

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



Seventy-third meeting of the Standing Committee  
Online, 5-7 May 2021

Strategic matters

AFRICAN CARNIVORES INITIATIVE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
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 this document.

Background

3. Through a Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative, the CITES and CMS Secretariats have been seeking to bring coherence and efficiency to the implementation of their respective resolutions and decisions relating to four African carnivore species, African lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), and African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), which face similar overall threats and were the subject of specific measures and Decisions at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016). It also followed from the joint CITES-CMS work programme for 2015-2020, which *inter alia* calls for “joint activities addressing shared species and issues of common interest” and activities to “ensure collaboration on the conservation and management of big cats.”
4. Document [CoP18 Doc. 96](#) gives an overview of the steps taken to develop this initiative further, which included the organization of the first Meeting of Range States for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI1; Bonn, 2018).

Implementation of Decision 18.56 – development of a Programme of Work

5. As instructed in paragraph a) of Decision 18.56, the Secretariat included the African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) in the proposed new CMS-CITES joint programme of work for 2021-2025 (see document SC73 Doc. 13).
6. As per paragraph b) i), the Secretariat developed a draft Programme of Work for the ACI in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which is presented in Annex 2 to the present document. The Programme of Work was developed with support from Belgium and the Flemish Government.
7. The draft ACI Programme of Work is based on, and reflects the outcomes of, CoP18, the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP13, Gandhinagar, 2020), and the First Meeting of Range States for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI1, Bonn, 2018). The Programme of Work provides an overarching vision and Goal. CoP18 and COP13 Decisions and Resolutions pertaining to ACI species, and recommendations emanating from ACI1 are grouped under 11 Objectives. It has a proposed time frame of five years [2021-2025].

8. In developing the ACI Programme of Work, the CITES and CMS Secretariats and IUCN shared a draft with CITES and CMS authorities of the 47 CITES Parties and 41 CMS Parties in Africa that are current or former range States of cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), lion (*Panthera leo*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), and African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*). Thirty-five respondents from 23 ACI range States all expressed support for the draft ACI Programme of Work. Seven range States provided additional edits and comments, which were incorporated as appropriate in the document presented in Annex 2.

#### Implementation of Decision 18.57

9. The Standing Committee is to review the draft ACI Programme of Work in Annex 2 to the present document, and make appropriate revisions. At this time, the Secretariat has no additional report to provide on its implementation of Decision 18.56.
10. CMS COP13 adopted Resolution 13.4 on *Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative* as well and Decision 13.87, which is directed to the CMS Standing Committee as follows: “*The Standing Committee is requested to review and approve the draft Programme of Work submitted by the [CMS] Secretariat*”. The CMS Standing Committee will conduct its business in 2021 by postal procedure. The outcomes of the implementation of Decision 18.57 will be brought to the attention of this forum.

#### Recommendations

11. The Standing Committee is invited to review the draft Programme of Work for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative in Annex 2 to this document, and make appropriate recommendations or revisions.

**Decisions adopted at CoP18 on the *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative***

**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** 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.



## **PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE JOINT CITES-CMS AFRICAN CARNIVORES INITIATIVE**

### **Background**

This Programme of Work (POW) has been developed by the Secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in collaboration with experts from the Cat Specialist Group and the Canid Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It combines existing Conservation Strategies or comparable guidelines for the lion, the leopard, the cheetah, and the African wild dog<sup>1</sup> developed under the auspice of CITES and/or CMS and Resolutions and Decisions of the Conferences of Parties (COP) of the two conventions, thereby uniting the dispersed concepts for the conservation of the ACI species under one umbrella. Based on the ACI 1<sup>st</sup> Range State Meeting recommendations and CMS COP Decision 13.86(b), Decisions adopted for one ACI species are, where appropriate, also expanded to other ACI species in this POW.

The African Carnivores Initiative is facilitated by CITES, CMS and IUCN. All Parties, governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations and scientific institutions working for the conservation of the ACI species are invited to participate in the implementation of the POW.

### **Vision**

Viable and ecologically functional African populations of the African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) species (lion, leopard, cheetah, and African wild dog) are restored and maintained through appropriate conservation measures of these species and their prey, effective conservation or restoration of suitable habitats, and sustainable management of natural resources for the mutual benefit of wildlife and humans, successfully coexisting with and valued by the people as a common heritage and part of the identity of the African continent.

