese Mountain Cat](#) [12]

Photos by [John Hunter](#) [13] of [cheetahs and other animals in Kenya](#) [14].

[SOURCE](#) [15]

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<http://www.ecnmag.com/news/2010/12/more-photos-rare-saharan-cheetah-and-other-wildlife>

Links:

- [1] <http://engineering.curiouscatblog.net/2009/03/05/rare-saharan-cheetahs-photographed/>
- [2] <http://www.saharaconservation.org/>
- [3] <http://www.livescience.com/animals/saharan-cheetah-photo-niger-africa-101224.html>
- [4] http://www.wildcru.org/research/research-detail/?project_id=51
- [5] http://www.livescience.com/php/multimedia/imagedisplay/img_display.php?s=animals&c=news&l=on&pic=saharan-cheetah-niger-101224-02.jpg
- [6] http://www.livescience.com/php/multimedia/imagedisplay/img_display.php?s=animals&c=news&l=on&pic=saharan-cheetah-termit-101224-02.jpg
- [7] http://news.bbc.co.uk/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_9306000/9306399.stm
- [8] <http://engineering.curiouscatblog.net/2008/06/01/using-cameras-monitoring-to-aid-conservation-efforts/>
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- [10] <http://engineering.curiouscatblog.net/2006/10/10/jaguars-back-in-the-southwest-usa/>
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