

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee  
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

ILLEGAL TRADE IN CHEETAHS (*ACINONYX JUBATUS*)  
(DECISION 16.72)  
(Agenda item 18)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair: The AC Chair (Ms Caceres);

Parties: Austria, Kuwait, Namibia, South Africa and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Born Free USA, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, TRAFFIC International, Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF.

Mandate

Taking account of the presentations and discussions in plenary, the working group shall:

1. Review the study contained in the Annex to document AC27 Doc. 18, undertaken in accordance with Decision 16.71, make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Committee; and
2. Focus its recommendations on the impacts of the legal and illegal trade on the species conservation in the wild, and on measures concerning the disposal of confiscated live specimens.

Recommendations

1. The Animals Committee recognized and agreed that there is a conservation concern as a result of the illegal take and illegal trade of cheetahs. In particular, the Animals Committee would like to draw the Standing Committee's attention to the concerns with the poaching and illegal trade of cheetah in the North and East African region and the negative impacts this is having on wild populations in the region. Recognizing that poaching and illegal trade is a threat to the species, the Animals Committee recommends Parties include cheetahs as a species of priority in their strategies to counter wildlife trafficking.
2. With respect to the study commissioned under Decision 16.71, the Animals Committee recommends to the Standing Committee that additional information should be sought from range States and Parties implicated in the illegal trade in cheetah to ensure comprehensive information is available to inform

recommendations aimed at addressing the illegal trade in cheetah, including recommendations to the Animals Committee on further work to be conducted.

3. The Animals Committee recommends to the Standing Committee that a face to face workshop of range States and Parties implicated in the illegal trade in cheetah and other relevant organizations would be an effective way to address issues and concerns related to the illegal take and trade of cheetah, taking into account the expertise of enforcement personnel, cheetah specialists, CITES Authorities and the CITES Secretariat. Such a workshop would allow the review and exchange of information and the formulation of targeted recommendations to address the illegal take and trade in cheetahs which could be provided to the Animals and Standing Committee for their consideration as appropriate.
4. The Animals Committee recognizes the need for appropriate facilities for receiving live confiscated cheetahs and notes the facilities listed in Annex 1 have received confiscated live cheetahs in the recent past. The Animals Committee recommends the Standing Committee make this list available to the range States and Parties that were identified in AC27 Doc. 18 as regularly confiscating cheetahs.
5. The Animals Committee recommends the Standing Committee urge range States and Parties implicated in the illegal trade in cheetah, with support from cheetah specialists, civil society, and the Animals Committee to develop regional or collaborative strategies for the disposal of confiscated live specimens of cheetah that are consistent with the principles in Res. Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP 15), paying particular attention to maximizing the contribution of the specimens to conservation of the species in the wild. These strategies can include identifying additional facilities appropriate for receiving live confiscated cheetahs.

### **List of known refuges**

This list is not comprehensive and represents the known facilities that have taken confiscated cheetahs in recent years

#### **Eastern Africa**

##### **Kenya**

Nairobi Animal Orphanage – 12 cheetahs – 3 cubs 2 cheetahs 1 lion

##### **Ethiopia**

Ensessakoteh - Born Free Foundation , near Addis Ababa

##### **Djibouti**

Refuge DECAN (DECouvrir et Aider la Nature)

#### **Southern Africa**

##### **Namibia**

Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF – more conservation but also acts as refuge) (for Namibia contact should be made through CCF)

AfriCat (North-Central Namibia – true sanctuary, good)

Na/an'ku-se – south-west Namibia, near Windhoek – (conservation centre / sanctuary - good)

#### **Gulf States**

##### **United Arab Emirates**

Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife (BCEAW)

Al Ain Zoo (Al Ain)

Abhu Dabi Wildlife Centre