### **Goal**

Implementation of a long-term, adequately funded, science-based conservation programme to effectively conserve populations of the ACI species, their prey and habitats in Africa, addressing present and emerging threats.

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<sup>1</sup> The three cat species are listed under CITES and CMS, whereas the African wild dog is only listed under CMS.

## Objectives

### **Objective 1: International cooperation, coordination and strategic conservation planning**

To strengthen the cooperation and coordination between ACI Range State Parties<sup>2</sup> and the global community for the conservation of the ACI species through the development and timely implementation of the ACI POW, which will regularly be reviewed and amended as needed.

### **Objective 2: Land use planning and habitat conservation/restoration**

To conserve and, where needed and possible, restore the habitats of the ACI species and their prey across Africa, and secure the connectivity between populations by promoting ecological corridors, transboundary protected areas and other best practice land uses, and by minimizing adverse effects of land use and development leading to habitat destruction and fragmentation, or impoverished biodiversity.

### **Objective 3: Prey base conservation and restoration**

To maintain and enhance healthy populations of wild prey of the ACI species through effective conservation, habitat protection and sustainable management.

### **Objective 4: ACI species conservation and restoration**

To restore, wherever possible and desired, viable populations of lion, leopards, cheetahs or African wild dog.

### **Objective 5: Conflict and coexistence**

To promote coexistence of local communities with the ACI species through understanding and mitigating human-carnivore conflicts by co-management, and by providing socio-economic benefits and improved livelihoods to communities living with these carnivores.

### **Objective 6: Sustainable use and management**

To ensure that any use and management of the ACI species and their prey (be it for consumptive or non-consumptive purposes) is sustainable and enhances their conservation and their value for people and the environment.

### **Objective 7: Illegal trade and illegal or incidental killing**

To minimize illegal or incidental killing of the ACI species and their prey, and to minimise illegal trade and use at local, national and global levels.

### **Objective 8: Infectious and zoonotic diseases**

To minimize the impact of infectious disease threats, including zoonoses, to populations of wildlife, including the ACI species, by supporting measures that protect human, wildlife, and domestic animal health.

### **Objective 9: Policies and legislation**

To support appropriate global, regional and national policies and legal frameworks for the long-term conservation of the ACI species, their prey and their living space and, where necessary,

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<sup>2</sup> "ACI Range State Parties" refers to Range States of the ACI species that are Party to either CITES or CMS or both. There are only a few Range States of any of the ACI species that are not Parties to CITES and/or CMS. These countries are informed and invited to participate in the implementation of the ACI POW.

generate incentives for enhanced political commitment, for local community support, and for stronger international support for the conservation of African wildlife and natural habitats.

**Objective 10: Capacity and awareness**

To develop and strengthen human resources and capacity of ACI Range State Parties to conserve, sustainably manage and monitor populations and habitats of the ACI species, and increase local, national and global awareness for the conservation of these species in collaboration with stakeholders, institutions, and the people and communities at the local, national and international level.

**Objective 11: Knowledge and information**

To continually increase the knowledge base on the conservation status of, threats to, and effective management tools for the ACI species and their most important prey species by promoting the development of appropriate methods, coordinated data collection and analyses to enable adaptive conservation and management, and facilitate communication and information sharing among ACI Range State Parties and between the ACI Range State Parties and the local, national and international communities.

## Logframe of the ACI

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Objective 1. International cooperation, coordination and strategic conservation planning</b></p> <p>To strengthen the cooperation and coordination between ACI Range State Parties and the global community for the conservation of the ACI species through the development and timely implementation of the ACI Programme of Work (POW; this document), which will regularly be reviewed and amended as needed.</p>	13.86 13.93(k)	18.56
<p><b>Result 1.1. The POW for the CMS-CITES joint African Carnivores Initiative for the period 2021-2025 is developed, approved and implemented under appropriate organisational structures.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) ACI POW is endorsed by the ACI Range State Parties and approved by the CITES and CMS Standing Committees, (2) organizational structures for operationalizing the ACI are established, (3) regular reports are submitted to the relevant bodies of the conventions as required, (4) ACI POW is updated based on ACI Range State Parties' feedback, and (5) relevant findings of the CITES Big Cat Task Force are integrated into the POW.</i></p>	13.86	18.56
<p>Activity 1.1.1. Develop an ACI POW and submit it to the ACI Range State Parties and the relevant CITES and CMS bodies for review and approval and develop adequate structures for the implementation of the POW.</p>	13.86(b) 13.86(c) 13.87	18.56(b)(i) 18.56(b)(ii) 18.57
<p>Activity 1.1.2. Establish the structures for a sustainable funding mechanism for the ACI POW.</p>	13.86	18.56
<p>Activity 1.1.3. Establish the structures for the implementation of this POW (e.g., regular Range State Meetings).</p>	13.86	18.56

