

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

Species specific matters

AFRICAN LION (*PANTHERA LEO*)

1. This document has been submitted by Niger, as chair of the intersessional Working Group on the African lion.\*
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on the African lion (*Panthera leo*):

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**17.241** *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):*

- a) investigate possible mechanisms to develop and support the implementation of joint lion conservation plans and strategies, taking into consideration existing lion conservation plans and strategies;*
- b) develop an inventory of African lion populations across its range, taking due consideration of existing inventories developed by African lion range States;*
- c) support the development of relevant databases by African lion range States;*
- d) develop strategies to reinforce international cooperation on the management of lions;*
- e) undertake studies on legal and illegal trade in lions, including lion bones and other parts and derivatives, to ascertain the origin and smuggling routes, in collaboration with TRAFFIC and/or other relevant organisations;*
- f) undertake a comparative study of lion population trends and conservation and management practices, such as lion hunting, within and between countries, including the role, if any, of international trade;*
- g) support capacity building in lion conservation and management, including where appropriate the making of non-detriment findings where a range State requests it;*

---

\* *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.*

- h) *support public awareness raising as well as education programmes in African lion range States, in order to support co-existence between humans and lions and to promote measures for the conservation and recovery of African lion populations;*
- i) *promote fundraising as part of its overall fundraising initiatives, to support the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lion and for a CITES Task Force on African lions;*
- j) *create a portal on the CITES website to permit, among other things, the posting and sharing of information and voluntary guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for African lion; and*
- k) *report on the progress relating to paragraph a) – j) to the 29th and 30th Animals Committee meetings.*

**Directed to the Animals Committee**

**17.242** *The Animals Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and submit recommendations to the 69th and the 70th Standing Committee meetings and the African lion range States, as appropriate.*

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

**17.243** The Standing Committee shall, at its 69th and 70th meetings:

- a) *consider the reports submitted by the Animals Committee in terms of Decision 17.242;*
- b) *recommend further actions to be taken; including the possible need for the development of a Resolution on the conservation of African lion;*
- c) *establish a CITES Task Force on African lions, inviting the participation of all African lion range States, consumer States for lion parts and derivatives, and relevant enforcement bodies, including the members of the Task Force of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC);*
- d) *provide terms of reference and modus operandi for this Task Force; and*
- e) *consider the establishment of a multi-donor technical trust fund to attract funding and direct resources for the work of the CITES Task Force on African lions and to support the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lion.*

**Directed to African range States**

**17.244** *African lion range States are encouraged to collaborate in implementing the decisions contained in Decisions 17.241 paragraphs a) - j) and 17.243 paragraph c).*

**Directed to all Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities**

**17.245** *All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support the African lion range States and the Secretariat:*

- a) *in their efforts to conserve and restore this iconic species across the continent, taking into consideration existing land-use practices; and*
- b) *in implementing the decisions contained in Decision 17.241 paragraphs a) - j).*

Background

3. Decisions 17.241 to 17.245 were adopted at CoP17 following discussions of proposal CoP17 Prop.4 (Transfer of all African populations of *Panthera leo* from Appendix II to Appendix I), and documents CoP17

Doc. 39.1 on Hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II and CoP17 Doc. 39.2 on Trade in hunting trophies of species listed on Appendix II.

4. In May 2016, the CITES Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) jointly convened an African lion range States' meeting (modelled after Resolution Conf. 14.5 on Dialogue meetings) to discuss the continent-wide conservation of the African lion and the listing of the species on CITES and CMS Appendices, while at the same time implementing CMS Resolution 11.32 on the Conservation and Management of the African Lion, (*Panthera leo*)<sup>1</sup>. The joint meeting was kindly hosted by the Government of Uganda in Entebbe and made possible through the generous funding of the Governments of Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting are reflected in the Entebbe Communiqué<sup>2</sup>, and were taken into consideration at CoP17 when developing the Decisions presented in paragraph 2 above [see documents CoP17 Inf. 73 and CoP17 Com. I Rec. 12 (Rev. 1)].
5. At CoP17, the Conference of the Parties agreed to maintain *Panthera leo* (African populations) in Appendix II with the following annotation: For *Panthera leo* (African populations): a zero annual export quota is established for specimens of bones, bone pieces, bone products, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth removed from the wild and traded for commercial purposes. Annual export quotas for trade in bones, bone pieces, bone products, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth for commercial purposes, derived from captive breeding operations in South Africa, will be established and communicated annually to the CITES Secretariat.

