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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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PRESS RELEASE

TRANSLOCATION OF CHEETAHS FROM BOTSWANA TO INDIA

A three-member delegation from the Government of India are in Botswana on a four-day mission for preparation of the translocation of live cheetahs from Botswana to India for conservation purposes. The Indian delegation's visit is by invitation from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism after acceding to a request by the Government of India for a donation of eight (8) cheetahs for the Project Cheetah that is aimed at reintroducing the cheetahs in their historical range in India.

The delegation led by the High Commissioner of India to Botswana, H.E. Bharath Kumar Kuthati made a courtesy call to the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Hon. Wynter B. Mmolotsi. The two parties explored areas of collaboration in wildlife management such as capacity building, resource mobilization and technology transfer. The delegation will further visit potential source sites to also appreciate the natural range of the cheetahs in

Botswana.

Botswana has a stable wild cheetah population estimated at 1,694 cheetahs, which is approximately 24% of the world population. With this, the Government of Botswana has acceded positively to the request by the Government of India. The translocation of the eight (8) cheetahs will be in compliance with the provisions and obligations of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild *Fauna* and *Flora* (CITES).

The donation is in line with implementing Botswana's broad objective of building partnerships for sustainable wildlife management with like-minded countries such as the Government of India.

The Government of India will assume all the costs related to the capture, transportation and veterinary services during the translocation exercise.

Thank you.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

