

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

Regulation of trade

Guidance on non-detriment findings for trade in
leopard (*Panthera pardus*) hunting trophies

ADDENDUM

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat, following the 20 June 2024 online workshop with Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use*.

Update

2. In document [AC33 Doc. 18](#), the Secretariat indicated that it was organizing an online workshop with Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) to provide an opportunity for the Parties to exchange information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining quotas and to discuss whether guidance to assist Parties in making non-detriment findings are needed.
3. The online workshop facilitated by the Secretariat took place on 20 June 2024 and was attended by 26 representatives from eight of the ten Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19): Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. During the previous intersessional period and in preparation of the meeting, Parties submitted leopard non-detriment findings (NDF) and management of quotas. The meeting was made possible due to the generous support received from Conservation Force and the Dallas Safari Club Foundation.
4. The Secretariat presented information relating to the guidance on making NDFs developed in terms of Decision 19.132 on *Non-detriment findings*. The Secretariat made the following observations relating to the NDF guidance modules as it relates to reviews carried out by Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies to assess whether they are not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild:
 - a) [Module 1](#): Principles and concepts of non-detriment findings (this module includes guidance on the precautionary approach, NDFs with conditions to mitigate risk and uncertainty, and adaptive management).

The Secretariat observed that Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) demonstrated in their respective submissions that the principles referred to in the module are applied in the management of quotas through, among others:

- i) limiting offtake to mainly male leopards (with specific exceptional specific circumstances where the offtake of females is authorized);
- ii) specifying the age range of leopards that may be hunted or the size of the leopards that may be hunted;

- iii) specifying areas where hunting can take place; and
 - iv) the collection and collation of data including trophy size and quality assessments, hunting effort and success, illegal harvest, and live leopard monitoring, to inform annual quota allocations (quotas adjusted based on available data).
- b) [Module 2](#): Practical consideration for making non-detriment findings (the module includes how to make NDFs, information gathering and details relating to simplified and comprehensive assessments).

The Secretariat observed that Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) demonstrated in their respective submissions that comprehensive assessments are done by these Parties to inform the quotas agreed in the Resolution and undertake assessment of key data elements on an annual basis to inform annual quota setting at a national level.

- c) [Module 3](#): Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge and participatory species monitoring (the module includes guidance on how local and traditional knowledge and participatory species monitoring could contribute to NDFs and key issues to consider in incorporating these in NDFs).

The Secretariat observed that Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) demonstrated in their respective submissions that participatory processes are followed in quota setting and that information is collected from various sources through formal and informal processes (patrol staff; problem animal management; and observations / reports by local communities, hunters and scouts, and safari operators). The module included an example of the processes followed in southern Africa to incorporate local and traditional knowledge into NDFs for sport hunting (also included in [Module 14](#) as part of the case studies).

5. Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) that participated in the online workshop exchanged information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining that such quotas are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild through presentations and the discussions facilitated by the Secretariat.

Observations made by Parties participating in the online workshop

6. The following observations were made by Parties participating in the online workshop:
- a) The online workshop presented an opportunity to exchange information and lessons learnt. Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) have similar processes in place.
 - b) Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) conduct regular surveys especially in areas where hunting offtake is authorized and adjust quotas as appropriate. Processes are in place to inform the annual allocation of quotas and to monitor offtake.
 - c) Taking into consideration the information shared by Parties relating to the processes and assessments to determine that leopard hunting quotas are not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, and the guidance in the NDF guidance modules developed in terms of Decision 19.132, there is no need to develop additional NDF guidance for leopards.
 - d) National / countrywide surveys of leopards are costly, especially considering the methods used, due to the elusive nature of leopards [various methods are used in combination: camera-based surveys (spatial camera-based capture, recapture methods), spoor surveys and counts, habitat suitability. Information is also collected or obtained from communities, hunting / photo safari operators, trophy quality and size assessments, etc.].
 - e) All Parties implement specific restrictions to the hunting of leopards to ensure the offtake remains sustainable, including:
 - i) authorizing offtake only in specific areas (areas of offtake assessed on an annual basis);

