

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 13-17 July 2020

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

JOINT CITES-CMS AFRICAN CARNIVORES INITIATIVE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.56 to 18.61 on the *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative*, as shown in Annex 1 to the present document.
3. In compliance with Decision 18.56, the Secretariat has initiated the development of a dedicated Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
4. The Programme of Work will take into consideration the results of the First Meeting of Range States for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI1, Bonn, 2018), as well as the outcomes of CoP18 regarding the ACI, African lions, cheetahs and leopards. It will also consider the outcomes of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP13, Gandhinagar, 2020). These include UNEP/CMS/Resolution 13.4 on *JOINT CITES-CMS AFRICAN CARNIVORES INITIATIVE* (see Annex 2 to the present document), and two decisions on the ACI directed to the CMS Secretariat and CMS Standing Committee that are similar and complementary to CITES Decisions 18.56 and 18.57. At its 13th meeting, the Conference of Parties of CMS furthermore adopted decisions pertaining to African lions, cheetahs, wild dogs, and leopards, which are generally compatible with relevant CoP18 decisions. The CMS Secretariat has also engaged an Associate Programme Officer within its Terrestrial Species Team who will work part-time on ACI-related matters.
5. The draft Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative will be submitted to the Standing Committee for its review and revision, as appropriate, as per Decision 18.56, paragraph b) i). Concerning Decision 18.58, the Secretariat intends to provide a report on its implementation of Decision 18.56 to the Animals Committee at its 32nd meeting.

Recommendations

6. The Animals Committee is invited to take note of the present document.

Decisions on the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative
adopted at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

18.56 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) include the African Carnivores Initiative in its proposals for the new CMS-CITES joint work programme for the period 2021-2025, to be developed in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*;
- b) subject to the availability of external resources, and in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat and, as appropriate, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):
 - i) develop a dedicated Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI), taking into consideration the outcomes of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, and the First Meeting of Range States for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative; and submit the draft Programme of Work to the Standing Committee for its review and appropriate revision: and
 - ii) support range States of African carnivores in implementing relevant CITES Resolutions and Decisions through the ACI;
- c) report, as appropriate, on the implementation of this Decision to the Animals Committee and to the Standing Committee; and
- d) report on the implementation of this Decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

18.57 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review the draft Programme of Work submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 18.56, paragraph b) i) and make appropriate recommendations or revisions and consider any reports of the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 18.56, and formulate guidance and recommendations, as appropriate, to range States and the Secretariat.

18.58 Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall consider any report of the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 18.56, and formulate guidance and recommendations, as appropriate, to range States and the Secretariat.

18.59 Directed to range States of African carnivores

Relevant range States of African carnivores are urged to work through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative to implement CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.

18.60 Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

Parties are invited to recognize the importance of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative in implementing CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by the Initiative, and in seeking synergies as appropriate to implement complementary CMS resolutions and decisions.

18.61 *Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations*

Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support relevant African range States, through the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, in their implementation of CITES Resolutions and Decisions relating to the species covered by this Initiative.

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 13.4: Joint CITES-CMS African carnivores initiative

Recognizing that the African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and Lion (*Panthera leo*) should be conserved for future generations as these species constitute common heritage and are part of the identity of the African continent,

Concerned by the Red List Assessments of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), showing that populations of African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*) (2012), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) (2015), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) (2016) and Lion (*Panthera leo*) (2016) are in decline in most of their range in Africa,

Acknowledging that the African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and Lion (*Panthera leo*) share common threats and pressures, including habitat loss and fragmentation, conflict with humans, depletion of the prey base, and unsustainable or illegal utilization practices, which require urgent attention and can be addressed jointly for all four species,

Recalling Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)* of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),

Also recalling CMS Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP12) *Synergies and Partnerships*, stressing “*the importance of supporting the objectives of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to improve national collaboration, communication and coordination with relevant organizations and processes*”,

Recognizing the importance of the collaboration between African carnivore Range States, CITES, CMS and IUCN to undertake effective conservation actions in favour of the four carnivore species,

Reaffirming the recommendation of the First Meeting of the Range States to the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative that “*addressing the threats to African carnivores requires the long-term commitment of Range States and the international community*”.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals:

1. *Recognizes* the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (the Initiative) as a framework to build more coherence in the work that CMS and CITES, in cooperation with IUCN, CMS partner organizations and other stakeholders as appropriate, are devoting to the African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and Lion (*Panthera leo*);
2. *Agrees* that the objectives of the Initiative are to enhance the conservation, restoration and management of the African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and Lion (*Panthera leo*), as well as their habitats and prey, by strengthening coordination and cooperation across the species' ranges in Africa, and taking into consideration the needs and livelihoods of local communities living with the four carnivores;
3. *Recognizes* that the Initiative is an instrument to:
 - a) avoid duplicative activities and associated costs;
 - b) generate resources;
 - c) pool funds and expertise;
 - d) deploy effective and equitable measures amongst the four species;
 - e) apply holistic conservation approaches;
 - f) organize the collaboration with other conservation initiatives and organizations; and
 - g) create opportunities for donors to allocate resources to well-coordinated and internationally recognized conservation actions.
4. *Agrees* that the Initiative should focus on:
 - a) developing and implementing conservation strategies for each of the four African carnivore species, which address all threats to their survival;
 - b) taking measures that allow and secure connectivity between populations of the four African carnivores;

- c) promoting the coexistence of local communities and the four carnivores in landscapes where they occur;
 - d) promoting innovative approaches that deliver sustainable benefits to the local communities that pay the costs of living alongside the four species;
 - e) developing the capacity of Range States to conserve and manage, as well as monitor, populations of the four African carnivore species;
 - f) improving education and awareness on the plight of African carnivores; and
 - g) enhancing and facilitating communication and information sharing between the African Range States of the four carnivores;
 - h) taking steps to eliminate the poisoning of African carnivores;
5. *Agrees* that the Initiative should be implemented through a Programme of Work that will provide concrete, coordinated and synergistic conservation activities for all four species across their range, and be amended or adapted, as required;
 6. *Requests* the Secretariat to convene regular Range State meetings in cooperation with the Secretariat of CITES to assess the implementation of the Programme of Work, revise the Programme of Work as necessary, and monitor the functionality of the Initiative;
 7. *Encourages* Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and donors to contribute to the objectives of the Initiative, and to support the Initiative through financial and technical resources; and
 8. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of this Resolution to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.