Implementation of Decision 17.243, paragraph a): report by the Animals Committee

6. At its 29th meeting (AC29, Geneva, July 2017), the Animals Committee noted document AC29 Doc. 29 and the comments made during the plenary. The Secretariat regretted that, because of the lack of adequate funding and resources, it had not been able to make substantial progress in implementing the activities indicated in paragraphs a) to i) of Decision 17.241. The Secretariat emphasized its collaboration with the CMS Secretariat and the development of a Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, with the support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Under this Initiative, CITES and CMS are grouping the implementation of measures required from both CITES and CMS concerning the African lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*). This initiative has the advantages of pooling funds, expertise and resources, resulting in improved coordination of the implementation of measures, and more effective conservation actions. On this occasion, the Animals Committee did not formulate recommendations for the Standing Committee and African lion range States, as envisaged in Decision 17.242.
7. At the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC30, Geneva, July 2018), the Secretariat provided a progress report in AC30 Doc 25 on the implementation of Decisions 17.241. The preliminary findings emerging from a study on legal and illegal trade in African lions, *Panthera leo*, carried out by TRAFFIC in fulfilment of Decision 17.241(e), with the generous support from the European Union, were included as an annex. A revised version of the study was provided as AC30 Inf. 15, and a final report is expected early in August 2018. The study analyses the CITES trade data, as well as seizure data from a number of sources, including the CITES annual illegal trade data submitted by Parties, and anecdotal reports of illegal lion killing and trade. It also draws on the results of research carried out in consumer countries. The main focus of the study is on the Asian side of the trade chain, as less is understood of the dynamics at the consumer end of the market. Literature has been reviewed, including in Chinese, Vietnamese and Laotian. Surveys of online and physical market places were undertaken, and researchers attempted to gain further insights into the trade through discussions with experts and other stakeholders in China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. Consultation has also taken place with experts in Africa, and a rapid review of French language literature was carried out to augment the information already compiled on the trade in lions in Africa. The draft outputs of the study on the legal and illegal trade in African lions, including preliminary findings and conclusions, were reviewed by the Animals Committee, the conclusions and recommendations from which can be found in CITES AC30 Com. 9. A final version of the TRAFFIC study will be submitted for the consideration of the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee in Russia in October 2018.
8. The CITES Secretariat also reported that the CITES and CMS Secretariats envisage bringing together the African lion range States prior to CoP18, along with range States of other species include in the African Carnivores Initiative. At AC30 the CMS Secretariat reported that it had sent a Notification to Parties of the

---

<sup>1</sup> All documents relating to the meeting can be found at: <http://www.cms.int/en/meeting/joint-cms-cites-african-lion-range-state-meeting-closed-meeting> .

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/African\\_Lions\\_Meeting\\_Communique\\_E.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/African_Lions_Meeting_Communique_E.pdf)

1st Meeting of Range States for the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative, which will take place in Bonn in early November and be restricted to Parties and invited experts from IUCN. This meeting could offer opportunities to agree on further work on African lions that could be proposed for consideration at CITES CoP18 and CMS CoP13. In line with the Secretariat's wish to rationalize efforts under the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, this same meeting may also address issues relating to leopards, African wild dog and cheetahs

Implementation of Decision 17.243, paragraphs a) through e)

9. At its 69TH meeting (Geneva, November 2017), the Standing Committee noted document SC69 Doc. 58 and established an intersessional Working Group on the African lion. The membership was agreed as follows:

Parties: Niger (Chair), Austria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, China, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.

IGOs and NGOs: Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Born Free USA, Conservation Alliance of Kenya, Conservation Force, Convention on Migratory Species, Humane Society International, International Professional Hunters Association, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Safari Club International Foundation, The European Federation of Association for Hunting and Conservation, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Animal Protection, World Wildlife Fund, and Zoological Society of London.

10. The mandate of the intersessional Working Group is as follows:

- a) support the Secretariat or its consultants in undertaking a study on the legal and illegal trade in lion specimens called for in Decision 17.241, paragraph e), by, *inter alia*, sharing relevant information and facilitating research;
- b) review prior to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70) the study conducted in accordance with Decision 17.241, paragraph e), and the recommendations by the Animals Committee, and draft recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- c) review prior to SC70 other aspects of the report of the Secretariat to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (including implementation of paragraphs a), d) and f) of Decision 17.241) and the recommendations by the Animals Committee, and draft comments and recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- d) consider and provide terms of reference and *modus operandi* for the CITES Task Force on African lions as directed in Decision 17.243, paragraphs c) and d);
- e) consider further actions to be taken, including the possible development of additional specific guidance on trade in and conservation of African lions by amending existing Resolutions or through a dedicated resolution, and the appropriateness for organizing a second African lion range States' meeting, and draft recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- f) assess whether existing grants programmes and funding opportunities can support, or be strengthened to support, the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lions, as envisaged in Decision 17.243, paragraph e); and taking account this assessment, consider the need and challenges for establishing an additional multi-donor technical trust fund; and
- g) report on the results of these activities, including draft recommendations, at SC70.

