

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



Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-21 July 2018

Species specific matters

Terrestrial species

AFRICAN WILD DOG (*LYCAON PICTUS*)

1. This document has been submitted by Burkina Faso.\*

Background

2. The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17) adopted the following decisions on the conservation and management of the African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*):

***Directed to range and consumer States for African wild dog (Lycaon pictus)***

– ***Decision 17.235:***

Range States of African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) are encouraged to take measures to prevent illegal trade in African wild dog, and to consider including the species in Appendix III.

– ***Decision 17.236:***

*Parties are encouraged to share information about trade in the species, including levels and sources of species in trade with Burkina Faso, assisted by the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and in the context of the Joint CITES-CMS Work Programme.*

***Directed to range States for African wild dog (Lycaon pictus) and interested organizations***

– ***Decision 17.237:***

*Range States are encouraged to collaborate and exchange best conservation practices regarding the preservation and restoration of African wild dog (Lycaon pictus) populations, and are invited to cooperate with the CMS, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other interested organizations in taking actions at the national and regional level, in particular with regard to: habitat conservation; the establishment of ecological corridors to address habitat fragmentation; the management of infectious diseases; the restoration of prey-basis; human-wildlife conflicts; and trade, including trade in captive bred specimens.*

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\* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

– **Decision 17.238:**

*Burkina Faso is invited to report to the Animals Committee on the implementation of Decisions 17.235 to 17.237 at the 29th or 30th Animals Committee meetings, as appropriate.*

3. The present report has been prepared pursuant to the latter decision in order to report on the implementation of Decisions 17.235 to 17.237. It should be noted that the information provided in this report concerns only South Sudan, Namibia and Burkina Faso, the three countries for which information was obtained on the African wild dog.

**1. DECISION 17.235**

*Take measures to prevent illegal trade in African wild dog and consider including the species in Appendix III.*

**Namibia**

- In 2016, the Government of Namibia included the African wild dog in the list of specially protected animal species, following an amendment of the Namibian ordinance on nature conservation, of 1975 (no. 4 of 1975). This category warrants a higher protection against overexploitation and the establishment of a permit system to control illegal trade. A strategic management plan for the conservation of the African wild dog has been developed and is in the process of being adopted.
- In addition, the general policy on wildlife conservation does not encourage the keeping of wild animals.

**South Sudan**

- Except for areas of wet tropical forest, the African wild dog used to be present in most of the habitat types and areas of the country. However, its current population size and area of distribution are very small.

**Burkina Faso**

- In 1996, the African wild dog was included in the list of totally protected species in the framework of the domestic legislation on wildlife management. Trade and any use prohibited by law of species in this category are punishable by imprisonment for a maximum of five (5) years or a fine of up to FCFA 5,000,000.

**2. DECISION 17.236**

*Share information with Burkina Faso about trade in the species (sources and number of specimens of the species in trade)*

The following information can be reported in this regard:

**Namibia**

- No cases of illegal trade in African wild dogs have been reported in this country.

**South Sudan**

- No trade in African wild dogs has been reported in South Sudan; human populations do not seem to have any interest in this species.

**Burkina Faso**

- No trade in African wild dogs has been recorded in Burkina Faso. People who are shown a picture of the African wild dog report being familiar with the species, but in certain places they confuse it with the spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) or the side-striped jackal (*Canis adustus*). Hence, the few cases of presence reported by human populations may not be totally reliable. Today, it is estimated that the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) cross-border complex shared by Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger is the site where the presence of African wild dogs is most likely. The two thirds of the WAP complex that are located in Burkina Faso are composed of hunting areas that are relatively well managed and protected with a sufficiently good density of animals to guarantee the survival of large carnivores. In spite of this, there does not seem to be any plausible evidence of the presence of the African wild dog in this ecosystem, unlike what happens with the

lion (*Panthera leo*), the cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), the leopard (*Panthera pardus*), the striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*), the spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) and many other smaller carnivores. It is necessary to conduct a comprehensive survey in this area as well as in the north and north-central parts of the country where the presence of African wild dogs in non-protected areas is reported by human populations.

### 3. DECISION 17.237

*Collaboration and exchange of best conservation practices regarding the preservation and restoration of African wild dog populations. Cooperation with the CMS, the IUCN and other interested organizations in taking actions at the national and regional level with regard to habitat conservation, the establishment of ecological corridors to address habitat fragmentation, the management of infectious diseases, the restoration of prey-basis, human-wildlife conflicts and trade, including trade in captive bred specimens.*

The following information can be reported in this regard:

#### **Namibia**

- Namibia is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In 2006, the country signed a memorandum of understanding with other States such as Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe to establish the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA). One of the objectives of the KAZA TFCA is to join fragmented wildlife habitats in these countries, creating cross-border wildlife corridors that will enable the free movement of animals across international boundaries. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia conducted a study of the movement of African wild dogs within the KAZA TFCA from 2012 to 2017.

#### **South Sudan**

- A recent survey conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in 2015 reported the observation of two groups of African wild dogs, one of seven (7) individuals and one of eleven (11) individuals. This finding confirms the decline in the population size of the species, mainly due to conflicts with humans (e.g., attacks by humans and predation of wild dogs on domestic livestock).

#### **Burkina Faso**

- Burkina Faso has recently developed an action plan for the conservation of the cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and the African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) complex of protected areas. Its vision is to restore the populations of both species and achieve coexistence between them and the human population. The action plan provides for management and monitoring actions in favour of these two species in protected areas. Studies on carnivores including the African wild dog are under way in the WAP in the three countries (i.e., Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin) and are expected to make it possible to determine the status of these species in this cross-border ecosystem. In Burkina Faso, the study area covers a contiguous territory of slightly over 1,000,000 ha composed of two (02) national parks and eleven (11) hunting reserves. A study (i.e., a survey among human populations and a field survey) is being conducted in the north and north-central parts of the country to find the African wild dogs reported by people in certain areas.