- ii) limiting the number of leopards that could be hunted on an annual basis taking into consideration population and distribution information, as well as information collected the previous year relating to hunts that took place;
 - iii) specifying one or more of the following: age, sex or size of specimens that may be hunted; and
 - iv) monitoring of animals hunted (trophy quality and size assessments linked to skull measurements).
- f) Funding to support long-term population monitoring, especially surveys every three to five years, remains a challenge for all Parties. Discussions relating to mobilizing sustainable finance for African elephant conservation could be relevant in finding potential solutions relating to fund long-term monitoring and conservation of leopards.
- g) In terms of threats, habitat destruction / loss remains the key threat to leopard despite their adaptability and tolerance to humans / disturbance. Habitat loss also impacts prey species abundance and could increase incidences of human-leopard conflict. Translocation as a management intervention to address human-leopard conflict was discussed, including challenges in this regard (e.g., individual return to area where it was captured, intraspecific competition in release areas).
- h) A threat in some countries is the use of leopard skins for cultural use (ceremonies and religious practices). Parties have implemented awareness-raising programmes and the promotion of synthetic alternatives has also been explored. There are furthermore ongoing engagements with the relevant representatives and the youth to explain the impact of the use of skins on leopard populations. Collaboration across the range States is essential to address this threat.
- i) Parties expressed concerns that trophy import bans have a direct impact on conservation, as well as socio-economic impacts. Benefits from trophy hunting include the conservation of leopard habitat; funding for research and surveys; monetary and other benefits to communities (including in some cases to compensate for losses); and increased tolerance to the presence of leopard in some areas.
- j) Parties use a participatory approach process to allocate quotas, including in some cases panels established to consider the available information and advice on allocation of quotas for the next year/hunting season.
- k) Parties have developed guidelines / protocols relating to monitoring of trophy hunting that address various elements, including trophy quality and size assessment and annual allocation of quotas. Parties were of the view that these guidelines / protocols could be consolidated with the aim of discussing the feasibility of standardizing these across the Parties hunting leopard. Zambia and Zimbabwe volunteered to take the lead in consolidating information from the Parties to facilitate a discussion.
- l) Training sessions on the use of the new NDF guidance and other guidelines such as the trophy quality and size assessments involving multiple representatives from Parties would assist in building capacity and address loss of expertise due to staff turnover in some Parties.
- m) A checklist that sets out the key aspects to be addressed in carrying out a NDF could be useful, as well as the allocation of timelines for some activities that will inform the NDF (e.g., short-term vs long-term monitoring; surveys in key areas vs country wide / national surveys).
- n) In terms of Resolution Conf. 9.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Interpretation and application of quotas for species included in Appendix I*, Parties agreed that *a Party wishing the Conference of the Parties to establish a quota for a species included in Appendix I, or to amend an existing quota, should submit its proposal to the Secretariat, with supporting information including details of the scientific basis for the proposed quota, at least 150 days before a meeting of the Conference of the Parties*. Concerns were raised about the adoption of Decisions that seem to be aimed at amending quotas through an alternative process.

Recommendations made by Parties participating in the online workshop

7. The following recommendations were made relating to the implementation of the Decisions and the way forward:
- a) Parties agreed that Decision 18.166 has been implemented.

- b) With regards to paragraph a) of Decision 18.169 (Rev. CoP19), Parties agreed that:
- i) further guidance on making NDFs for leopards is not needed.
 - ii) existing information (guidelines / protocols / training material) relating to the following processes should be consolidated and shared among range States:
 - A. trophy quality and size assessments;
 - B. annual allocation of quotas – in terms of the participatory approaches and data used to inform quota setting; and
 - C. monitoring methods (short-term and long-term monitoring).

Where feasible, Parties will consider processes to standardize the above.
- c) Parties furthermore agreed that an in-person workshop to discuss the consolidated information referred to in 7. b) ii) and to do an NDF training course will facilitate information exchange, potential standardization of processes, where feasible and address some capacity-building needs.

Observations by the Secretariat

8. Some of the Decisions and activities relating to leopards are also contained in the Programme of Work (PoW) of the African Carnivore Initiative (ACI) (2023 – 2025). The ACI PoW should be revised and updated to address new developments and needs of the Parties and to extend it beyond 2025 (see document [AC33 Doc. 10](#)). Activities outlined in the recommendations could be implemented under the Programme of Work of the ACI or included in the revised PoW.
9. Resolution Conf. 9.21 (Rev. CoP18) includes an instruction to the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee in paragraph 2 to *keep under regular review (every nine years or sooner if determined necessary) quotas for species included in Appendix I established by the Conference of the Parties. If new scientific or management data have emerged to indicate that the population of the species in the range State concerned can no longer sustain the agreed quota, consult with the range State in order to find a solution to any concerns raised including, if appropriate, making recommendations to amend the quota.* A provision for the review of quotas is included in the Resolution.
10. Based on the discussions by the range States, Decision 18.166 could be deleted, Decision 18.169 (Rev. CoP19) could be revised to incorporate further support under the African Carnivore Initiative (ACI), and a draft decision could be directed to Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19), as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

18.169 (Rev. CoP2019) *The Secretariat shall, subject to external resources and as part of the African Carnivore Initiative:*

- a) *encourage and support all Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) to exchange information and lessons learnt regarding the process for determining that such quotas are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild; and*
- b) *~~support in cooperation with range States, upon request, and relevant experts, to consolidate existing information relating to the management and monitoring of leopard and hunting quotas develop guidance that can assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings for trade in leopard hunting trophies in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19), facilitate the sharing of the information with relevant Parties draft guidance and bring any aspects relevant to the mandate of with the Animals Committee to its attention. for its review, make such guidance available on the CITES website, and encourage its use by relevant Parties.~~*

Directed to Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19)

20.AA Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) to consolidate existing information relating to the management and monitoring of leopard and hunting quotas that assist Parties in the making of non-detriment findings for trade in leopard hunting trophies in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19).

Revised recommendations

11. The Animals Committee is invited to:

- a) note the observations and recommendations made by Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) that participated in the online workshop;
- b) agree that Decisions 18.166 and 18.168 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) agree to submit the revisions to Decision 18.169 (Rev. CoP19) and the new draft decision proposed in paragraph 10 above for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.