11. The Standing Committee also requested the Secretariat to disseminate to Parties relevant information on existing funding opportunities that can support the implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for the African lion, and the actions outlined in Decision 17.241, paragraphs a) to j) [see executive summary SC69 Sum. 6 (Rev. 1)]. The Secretariat collaborated with the CMS Secretariat in collating relevant information which was presented in the Annex to Notification No. 2018/042.

12. Working Group members conducted their work electronically. The Chair of the Working Group produced draft recommendations for the Working Group to review in order to foster discussions. However, participation

in the Working Group remained extremely limited and the Chair of the Working Group received almost no feedback from Working Group members. The Chair of the Working Group therefore recommends that the Standing Committee mandate Working Group members who are at the meeting to convene during the session to review and finalize the draft recommendations using guidance proposed by the Chair in Annex of this document.

### Recommendations

13. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of this document;
- b) mandate the Working Group on African lions to meet during the present session to refine recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, taking into account the proposed recommendations included in the Annex;
- c) review and adopt the recommendations of the Working Group
- d) mandate the Secretariat to provide support with the implementation of item d) of the Working Group mandate by making recommendations for consideration during the upcoming Meeting of Range States for the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative to guide the development of terms of reference and *modus operandi* for the CITES Task Force on African lions as directed in Decision 17.243, paragraphs c) and d).

**Considerations on the possible development of additional specific guidance on trade in and conservation of African lions**  
**CITES SC69 Intersessional Working Group on African Lions**

The terms of reference for the CITES Working Group on African lions, established at the 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee, includes a mandate to:

- e) *consider further actions to be taken, including the possible development of additional specific guidance on trade in and conservation of African lions by amending existing Resolutions or through a dedicated resolution, and the appropriateness for organizing a second African lion range States' meeting, and draft recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the Standing Committee; and*
- f) *assess whether existing grants programmes and funding opportunities can support, or be strengthened to support, the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lions, as envisaged in Decision 17.243, paragraph e); and taking account this assessment, consider the need and challenges for establishing an additional multi-donor technical trust fund; and g) report on the results of these activities, including draft recommendations, at SC70.*

**Current CITES provisions relating to lions (*Panthera leo*)**

*Panthera leo persica* (Asiatic lion) was first listed on CITES Appendix II in 1975, and uplisted to Appendix I in 1977. The subspecies is therefore subject to the provisions in Article III of the Convention text.

*Panthera leo* was included in CITES Appendix II, along with other *Felidae*, in 1977, and is therefore subject to the provisions in Article IV of the Convention text

At CoP17, an annotation was added to the Appendix II listing of *Panthera leo*, specifying that:

*“...a zero annual export quota is established for specimens of bones, bone pieces, bone products, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth removed from the wild and traded for commercial purposes. Annual export quotas for trade in bones, bone pieces, bone products, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth for commercial purposes, derived from captive breeding operations in South Africa, will be established and communicated annually to the CITES Secretariat.”*

At CoP17, Decisions 17.241-17.245, relating to African lions, were adopted:

**17.241 Directed to Secretariat**

*Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):*

- a) *investigate possible mechanisms to develop and support the implementation of joint lion conservation plans and strategies, taking into consideration existing lion conservation plans and strategies;*
- b) *develop an inventory of African lion populations across its range, taking due consideration of existing inventories developed by African lion range States;*
- c) *support the development of relevant databases by African lion range States;*
- d) *develop strategies to reinforce international cooperation on the management of lions;*
- e) *undertake studies on legal and illegal trade in lions, including lion bones and other parts and derivatives, to ascertain the origin and smuggling routes, in collaboration with TRAFFIC and/or other relevant organisations;*

