

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Online, 31 May, 1, 4, 21 and 22 June 2021

Species specific matters

ADDENDUM TO AFRICAN LIONS (*PANTHERA LEO*)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Update on the implementation of Decisions 18.244 and 18.246

2. The Secretariat secured funding for the implementation of the activities required under Decision 18.244, paragraphs b) and c), and is very grateful to Switzerland and the United States of America in this regard. It started discussions with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to undertake relevant research, the results of which are expected to contribute to, *inter alia*, the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* and the implementation of Decisions 18.132 to 18.134 on *Non-detriment findings* (see document AC31 Doc. 14.1/PC25 Doc. 17 and its addendum).
3. The Secretariat secured external funding for undertaking the research and analysis of the legal and illegal trade in lions and other big cats, called for in Decision 18.246, paragraph a), which can be implemented thanks to support from the Netherlands and a contribution from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Strategic Programme of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC). TRAFFIC is being contracted to assist the Secretariat with undertaking the trade study. An update on progress is expected to be submitted as an information document at the present meeting.
4. The Secretariat was offered assistance from the University of Applied Sciences Van Hall Larenstein (Netherlands) to help advance paragraphs c) and/or d) of Decision 18.246, relating to identification materials for big cats and to forensic-type techniques for identifying lions and other big cat species in trade. This would involve targeted research by students in the context of their final year dissertations that would contribute to the implementation of these components of Decision 18.246.
5. The study and research results indicated in paragraphs 3 and 4 above will be shared with the CITES Big Cats Task Force. The Standing Committee will consider the terms of reference, membership and *modus operandi* of the Task Force at its 73rd meeting (see document SC73 Doc. 23).

Update on the implementation of Decision 18.247

6. Following the postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee meeting, scheduled to take place from 13-17 July 2020, the Committee took a number of intersessional decisions (see Notification No. 2020/057 of 22 September 2020), including the establishment of an intersessional working group on *African lions* (*Panthera leo*) in support of the implementation of Decision 18.247 with the following mandate:
 - a) review the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa*;
 - b) review relevant information provided by the Secretariat regarding its implementation of Decision 18.244, paragraphs a), b) and c), and Decision 18.246, paragraphs a), c) and d); and

- c) draft recommendations directed to the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and African lion range States, as appropriate, for consideration by the Animals Committee at its next meeting.

7. The membership of this working group was decided as follows:

Co-chairs: Guy Appolinaire Mensah (representative for Africa), Pantaleon Kasoma (representative for Africa) and Shirley Ramirez Carvajal (alternate representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean);

Animals Committee members: Saeko Terada (alternate representative for Asia) and Gerald Benyr (alternate representative for Europe);

Parties: Botswana, China, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zimbabwe; and

Observers: Convention on Migratory Species, CIC – International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Born Free Foundation, Centre for Biological Diversity, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Conservation Force, Dallas Safari Club, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, ProWildlife, Safari Club International Foundation, Sahara Conservation Fund, South African Taxidermy and Tannery Association, The European Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation (FACE), TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Zoological Society of London.

8. The working group worked by electronic means. A progress report on its activities can be found in addendum 2 to document AC31 Doc. 28. The working group focused on element a) of its mandate but was not able to come to conclusions or draft recommendations concerning the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* for consideration by the Animals Committee. This seems to have been caused *inter alia* by time constraints, leading to some working group members requesting the postponement of the review process.
9. The Secretariat considers that it remains important for the Animals Committee to review the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* and relevant updates thereof to ensure that it contains information and guidance that can meaningfully support the implementation of Convention's trade provisions and CITES measures concerning African lions. The *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* are also to be taken into consideration for the implementation of Decision 18.244.
10. Concerning Decision 18.247, paragraph a), the Secretariat proposes that the Animals Committee establish an in-session working group at the present meeting to advise on a process for reviewing the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* and any relevant updates, and agree on relevant recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting (CoP19).
11. Concerning Decision 18.247, paragraph b), the Secretariat has reported that the implementation of Decisions 18.244 and 18.246 is ongoing. Several of the research activities and studies relating to the conservation of lions and trade in lions and other big cats that are mentioned in these Decisions may be completed prior to CoP19 or shortly after. The Animals Committee may wish to consider if it sees merit in reviewing information reported by the Secretariat in this regard after CoP19. The Secretariat, in its reporting to CoP19 on the implementation of Decisions 18.244 and 18.246, could reflect the recommendations of the Animals Committee on this matter.

Revised recommendations

12. The Animals Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of document AC31 Doc. 28 and its Addendums 1 and 2;
- b) consider establishing an in-session working group at the present meeting to:
 - i) agree on a process and way forward for implementing Decision 18.247, paragraph a); and
 - ii) draft recommendations accordingly for consideration by the Animals Committee;

- c) consider the recommendations drafted by the in-session working group, as appropriate, and the extension of the mandate in Decision 18.247, paragraph b) beyond CoP19, as outlined in paragraph 11 of the present document; and
- d) request the Secretariat to convey the Animals Committee's recommendations to CoP19 under the Secretariat's reporting on the implementation of Decisions 18.244 and 18.246.