

# Conf. 17.9

## Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II

ACKNOWLEDGING that peoples and States are and should be the best protectors of their own wild fauna and flora;

RECOGNIZING that well-managed and sustainable trophy hunting is consistent with and contributes to species conservation, as it provides both livelihood opportunities for rural communities and incentives for habitat conservation, and generates benefits which can be invested for conservation purposes;

ACKNOWLEDGING that where economic value can be attached to wildlife and a controlled management system is implemented, favourable conditions can be created for investment in the conservation and the sustainable use of the resource, thus reducing the risks to wildlife from alternative forms of land use;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the guidance provided in Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines*;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *CITES and livelihoods* recognizes that poor rural communities may attach economic, social, cultural and ceremonial importance to some CITES-listed species, and RECOGNIZING the resources that trophy hunting provides to certain local communities;

CONSIDERING the need for uniform interpretation of the Convention with regard to hunting trophies;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that range States invest significant resources in making scientifically based non-detriment findings and establishing sustainable quotas for hunting trophies;

AWARE of the challenges that some Parties face when making scientifically based non-detriment findings and establishing sustainable quotas for hunting trophies;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* sets out a number of guiding principles that Scientific Authorities should take into account in considering whether trade would be detrimental to the survival of a species;

RECOGNIZING that the conservation status of a species may differ across its range, and that this needs to be taken into account in the non-detriment findings of the respective Scientific Authorities as required under Articles III and IV of the Convention;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that trophy-hunting activities can successfully be managed for the benefit of the species in cooperation with and provide benefits to local communities, where relevant;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19)<sup>1</sup> on *Trade in elephant specimens*, Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19)<sup>1</sup> on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use*, Resolution Conf. 10.15 (Rev. CoP14) on *Establishment of quotas for markhor hunting trophies* and Resolution Conf. 13.5 (Rev. CoP18)<sup>2</sup> on *Establishment of export quotas for black rhinoceros hunting trophies* set out specific conditions applying to international trade in trophies of those Appendix I species;

RECALLING that the Appendix I listing of cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) is accompanied by an annotation regarding annual export quotas for live specimens and hunting trophies;

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<sup>1</sup> Corrected by the Secretariat following the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

<sup>2</sup> Corrected by the Secretariat following the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 2.11 (Rev.) on *Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I* recommends that hunting trophies of Appendix I species shall be accompanied by import and export permits;

FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 2.11 (Rev.) on *Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I* recommends that, in order to achieve the envisaged complementary control of trade in Appendix I species by the importing and exporting countries in the most effective and comprehensive manner, the Scientific Authority of the importing country accepts the finding of the Scientific Authority of the exporting country that the exportation of the hunting trophy is not detrimental to the survival of the species unless there are scientific or management data to indicate otherwise; and

RECALLING FURTHER Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17), on *Control of trade in personal and household effects*;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. AGREES that the export of hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II should be conditional upon issuance of an export permit in accordance with Articles III or IV of the Convention except as provided in Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Control of trade in personal and household effects*;
2. URGES exporting countries to only authorize the export of hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II when the following conditions are met:
  - a) a Management Authority of the State of export is satisfied that the specimen was not obtained in contravention of the laws of that country for the protection of fauna;
  - b) in reviewing trade in hunting trophies, a Management Authority of the state of export is satisfied that said specimen conforms to the definition of hunting trophy as contained in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19)<sup>3</sup> on *Permits and certificates*, and corresponds therefore to a whole animal, or readily recognizable part or derivative of an animal, specified on the accompanying CITES permit or certificate, that:
    - i) is raw, processed or manufactured;
    - ii) was legally obtained by the hunter through hunting for the hunter's personal use; and
    - iii) is being imported, exported or re-exported by or on behalf of the hunter, as part of the transfer from its country of origin, ultimately to the hunter's State of usual residence; and
  - c) a Scientific Authority of the State of export takes into account the concepts and non-binding guiding principles contained in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* in determining whether the export of the hunting trophy would be detrimental to the survival of the species; which may include:
    - i) information relating to distribution, status and trends of populations based on national conservation plans, where applicable, and which informs harvests; and
    - ii) a review of the sustainability of harvest levels taking account all mortality sources affecting the wild population of the species, including mortality due to illegal killing;
3. RECOMMENDS that Parties exporting hunting trophies of CITES-listed species ensure that trophy hunting is sustainably managed, does not undermine the conservation of target species and, as appropriate, provides benefits to local communities by having in place:
  - a) a robust regulatory framework relating to the harvesting of trophies;
  - b) an effective enforcement mechanism with adequate deterrents in the form of penalties for non-compliance;

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<sup>3</sup> Corrected by the Secretariat following the 18th and 19th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

- c) a monitoring system designed to effectively monitor population trends and status; and
  - d) an adaptive management system through which harvest levels can be adjusted according to the needs of the specific population and based on results of the monitoring programme;
4. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that trophy hunting activities relating to species listed in Appendix I should produce conservation benefits for the species concerned and thus may benefit from having a benefit sharing or incentive system in place to ensure that harvesting contributes to the offsetting of the cost of living with certain species, such as elephants;
  5. URGES Parties trading in hunting trophies to apply the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* in order to assess adherence to quotas and compliance with the provisions of the Convention;
  6. RECOMMENDS that importing and exporting countries maintain a close dialogue as necessary, and that these countries share information, upon request, regarding the finding of the Scientific Authorities;
  7. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that Parties consider the contribution of hunting to species conservation and socio-economic benefits, and its role in providing incentives for people to conserve wildlife, when considering stricter domestic measures and making decisions relating to the import of hunting trophies; and
  8. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that Parties make every reasonable effort to notify range States of the species concerned at as early a stage as possible prior to the adoption of stricter measures relating to trade in hunting trophies, as recommended in Resolution Conf. 6.7 on *Interpretation of Article XIV, paragraph 1, of the Convention*.