- f) *undertake a comparative study of lion population trends and conservation and management practices, such as lion hunting, within and between countries, including the role, if any, of international trade;*
- g) *support capacity-building in lion conservation and management, including where appropriate the making of non-detriment findings where a range State requests it;*
- h) *support public awareness raising as well as education programmes in African lion range States, in order to support co-existence between humans and lions and to promote measures for the conservation and recovery of African lion populations;*
- i) *promote fundraising, as part of its overall fundraising initiatives, to support the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lion and for a CITES Task Force on African lions;*
- j) *create a portal on the CITES website to permit, amongst other things, the posting and sharing of information and voluntary guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for African lion; and*
- k) *report on the progress relating to paragraph a) – j) to the 29th and 30th Animals Committee meetings.*

**17.242 Directed to Animals Committee**

*The Animals Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and submit recommendations to the 69th and the 70th Standing Committee meetings and the African lion range States, as appropriate.*

**17.243 Directed to Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee shall, at its 69th and 70th meetings:*

- a) *consider the reports submitted by the Animals Committee in terms of Decision 17.242;*
- b) *recommend further actions to be taken; including the possible need for the development of a Resolution on the conservation of African lion;*
- c) *establish a CITES Task Force on African lions, inviting the participation of all African lion range States, consumer States for lion parts and derivatives, and relevant enforcement bodies, including the members of the Task Force of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC);*
- d) *provide terms of reference and modus operandi for this Task Force; and*
- e) *consider the establishment of a multi-donor technical trust fund to attract funding and direct resources for the work of the CITES Task Force on African lions and to support the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lion.*

**17.244 Directed to African lion range States**

*African lion range States are encouraged to collaborate in implementing the decisions contained in Decisions 17.241 paragraphs a) - j) and 17.243 paragraph c).*

**17.245 Directed to all Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, nongovernmental organizations, donors and other entities**

*All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support the African lion range States and the Secretariat:*

- a) *in their efforts to conserve and restore this iconic species across the continent, taking into consideration existing land-use practices; and*
- b) *in implementing the decisions contained in Decision 17.241 paragraphs a) - j).*

While not currently the subject of a specific Resolution, lions are also subject to many other provisions of the Convention, by virtue of their listing on its Appendices.

The following Resolutions have relevance to trade in lion specimens:

[Res.Conf. 7.12](#) (Rev. CoP15) Marking requirements for trade in specimens of taxa with populations in both Appendix I and Appendix II

[Res. Conf. 10.19](#) (Rev. CoP14) Traditional medicines

[Res. Conf. 11.21](#) (Rev. CoP17) Use of annotations in Appendices I and II

[Res.Conf. 12.3](#) (Rev. CoP17) Permits and certificates

[Res.Conf. 14.7](#) (Rev. CoP15) Management of nationally established export quotas

[Res. Conf. 15.2](#) Wildlife trade policy reviews

[Res.Conf. 16.7](#) (Rev. CoP17) Non detriment findings

[Res. Conf. 17.4](#) Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species

[Res. Conf. 17.7](#) Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity

[Res.Conf. 17.9](#) Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II

[Res.Conf. 12.5](#) (Rev. CoP17) Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species, may also have some relevance given the links between trade in lion parts (particularly bones), and trade in bones of tigers and other Asian big cats.

**Conclusion:** No CITES provisions currently provide specific guidance to Parties on the enforcement of the lion listing in CITES Appendix II as annotated at CoP17. Lions are considered under CITES as any other CITES listed species. CITES however represents a mechanism by which close monitoring of international trade in lions can be achieved. Decisions agreed at CITES CoP17 also provide opportunities to utilise the CITES framework to enhance collaborative lion conservation activities in order to mitigate the negative impacts of trade and other threats to lions.

#### **Specificity of lions and of lion trade under CITES:**

The following aspects of African lions and trade in African lion products make them a specific case for consideration:

