

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

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 18.166, 18.168 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.169 (Rev. CoP19) on *Guidance on non-detriment findings for trade in leopard (Panthera pardus) hunting trophies* as follows:

***Directed to Parties with quotas established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19)***

**18.166** *All Parties which have quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) are encouraged to conduct regular surveys, adjust quotas as appropriate, and 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.*

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

**18.168 (Rev. CoP19)** *The Animals Committee shall review any information submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 18.169 (Rev. CoP19) and make recommendations to the Secretariat and leopard range States, as appropriate.*

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**18.169 (Rev. CoP19)** *The Secretariat shall, subject to external resources:*

- 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) *in cooperation with range States and relevant experts, 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 CoP19), share the draft guidance with the Animals Committee for its review, make such guidance available on the CITES website, and encourage its use by relevant Parties*

3. The Secretariat provided an update to the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee (AC32; Geneva, June 2023) on the implementation of above Decisions in document [AC32 Comp.](#) and indicated that it had not secured funding for the development of non-detriment findings (NDF) guidance in accordance with paragraph b) of Decision 18.169 (Rev. CoP19) (see summary record [AC32 SR](#)). Conservation Force and Dallas Safari Club Foundation pledged funding at AC32 for the development of guidance to assist Parties in

making NDFs for trade in leopard hunting trophies. The Secretariat received the contribution and is grateful for the support received.

4. The Secretariat did not initiate the process to develop further guidance in 2023 pending the finalization of the process to develop guidance pursuant to Decisions 19.132 to 19.134 on *Non-detriment findings* (see document PC27 Doc. 16 / AC33 Doc. 16) and the development of NDF guidance for African lion (*Panthera leo*) (see document AC33 Doc. 36). The guidance developed through these processes could be considered by Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies to assist them in the making of NDFs.
5. In February 2024, the Secretariat reached out to the Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) on *Quotas for leopard hunting trophies and skins for personal use*, Botswana, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, inviting the Parties to indicate their preference in terms of support to be provided taking into consideration Decisions 18.166 and 18.169 (Rev. CoP19) and the funding secured. Parties were invited to consider the following options and provide further information:
  - a) identifying and documenting the unique elements associated with leopards to be considered in making NDFs for leopards and setting quotas;
  - b) exchange of information and lessons learnt regarding NDFs and setting quotas (online session with interpretation);
  - c) development of a practical reference guide on methodologies published and those used by range States to survey and monitor leopard populations;
  - d) a combination of the options above; or
  - e) other areas of support.
6. Based on the responses received, the Secretariat is organizing an online meeting scheduled to take place on 20 and 21 June 2024 during which Parties with quotas for leopard hunting trophies established under Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19) will 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. Unique elements associated with making NDFs for trade in leopard hunting trophies and methodologies used to survey and monitor the populations will also be discussed to inform the need for additional guidance.
7. The Secretariat will provide an oral update to the Animals Committee, but it is anticipated that the Decisions may have to be renewed to finalize the process and to 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) as outlined in Decision 18.169 (Rev. CoP19).

#### Recommendations

8. The Animals Committee is invited to note the progress made and, if appropriate, to propose the renewal of Decisions 18.166, 18.168 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.169 (Rev. CoP19) to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.