Planned action	CMS	CITES
Activity 1.1.4. Review and adapt the ACI POW in consultation with ACI Range State Parties as needed during ACI Range State Meetings or virtual consultations, and report changes to the relevant CITES and CMS bodies.	13.86(b) 13.86(c) 13.86(d)	18.56(b)(i) 18.56(c) 18.56(d)
Activity 1.1.5. Integrate relevant findings of the CITES Big Cat Task Force into the ACI POW and ensure the exchange of information between the ACI Steering Group <sup>3</sup> and the Big Cat Task Force.	13.92(a)(ii)	18.245
<b>Result 1.2. Funding for the implementation of the ACI POW and priority activities is secured.</b> <i>Indicators: Functional funding mechanism for (1) administering the ACI including regular Range State Meetings, (2) the commission of overarching projects, and (3) the implementation of priority projects through public calls is established.</i>	13.86(b) 13.86(c) 13.86(d)	18.56(b)(i) 18.56(c) 18.56(d)
Activity 1.2.1. Secure funding for the coordination and management of the ACI, including regular Range State Meetings.		
Activity 1.2.2. Secure funding for projects contained in the ACI POW commissioned directly through the ACI governance structures.		
Activity 1.2.3. Develop partnerships and adequate tendering procedures to implement ACI planned actions through public calls.		

<sup>3</sup> The ACI Steering Group is a provisional, informal structure currently consisting of representatives of the CITES and CMS Secretariats as well as IUCN experts, and is to be further discussed and determined by the ACI Range State Parties.

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Result 1.3 Organizational structures promoting a broad international partnership and synergistic cooperation between ACI Range State Parties and other relevant institutions and stakeholders engaged in the conservation of African large carnivores are established or supported.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Existing initiatives and programmes for the conservation of the ACI species are considered in the ACI POW, and (2) partnerships and cooperation with other international conventions, scientific institutions, conservation organizations and interested stakeholders are established.</i></p>	<p>13.88(c) 13.89 13.92(a)(ii)</p>	<p>18.244</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.1. Assess the potential to integrate other UN conventions (e.g., the Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD) and institutions (e.g., the United Nations Environmental Programme, UNEP) into the ACI.</p>		<p>18.60 18.61</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.2. Maintain collaboration with IUCN and establish partnerships as appropriate in support of common approaches for the conservation of the African carnivores and their prey.</p>		<p>18.56(b)(ii) 18.60 18.61</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.3. Ensure that ACI POW Results are considered in the IUCN Red List Assessment and the IUCN Green Status Assessment for each ACI species and that, in turn, findings and recommendations from the IUCN assessments are integrated into the ACI POW during specific review periods.</p>		
<p>Activity 1.3.4. Promulgate the ACI among institutions and internationally operating conservation organizations based in Range States and elsewhere and encourage them to participate in the implementation of the ACI POW and contribute to achieving the ACI POW Results listed in this Logframe.</p>		<p>18.250</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.5. Encourage those Cheetah and African Wild Dog Range States and transit and destination countries along trade routes that are not yet Parties to CMS to become Parties to CMS.</p>	<p>13.92(b)</p>	

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Result 1.4. Conservation strategies and other guidelines and plans for the conservation of the ACI species are integrated into the ACI POW and, as needed, updated or newly developed in the frame of the ACI and in cooperation with the Range State Parties and other partner institutions concerned.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Guiding documents such as the Regional Strategies for the conservation of the Lion, Cheetah and African Wild Dog, the Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa (GCLA) or the Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa (RCLA) are reviewed and revised regularly, and (2) further regional conservation strategies or national action plans are developed and implemented as needed.</i></p>		
<p>Activity 1.4.1. The <i>Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa (GCLA)</i> are reviewed by the relevant Convention bodies (CMS Standing Committee, CITES Animals Committee), revised and updated as recommended by these bodies or the Range States, and disseminated through the ACI website.</p>	<p>13.88 13.89</p>	<p>18.244 18.245 18.246 18.247</p>
<p>Activity 1.4.2. Review and update, where appropriate, existing Conservation Strategies for lions, and support their implementation in ACI Range States through existing or new Regional Strategies or National Action Plans for lions.</p>	<p>13.88 13.91</p>	<p>18.24(a) 18.250</p>
<p>Activity 1.4.3. The <i>Roadmap for the Conservation of the Leopard in Africa (RCLA)</i> is reviewed by the relevant bodies (CMS Scientific Council, CITES Animals Committee), and is updated according to these bodies' recommendations or upon request of the ACI Range States.</p>	<p>13.96(a) 13.97</p>	<p>18.254 18.255</p>
<p>Activity 1.4.4. Support the development of Regional Conservation Strategies and National Action Plans for the Leopard in the ACI Range States and their implementation through assistance with fundraising.</p>	<p>13.96(b)</p>	<p>18.244(a)</p>