- **African lions are currently experiencing significant declines** equating to an unprecedented conservation crisis : the [2016 IUCN Red List assessment](#) suggests that as few as 20,000 wild lions remain across the continent, occupying just 8% of their historic range, and with [scientists predicting that](#), without concerted action, further devastating declines will follow over the coming decades; in some part of the range, lion populations are critically endangered.
- The use of lion bones and body parts and derivatives for **traditional medicine was identified as a major threat in the 2016 IUCN Red List assessment, and increasing trade in lion bones was recognised as** a main threat for lions in Africa by African lion range States in the [Communique from the African Lion Range State Meeting](#) held in Entebbe, Uganda, in May 2016. The preliminary findings of the study conducted by TRAFFIC in fulfilment of Decision 17.241(e) include, *inter alia*, concerns that the apparent recent demand for lion bone items in Asia may have an impact on wild lion populations across the range, identify a magnified risk to small sub-populations in e.g. West Africa, and indicate that the perception of increasing value and demand in Asia will lead to increased lion poaching;
- The impact of the proliferation of lion farming in South Africa and of the ongoing legal trade in lion skeletons and other products from captive bred lions in South Africa, under the terms of the [annotation to the Appendix II listing](#) for lions adopted at CoP17, and the risk to wild lion conservation that may ensue through product legitimisation, demand stimulation, and opportunities for laundering illegal products into trade, remain uncertain. It should be noted that South Africa has recently issued a substantially increased quota for the export of 1,500 skeletons from captive-bred lions during 2018.



- Distinguishing wild and captive lion specimens in trade leads to significant enforcement challenges especially in range countries where DNA testing is not readily available (which is the situation for all West African range States where the subpopulation of African lions is listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List). This situation could facilitate the laundering of products from wild lions in trade.
- The link between the trade in lion bones, and trade in parts derived from other big cats, particularly tigers, has been recognised as suggested in the TRAFFIC report to AC30 and identified in seizures by consumer states. For instance, lion bones were found marked as tiger bones. Without DNA analysis, legal lion bone exports can provide a cover for illegal tiger bone trade but its impact is currently difficult to quantify.
- There are concerns relating to the role of organised criminal networks operating between African range States and South-East Asia, and their possible involvement in the trafficking of lion specimens and specimens of other CITES-listed species.
- The 2016 IUCN Red List assessment of *Panthera leo* recognizes that trophy hunting can be a threat to lions, depending on how it is regulated and managed, which makes the species even more vulnerable.

**Conclusion:** Given concerns relating to the recent and ongoing decline in lion populations across much of Africa, and the recognition that trade in lion bones and body parts is a major threat, a dedicated Resolution on African lions would be helpful, in order to provide Parties with more specific guidance on the control of trade and the implementation of the provisions of the Convention in respect of the species.

### **Proposed recommendations for the WG**

#### **1] Recommend the development of a dedicated Resolution on lions for submission to CoP18 by a consortium of lion range States. (Deadline for submission of working documents to CoP18: 24th December 2018)**

In considering the operative measures a dedicated lion Resolution might contain, the Working Group recommends:

- Encouraging Parties and stakeholders to increase public awareness of the plight of lions, their importance to African ecosystems, and the damaging conservation and societal impacts of lion population declines necessitating closer monitoring of domestic and international trade in lion products;
- Inviting range States and other Parties (including in particular transit and consumer States) to review policies on trade in lion specimens (taking into account the recommendations in [CITES Res.Conf.15.2](#)), prioritise enforcement of international restrictions on trade in lion products, enhance associated regulatory and enforcement activities (including through the use of forensic methods) accordingly, and share information on seizures, arrests, prosecutions and sentences with the CITES Secretariat/CITES Task Force on African lions;
- Urging range States and other Parties (including in particular transit and consumer States) to enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies at national and international levels, and between enforcement agencies and CITES Authorities, concerning control of trade in lion specimens;
- Urging Parties that have commercial captive-breeding facilities for lions in their territories (particularly but not exclusively range States) to: establish registration and regular monitoring of such facilities including inventories of all stocks and movements of specimens; ensure that the acquisition of founder/breeding stocks is both legal and non-detrimental to lions in the wild; ensure that robust traceability systems are in place for any movement of specimens to, from or between such facilities including through the correct use of source codes (using the mechanisms provided in [CITES Res.Conf. 17.7](#) as appropriate) ; and to report this information to the CITES Secretariat/CITES Task Force on African Lions for inclusion in its regular report to the CITES Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties;
- Encouraging range States and any Parties with a legal market for lion products to recognise the potential risk that legal trade in lion specimens from captive-bred lions will act as a stimulus and cover for illegal trade in wild lion specimens, the difficulties for enforcement authorities in distinguishing between lion specimens from captive-bred and wild populations, and to adopt a precautionary approach to any trade in lion products and to consider limiting captive breeding to circumstances that enhance the conservation of lions in the wild;

