

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Thirty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12 – 19 July 2024

Strategic matters

JOINT CITES-CMS AFRICAN CARNIVORES INITIATIVE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.59, 18.60 (Rev. CoP19), 18.61, 19.24 and 19.25 on the *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative*, which read as follows:

Directed to range States of African carnivores

18.59 *Relevant range States of African carnivores are urged to work through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative to implement CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.*

Directed to Parties

18.60 (Rev. CoP19) *Parties are invited to recognize the importance of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative in implementing CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by the Initiative, and in seeking synergies as appropriate to implement complementary CMS resolutions and decisions.*

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

18.61 *Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support relevant African range States, through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, in their implementation of CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.24 *The Secretariat shall inform the Animals Committee regarding the activities and outputs of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI) that relate to the Committee's mandate and request advice from the Animals Committee, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.25 *The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on information that it provides regarding the activities and outputs of the ACI that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.*

3. At its 32nd meeting (AC32; Geneva, June 2023), the Animals Committee considered the information provided by the Secretariat in document [AC32 Comp.](#) relating to the implementation of the Decisions on the *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (ACI)*. The African Carnivore Initiative is an initiative of the range States of cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), lions (*Panthera leo*), leopards (*Panthera pardus*) and African

wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus* – not included in the CITES Appendices) that have agreed a programme of work for these species. The CITES Secretariat, alongside the CMS Secretariat, has been supporting the ACI where existing Resolutions and Decisions align with the result areas and activities identified by ACI range States. The Secretariat provided an oral update during AC32, noting that the Second meeting of the range States of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative took place from 1 to 4 May 2023 in Entebbe, Uganda and that the outcomes agreed by the ACI range States were shared through information document [AC32 Inf. 7](#). The range States meeting was held back-to-back with the CITES Big Cat Task Force meeting in Entebbe, Uganda from 24 to 28 April 2023 and the [outcome document](#) was shared on the CITES website after the meeting and submitted to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC77; Geneva, November 2023) (see document [SC77 Doc. 39.3](#)).

Two priority activities of the ACI Programme of Work that are relevant to CITES

4. The ACI range States prioritized result areas in the ACI Programme of Work (available as an information document to this meeting) on a subregional basis, taking into consideration the conservation importance of the result area. Eight result areas had been rated as high conservation importance by all range States. The Secretariat indicated that, out of the different activities identified by the range States, the development of trade resource kits for lions and leopards based on the [trade resource kit for cheetahs](#) (activity 7.4.1) and the development of an African lion inventory and an African lion database (activities 11.2.1 and 11.4.1) may be relevant to the mandate of CITES and more specifically of the Animals Committee.
5. In this context, the Secretariat notes that the development of trade resource kits has also been highlighted by the CITES Big Cat Task Force. The Task Force's outcome document recommends that Parties should develop and disseminate guides, apps, manuals and printed materials for identifying specimens of other big cat species in illegal trade amongst frontline law enforcement officers ([Outcome document](#) – Section 4. Identification of big cat specimens in trade). At SC77, the Standing Committee encouraged all Parties affected by illegal trade in specimens of big cat species to make every effort to implement the strategies, measures and activities outlined in the CITES Big Cats Task Force outcome document, as a matter of priority (see summary record [SC77 SR](#)). With regards to the African lion database, the ACI range States agreed to establish a working group tasked to determine whether the database developed by the Endangered Wildlife Trust and 'owned' by the IUCN Cat Specialist Group meet the requirements of the range States.

ACI Programme of Work to be extended and updated to reflect new CoP20 Decisions

6. The current Programme of Work (PoW) for the ACI covers the period 2021 to 2025 in line with the CMS-CITES joint programme of work developed in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)* for the period 2021 – 2025. Although some progress has been made in the implementation of the activities towards the achievement of the result areas, some activities cannot be fully implemented by 2025. As reported to AC32 and mentioned above, the ACI range States prioritized specific result areas and the implementation of the activities in these areas will require additional time. A number of activities in the PoW are implemented through Decisions adopted by CITES Parties. At the second range States meeting, the PoW was updated to reflect the relevant Decisions. A list of the Resolutions and Decisions that contribute to the implementation of the PoW for the ACI is contained in Annex 1 to the present document. Depending on progress made with the implementation of these Decisions and the draft decisions to be adopted at the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES (CoP20), there may be a need to further revise and update the PoW for the ACI.
7. The Secretariat therefore proposes that a new set of draft decisions for submission to CoP20 be considered by the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee. The Decisions on the ACI adopted by CoP19 also remain relevant to support the implementation of the ACI and the Secretariat proposes that these Decisions be renewed. In view of the ongoing nature of the ACI, the Secretariat proposes that the Animals Committee consider submitting an amendment to Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)* to the Standing Committee to include the species covered by the ACI [cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), lions (*Panthera leo*) and leopards (*Panthera pardus*)] in the list contained in paragraph 1 b) of the Resolution to read as follows:

- b) *ensuring that CITES initiatives in respect of the following species or taxonomic groups complement, reinforce and, as far as possible, benefit from the regional collaboration already being undertaken or envisaged in the framework of CMS:*

[...]

v) cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), lions (*Panthera leo*) and leopards (*Panthera pardus*);

8. Based on the prioritization by the ACI range States at their second meeting in 2023 that are relevant to the mandate of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat proposes a new set of draft decisions to respond to specifically the following priorities:
- a) development of trade resource kits for lions and leopards; and
 - b) support the process agreed by the ACI range States relating to the development and operationalization of an African lion database.