Planned action	CMS	CITES
Activity 1.4.5. Review and update, where appropriate, the <i>Regional Conservation Strategies for the Conservation of Cheetahs and African Wild Dogs</i> and their implementation in the ACI Range States through existing or newly developed National Action Plans, including assistance with fundraising.	13.92(a)(i) 13.92(a)(v)	
Activity 1.4.6. The CMS Scientific Council, after consultation with the respective Range States, recommends to the CMS COP possible amendments to the list of cheetah populations presently excluded from CMS Appendix I to reflect the current conservation status of these Cheetah populations as assessed by the IUCN, and informs a Decision for CMS COP14.	13.94	
<b>Objective 2. Land use planning and habitat conservation</b>  <b>To conserve and, where needed and possible, restore the habitats of the ACI species and their prey across Africa, and secure the connectivity between populations by promoting ecological corridors, transboundary protected areas and other best practice land uses, and by minimising adverse effects of land use and development leading to habitat destruction and fragmentation, or impoverished biodiversity.</b>	13.88(a)	
<b>Result 2.1. Important conservation areas for the ACI species and their prey species are identified, conserved and, where needed and possible, restored.</b>  <i>Indicators: (1) Report on identifying important conservation areas, their potential and conservation measures is available, and (2) habitat restoration programmes are implemented, and (3) protection is enforced within protected areas.</i>	13.88(a) 13.88(c) 13.91	18.250
Activity 2.1.1. Identify important conservation areas and habitats for each of the ACI species and their prey, assess their conservation potential, and define respective conservation measures.	13.88(a) 13.88(c)	
Activity 2.1.2. Restore, where needed and possible, important conservation areas and habitats for the ACI species and their prey species (prioritised according to their conservation potential and implementing the conservation measures identified).	13.93(g)	

Planned action	CMS	CITES
Activity 2.1.3. Enforce protection within protected areas and maintain buffer zones (see also Result 9.2).	13.93(g)	
<p><b>Result 2.2. Connectivity between populations of the ACI species is enhanced, especially by promoting ecological corridors and transboundary protected areas.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Report on populations and connectivity is available, and (2) connectivity projects are implemented.</i></p>	CMS Article III paragraph 4; Resolution 12.7(Rev.COP13) paragraphs 11-14; Resolution 12.26(Rev.COP13) paragraph 1; 13.88(c) 13.91 13.93(g) 13.93(h) 13.93(i) 13.93(k)	18.250
Activity 2.2.1. Identify important (cross-border) populations of the ACI species and assess population connectivity.	13.88(c)	
Activity 2.2.2. Assess and secure the maintenance and integrity of existing transboundary protected areas.	CMS Article III paragraph 4; Resolution 12.7(Rev.COP13) paragraphs 11-14	

Planned action	CMS	CITES
Activity 2.2.3. Promote the establishment of transboundary protected areas where this is important for the species' conservation or restoration (see also Activities 2.1.1, 2.2.1 and 2.2.2).	13.88(c)	
Activity 2.2.4. Establish, where needed and possible, ecological corridors to mitigate habitat fragmentation and enhance connectivity between the populations of ACI species.	13.93(k)	
<p><b>Result 2.3. Best practice land use guidelines for the conservation of the ACI species and their prey species are developed and promoted.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Report on the impact of existing land-use plans is available, (2) best practice land use guidelines are available, and (3) best practice land use guidelines are implemented.</i></p>	13.93(k), 13.91	18.250
Activity 2.3.1. Review existing land-use plans at local, national and regional level with regard to their impact on conservation of the ACI species and their prey.	13.93(k)	
Activity 2.3.2. Develop best practices land use guidelines (including zoning options) with regard to habitat maintenance/restoration and coexistence between local communities and wildlife to facilitate the conservation of the ACI species and their prey, and discuss them at an ACI Range State Meeting.	13.93(h) 13.93(i) 13.93(k)	
Activity 2.3.3. Support the implementation of best practices land use guidelines, where needed and appropriate.	13.93(i) 13.93(k)	