- Encouraging range States that have captive breeding facilities of lions and Asian Big Cats, and consumer states of parts and derivatives of lions and Asian Big Cats, to share information on seizures due to the linkage between trades in lion parts and in tigers and noting that the CITES Task Force on African lions under Decision 17.243 c) includes participation from consumer states;
- Encouraging range States and other Parties (including in particular transit and consumer States) to undertake targeted intelligence-led enforcement operations, including in cooperation with other Parties, to proactively detect, investigate, prosecute and dismantle the criminal networks involved in the transnational lion (and associated big cat) illegal trade;
- Recommending that Parties, in whose territories a demand for lion specimens exists, develop and implement demand reduction/consumer behaviour change campaigns, making use of the strategies outlined in [CITES Res. Conf. 17.4](#), and aimed at reducing the threat posed to African lions through increasing demand for lion specimens; and that Parties where lion specimens are used as a substitute for other wildlife products (such as tiger bone) in traditional medicines, work with traditional medicine associations, practitioners and consumers to eliminate such use (see also [CITES Res.Conf.10.19 \(Rev.CoP14\)](#));
- Urging Parties in whose territories lion trophy hunting operations exist, to establish strict and precautionary quotas for lion trophy exports in accordance with the principles of adaptive management and non-detriment provided for in [CITES Res.Conf.16.7 \(Rev.CoP17\)](#) and the Guidelines for the management of nationally established export quotas in CITES [Res.Conf.14.7 \(Rev.CoP15\)](#); to regularly review the establishment of non-detriment findings for lion trophies (with reference to [CITES Res.Conf.17.9](#)) and other lion specimens prior to the issuing of export permits; and to ensure that non-detriment findings are science-based, reliable, implemented through adaptive management, and are made fully available to the relevant authorities in importing countries, and conform with regional, national and population level strategies, action plans and regulations relating to the conservation of lions. Export quotas and any revisions thereof should be communicated to the CITES Secretariat, in accordance with [CITES Res. Conf. 12.3 \(Rev.CoP17\)](#);
- Recommending that range States and other Parties (including in particular transit and consumer States) include information on both legal and illegal trade in lion specimens in their CITES annual reports;
- Urging Parties, IGOs, and relevant NGOs to support and actively participate in efforts by CITES, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and other national, regional and international initiatives aimed at enhancing wild lion conservation and protection;
- Urging Parties and the Secretariat to secure the funding and resources necessary to implement measures under this Resolution and to manage the allocation of such resources appropriately; and
- Providing clear direction to Parties and the Secretariat on regular reporting requirements with respect to trade in lion specimens.

## **2] Recommendations regarding the convening of a second African lion range States' meeting**

The Working Group supports the need for a second African lion range States' meeting, and welcomes the announcement by the CMS Secretariat of the intention to convene a Meeting of Range States for the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative in November 2018. In order to ensure that all range State considerations are addressed in any lion resolution proposed for submission at CoP18, the Working Group should recommend that the proposed meeting is designed to:

- Give range States the opportunity to review and finalize the text of any draft lion resolution
- Review progress made under the implementation of the African Carnivores Initiative and provide guidance to the CITES and CMS Secretariats on the prioritization of activities to be promoted or funded under the Initiative
- Consider recommendations from the Working Group on the establishment of a multi-donor technical trust fund for African lions

- Consider recommendations from the Working Group on establishment of the CITES Task Force on African lions

Given the tight timelines between CITES SC70 and the document deadline for CoP18, the Standing Committee should consider extending the mandate of this Working Group in order that it can assist the CITES and CMS Secretariats in preparations for the Meeting of Range States for the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative.

### **3] Recommend the adoption of a CITES Decision on the Establishment of a multi-donor technical trust fund**

Substantial funding will be required in order to adequately resource the CITES Task Force on African lions envisaged in Decision 17.243, to implement enforcement measures to monitor and curtail the illegal trade in lion products, and to implement conservation and management plans and strategies for African lions efficiently.

Costs for implementing the joint CMS/CITES African Carnivores Initiative in relation to African lions over a three year period are estimated at US\$1.5 million. However, information on the allocation of funds is not available and there are no mechanisms in place to ensure that range States can provide input in funding allocation. Additionally, the African Carnivores Initiative is limited to a three year timeframe and as such does not provide a long-term sustainable source of funds for lion conservation and for the implementation of enforcement measures to curtail illegal trade in lion products.

The Working Group should therefore consider recommending the submission of a CITES decision at COP18:

- Initiating a process towards the establishment of a multi-donor technical trust fund using the development process and the structure of the African Elephant Fund for guidance
- Setting up a range States steering Committee ensuring that guidance is provided to the CITES Secretariat in the allocation of funds under the African Carnivores Initiative.