

Conf. 11.20

(Rev. CoP18)*

Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'

RECALLING that, at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Fort Lauderdale, 1994) and the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2004), the South African and Swaziland populations of southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) were transferred to Appendix II of the Convention subject to an annotation stating, in part, "For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations and hunting trophies";

RECALLING ALSO that, at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Harare, 1997), the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) populations of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe were transferred to Appendix II of the Convention subject to an annotation stating, in part, "For the exclusive purpose of allowing export of live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations";

RECALLING FURTHER that, at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gigiri, 2000), the African elephant population of South Africa was transferred to Appendix II of the Convention subject to an annotation stating, in part, "For the exclusive purpose of allowing trade in live animals for re-introduction purposes into protected areas formally proclaimed in terms of legislation of the importing country";

NOTING that the current annotation to the listing of the Appendix-II populations of African elephant, adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (The Hague, 2007) states, in part, "For the exclusive purpose of allowing trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations, as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18), for Botswana and Zimbabwe and for *in situ* conservation programmes for Namibia and South Africa";

NOTING FURTHER that the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' is yet to be fully defined;

RECOGNIZING that there are annotations currently existing that refer to live animals, and that similar annotations may be adopted in future;

NOTING FURTHER that 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' for live animals should be those that ensure that the animals are humanely treated;

RECALLING FURTHER that Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *CITES and livelihoods* recognizes that *ex situ* production of live animals may lead to loss of revenues for rural communities and that positive incentives to promote *in situ* production systems may encourage benefits to these communities;

RECALLING FURTHER that Resolution Conf. 13.9 on *Encouraging cooperation between Parties with ex situ breeding operations and those with in situ conservation programmes* encourages cooperation between Parties with *ex situ* breeding operations and those with *in situ* conservation programs;

NOTING that trade in the offspring of the animals exported under an 'appropriate and acceptable destination' annotation will be subject to Article III of the Convention, except if the importing country's population is also listed in Appendix II;

CONCERNED that trade in live rhinoceroses or elephants under an 'appropriate and acceptable' annotation should not undermine the conservation of the species within its range and efforts to combat trafficking;

RECOGNIZING that elephants are highly social animals and that removal of elephants from their social groups disrupts wild populations and has detrimental effects on the physical and social well-being of elephants removed from these groups;

ACKNOWLEDGING the Addis Ababa Communiqué from the African Elephant Coalition Summit, 1-3 June 2018, in which 21 representatives of African elephant range States reaffirmed the position of the

* Amended at the 17th and 18th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

30 African States in the Coalition that the only appropriate and acceptable destinations for live wild African elephants are in situ conservation programmes within their wild natural range; and

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the best way to promote *in situ* conservation of live wild African elephants is through *in situ* conservation programmes within their wild natural range;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. AGREES that where the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' appears in an annotation to the listing of *Loxodonta africana* in Appendix II of the Convention with reference to the trade in live elephants' taken from the wild, this term shall be defined to mean *in situ* conservation programmes or secure areas in the wild, within the species' natural and historical range in Africa, except in exceptional circumstances where, in consultation with the Animals Committee, through its Chair with the support of the Secretariat, and in consultation with the IUCN elephant specialist group, it is considered that a transfer to *ex-situ* locations will provide demonstrable *in-situ* conservation benefits for African elephants, or in the case of temporary transfers in emergency situations;
2. FURTHER AGREES that, where the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' appears in an annotation to the listing of a species in Appendix II of the Convention with reference to the trade in all live animals, this term shall be defined to mean destinations where:
 - a) the Management and Scientific Authority of the State of import is satisfied that the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it sustainably; and
 - b) the Management and Scientific Authorities of the State of import and the State of export are satisfied that the trade would promote *in situ* conservation;
3. ENCOURAGES that any permit authorizing trade of live rhinoceroses or elephants under an 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' annotation contain a condition stating that the rhinoceros horn or elephant ivory from those animals and from their progeny may not enter commercial trade and be sport hunted outside of their historic range; and
4. RECOMMENDS that all Parties have in place legislative, regulatory, enforcement, or other measures to prevent illegal and detrimental trade in live elephants and rhinoceroses, to minimize the risk of negative impacts on wild populations and injury, damage to health or cruel treatment of live elephants and rhinoceroses in trade, and to promote the social well-being of these animals.

¹ Excluding elephants that were in *ex-situ* locations at the time of the adoption of this Resolution at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.