

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

Species specific matters

Leopards (*Panthera pardus*)

LEOPARDS (*PANTHERA PARDUS*) IN AFRICA

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.254 and 18.255 on *Leopards (Panthera pardus) in Africa* as follows:

**18.254 Directed to the Secretariat**

*The Secretariat shall share with the Animals Committee the Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for its review.*

**18.255 Directed to the Animals Committee**

*The Animals Committee shall review the Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa by IUCN, and make recommendations, as appropriate, concerning the aspects of it that relate to the implementation of CITES.*

Implementation of Decision 18.254

3. The Secretariat shared the *Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa*<sup>1</sup> with the Animals Committee in December 2019 and in March 2020. The *Roadmap* was prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature – Species Survival Commission (IUCN-SSC) Cat Specialist Group. It contains a compilation of available information on the status of the leopard in Africa, a review of threats, and a proposal for a conservation programme in the framework of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative. An initial version of the *Roadmap* had been presented at the first meeting of the range States of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (Bonn, 2018). It was developed further with inputs from range States, and Version 1.0 was finalized by IUCN in September 2019.
4. The *Roadmap* was presented at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13, Gandhinagar, 2020) under agenda item 26.3.1 on *African Carnivores Initiative*. The Parties to CMS adopted two decisions on *Conservation and Management of the Leopard (Panthera pardus) in Africa* that are similar to Decisions 18.254 and 18.255 and, *inter alia*, request the CMS Scientific Council to review the *Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa* and to formulate recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the range States, IUCN and others, as needed.

<sup>1</sup> IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group. 2019. Roadmap for the conservation of leopards in Africa. September 2019. Version 1.0. Muri/Bern, Switzerland. 35 pages. See [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.3.1/Rev.1/Annex 4](https://www.unep.org/cms/cop13/doc/26.3.1/rev.1/annex.4).

### Implementation of Decision 18.255

5. In its workplan for 2019-2022, the Animals Committee identified a lead or co-leads for each of the instructions directed to it in Resolutions and Decisions (see document AC31 Doc. 7.2. Two regional representatives, P. Kasoma (Africa) and S. Ramirez (Central and South America and the Caribbean), have co-led the review of the *Roadmap*. The findings and recommendations from the regional representative for Africa concerning the *Roadmap* are included in the Annex to this document.

### Recommendations

6. The Animals Committee is invited to:
  - a) conclude its review of the *Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa*; and
  - b) using the findings and recommendations from the co-leads, make recommendations, as appropriate, concerning the aspects of it that relate to the implementation of CITES for consideration by the range States, IUCN and others, as needed.

Draft findings and recommendations concerning  
the Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa

1. Mr Kasoma, regional representative for Africa, considers that the *Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa* is a well-researched and well written report. He recommends that slight modifications be made, as follows:
2. P. 49: Under “threats” is habitat loss and fragmentation. One other causative factor that needs to be considered is conversion of savannas and woodlands to other land uses such as exotic tree plantations and other forms of commercial agriculture. This not only fragments natural habitat but reduces prey populations.
3. P.57: Under “Recommendations” Objective 11, I strongly feel that another sub-activity ought to be to Activity 11.1. This should be a module (in fact an over-arching module) on sociology and social work (or whatever appropriate name for the study of human society). Failure by most practitioners to understand the workings of human society have often failed all well-intentioned interventions resulting in a huge waste of resources.
4. One aspect that I found missing though is a specific reference to sources of funding for assessing and monitoring populations of leopards in range states, the majority of which are cash-strapped. Perhaps it is implied in statements such as cooperation but funding is likely to be a challenge to implementation of the road map.