Draft decisions in this regard are also contained in Annex 3 to the present document.

9. It should be noted that the CMS CoP14 (Uzbekistan, February 2024) also adopted [decisions](#) relating to the ACI to provide for the review and extension of the PoW.

Recommendations

10. The Animals Committee is invited to:
- a) consider the proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)* in paragraph 7 above, amend as appropriate and submit the proposed amendment for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee for onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting;
 - b) consider the draft decisions contained in Annex 2 to the present document, amend as appropriate and submit the draft decisions for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee for onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
 - c) consider the draft decisions contained in Annex 3 of the present document and submit the draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS AND COP19 DECISIONS THAT SUPPORT THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK
FOR THE AFRICAN CARNIVORE INITIATIVE

RESOLUTIONS:

- Resolution [Conf. 10.14 \(Rev. CoP19\)](#) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use*
- Resolution [Conf. 11.3 \(Rev. CoP19\)](#) on *Compliance and enforcement*
- Resolution [Conf. 13.3](#) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*
- Resolution [Conf. 14.7 \(Rev. CoP15\)](#) on *Management of nationally established export quotas*
- Resolution [Conf. 16.6 \(Rev. CoP18\)](#) on *CITES and livelihoods*
- Resolution [Conf. 16.7 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#) on *Non-detriment findings*
- Resolution [Conf. 17.4 \(Rev. CoP19\)](#) on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species*
- Resolution [Conf. 17.8 \(Rev. CoP19\)](#) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES - listed species*
- Resolution [Conf. 17.9](#) on *Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II*
- Resolution [Conf. 18.7 \(Rev. CoP19\)](#) on *Legal acquisition findings*

DECISIONS

- [Decisions 18.59, 18.60 \(Rev. CoP19\), 18.61, 19.24 and 19.25](#) on the *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative*
- [Decisions 19.92 and 19.93](#) on *CITES Big Cat Task Force*
- [Decisions 19.205 to 19.210](#) on *African lions (Panthera leo)*
- [Decisions 19.211 and 19.212](#) on *Leopards (Panthera pardus) in Africa*
- [Decisions 18.166, 18.168 \(Rev. CoP19\) and 18.169 \(Rev. CoP19\)](#) on *Guidance on non-detriment findings for trade in leopard (Panthera pardus) hunting trophies*
- [Decisions 19.104 to 19.106](#) on *Illegal trade in cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus)*
- [Decisions 19.15 to 19.19](#) on *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade*
- [Decision 19.55](#) on *Demand reduction to combat illegal trade*

DRAFT DECISIONS ON THE CITES-CMS AFRICAN CARNIVORE INITIATIVE
TO BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Directed to range States of African carnivores

18.59 *Relevant range States of African carnivores are urged to work through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative to implement CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.*

Directed to Parties

18.60 (Rev. CoP19) *Parties are invited to recognize the importance of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative in implementing CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by the Initiative, and in seeking synergies as appropriate to implement complementary CMS resolutions and decisions.*

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

18.61 *Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support relevant African range States, through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, in their implementation of CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.24 (Rev. CoP20) *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) subject to external resources, support the range States of the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative in preparing a revised ACI Programme of Work and in implementing relevant CITES Resolutions and Decisions that contribute to the ACI;*
- b) inform the Animals Committee regarding the draft revised ACI Programme of Work and the activities and outputs of the ~~Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative~~ (ACI) that relate to the Committee's mandate and request advice from the Animals Committee, as appropriate; and*
- c) report on the implementation of this Decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 21st meeting.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

19.25 (Rev. CoP20) *The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on information that it provides regarding:*

- a) the revised Programme of Work of the African Carnivore Initiative (ACI); and*
- b) the activities and outputs of the ACI that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.*

DRAFT DECISIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO COP20

The Secretariat notes that if these draft decisions are adopted at CoP20, these will be mapped against the relevant results and activities of the ACI Programme of Work (specifically activity 7.4.1 and result 11.2).

DRAFT DECISIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RESOURCE KITS FOR AFRICAN LIONS
(*PANTHERA LEO*) AND LEOPARDS (*PANTHERA PARDUS*)

Directed to Parties

20.AA *Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *share trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) with the Secretariat; and*
- b) *request the Secretariat to make these trade resource kits available to the Parties on the CITES website.*

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB *The Secretariat shall subject to external funding,*

- a) *review the trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) shared by Parties;*
- b) *identify gaps and develop trade resource materials for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*) based on the gaps identified and taking into consideration lessons learnt from the development of the CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit.*
- c) *share trade resource kits developed by Parties on the CITES website, as appropriate.*
- d) *inform the Animals Committee, as appropriate, regarding the development of trade resource kits for African lion (*Panthera leo*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*).*

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.CC *The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on aspects of the development of trade resource kits and other guidance materials that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.*

DRAFT DECISIONS ON SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF AN AFRICAN LION INVENTORY AND DATABASE

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with African lion range States

20.AA *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *subject to external funding, and in consultation with African lion range States, support the process as agreed by the ACI range States relating to the development of an inventory and of an African lion database (see Activities 11.2.1 and 11.4.1 in the [PoW of the ACI](#) and outcome 5.3 of the [outcomes of the ACI2 meeting](#)); and*
- b) *inform the Animals Committee regarding the development of an inventory and of an African lion database that relate to the Committee's mandate and seek its advice, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Animals Committee

20.BB *The Animals Committee shall advise the Secretariat, as appropriate, on aspects of the development of an African lion database that are relevant to the Animals Committee's mandate.*