

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

JOINT CITES-CMS AFRICAN CARNIVORES INITIATIVE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.56-18.61 on the *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative* as follows:

18.56 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *include the African Carnivores Initiative in its proposals for the new CMS-CITES joint work programme for the period 2021-2025, to be 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);*
- b) *subject to the availability of external resources, and in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat and, as appropriate, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):*
 - i) *develop a dedicated Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI), taking into consideration the outcomes of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, and the First Meeting of Range States for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative; and submit the draft Programme of Work to the Standing Committee for its review and appropriate revision: and*
 - ii) *support range States of African carnivores in implementing relevant CITES Resolutions and Decisions through the ACI;*
- c) *report, as appropriate, on the implementation of this Decision to the Animals Committee and to the Standing Committee; and*
- d) *report on the implementation of this Decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.*

18.57 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review the draft Programme of Work submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 18.56, paragraph b) i) and make appropriate recommendations or revisions and consider any reports of the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 18.56, and formulate guidance and recommendations, as appropriate, to range States and the Secretariat.

18.58 Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall consider any report of the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 18.56, and formulate guidance and recommendations, as appropriate, to range States and the Secretariat.

18.59 Directed to range States of African carnivores

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.

18.60 Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

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.

18.61 Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

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.

3. The Secretariat included a joint activity to collaborate on the development and deployment of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, including the development of a Joint Programme of Work, organization of regular range State meetings and the establishment of a sustainable funding mechanism in its proposal for a CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021–2025, which was put to the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting (SC73, online, May 2021). The Standing Committee endorsed the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021–2025 including this joint activity (see summary record [SC73 SR](#)).
4. With the generous financial support from Belgium, the Secretariat developed a draft Programme of Work for the ACI in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This was presented to SC73 and members and observers made a number of suggestions for amendments. The Committee consequently established an intersessional working group to address these revisions and report back to the Standing Committee in time for consideration at the next meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, scheduled for September 2021. The Chair of the Standing Committee submitted on 7 July 2021 a revised Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative for approval by the Committee using the procedure for intersessional decision-making under Rule 20 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, after receiving the report from the Chair of the intersessional working group (Germany) and in view of the urgency of the matter. The Standing Committee approved the revised Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and Parties were informed of this decision in Notification to the Parties [No. 2021/054](#) of 14 September 2021. Subsequently, this revised Programme of Work was put to the CMS Standing Committee at its 52nd meeting in September 2021 and approved by that body ([UNEP/CMS/STC52/Report](#)).
5. In view of the delayed adoption of the ACI Programme of Work and the inability to hold a meeting of the ACI due to the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, it has not been possible to use the ACI forum to support range States of African carnivores in implementing relevant CITES Resolutions and Decisions. However, discussions about holding a Second Range State Meeting of the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative are continuing with the CMS Secretariat. Thanks to Switzerland and the European Union-funded Minimizing the Illegal Killing of Endangered Species project, the Secretariat is able to contribute funds to convene jointly with CMS. The Secretariat will report orally at the present meeting on developments in this regard.
6. The Secretariat reported on the implementation of Decision 18.56 to the Animals Committee at its 31st meeting (AC31, online, June 2021) and the Committee took note of the Secretariat's report. In a parallel discussion on African lions (*Panthera leo*), the Animals Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions for consideration at the present meeting (see summary record [AC31 SR](#)):

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

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

19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee

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.

7. The Secretariat supports the suggestion of the Animals Committee in paragraph 6 of the present document. Given activities undertaken and the inclusion of the reference to the ACI in the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021–2025, existing Decisions 18.56 to 18.58 may be deleted, Decision 18.59 and 18.61 may be retained and Decision 18.60 may be revised and retained to correctly be directed only to Parties as they are the only bodies mentioned in the text.

Recommendations:

8. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
- a) adopt the existing, revised and new draft decisions on the *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative* contained in Annex 1 to the present document; and
 - b) delete Decisions 18.56 to 18.58 on Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON THE
JOINT CITES-CMS AFRICAN CARNIVORES INITIATIVE

Revised and retained decisions:

Change to existing Decisions are shown underlined (additions) or in ~~strike through~~ (deletions)

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, ~~intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations~~

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.*

New draft decisions:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA 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.BB 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.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding.

The Secretariat notes that funding for the African Carnivores Initiative is addressed in the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2021–2025 arising from Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*. Any budget implications from the implementation of the proposed decisions would be addressed within the Joint Work Programme. The Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative agreed by the Standing Committee contains over 70 Activities, many of which require external funding. The cost of undertaking those Activities that do require external funding has not yet been estimated by the CITES and CMS Secretariats. A number of the Activities are not within CITES' mandate, but for those that are, the Secretariat will give priority to those that can best support CITES Parties in the implementation of the Convention and where leverage from the two Conventions can produce results greater than the sum of their parts.