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<b>Objective 3. Prey base conservation and restoration</b>	13.88(a)	18.250
<b>To maintain and enhance healthy populations of wild prey of the ACI species through effective conservation, habitat protection and sustainable management.</b>	13.91	
<b>Result 3.1. Prey base for the ACI species is maintained or restored in important conservation areas for each ACI species, where needed and possible (see also Result 2.1).</b>	13.88(a) 13.93(k)	18.250
<i>Indicators: (1) overview reports on the prey situation for the ACI species are available, (2) strategies and action plans for priority areas are developed, (3) best-practice guidelines for prey monitoring are available, and (4) prey restoration and conservation programmes are implemented.</i>		
Activity 3.1.1. Form partnerships to understand and address additional threats to prey species of the ACI.	13.93(k)	
Activity 3.1.2. Identify regions and specific areas where prey depletion is the critical threat to the survival of the ACI species.		
Activity 3.1.3. Develop strategies and respective action plans for the recovery/restoration and conservation of prey species in selected priority areas or where improved prey management is a prerequisite for the conservation/restoration of the ACI species.		
Activity 3.1.4. Develop best practice guidelines for the monitoring of wild prey of the ACI species and implement them in important conservation areas where needed and possible (see also Activities 2.1.1 and 3.1.1).		
Activity 3.1.5. Restore and conserve, wherever needed and possible, populations of prey species and important habitats for these species through the implementation of the respective strategies and related action plans or through expert consultations (see also Activities 2.1.3 and 3.1.2).	13.95	

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Result 3.2. Wild prey of the ACI species is sustainably managed in important conservation areas for each ACI species, where needed and possible.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Review of and best-practice guidelines for sustainable use of prey populations is available, (2) review of importance of illegal use of the ACI prey species is available, (3) best-practice guidelines for controlling unsustainable or illegal use of prey species are available and implemented.</i></p>	<p>13.88(a) 13.91 13.93(k)</p>	<p>18.250</p>
<p>Activity 3.2.1. Review and assess the ecological and economic sustainability of all legal use of prey species (e.g., photo or hunting safaris) across the ACI Range States (see also Objective 6).</p>		
<p>Activity 3.2.2. Develop and promote best practice guidelines for sustainable use of the ACI prey species based on the findings of Activity 3.2.1 and discuss them at an ACI Range State Meeting.</p>		
<p>Activity 3.2.3. Assess the impact of uncontrolled/illegal use/taking of ACI prey species (e.g., wild meat taking).</p>		
<p>Activity 3.2.4. Develop, in cooperation with the ACI Range States and other relevant partners, best practice guidelines to control unsustainable and / or illegal use of key prey species based on the findings of Activity 3.2.3, discuss them at an ACI Range State Meeting, and encourage their implementation by Range States where possible.</p>		

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Objective 4. ACI species conservation and restoration</b></p> <p>To restore, wherever possible and desired, viable populations of lion, leopards, cheetahs or African wild dog.</p>	<p>13.91(a) 13.93(k) 13.95</p>	<p>18.250</p>
<p><b>Result 4.1. Potential sites for the recovery / reintroduction of the ACI species across Africa and general guidance for their recovery / reintroduction including conservation breeding are available.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Ex-situ populations of ACI species are identified; (2) strategies to conserve their genetic diversity exist and are implemented, such as through specimen exchange among Range States; (3) areas for restoration of ACI species populations are identified and mapped; and (4) guidelines for the recovery or reintroduction of the ACI species are available.</i></p>		
<p>Activity 4.1.1. Identify ex-situ populations of each of the ACI species.</p>		
<p>Activity 4.1.2. Contribute to strategies to conserve the genetic diversity of ex-situ populations of the ACI species.</p>		
<p>Activity 4.1.3. Form partnerships among Range States and other stakeholders to exchange specimens of ACI species where necessary and possible.</p>		
<p>Activity 4.1.4. Identify and map areas where habitat, prey base and potential conflict level would allow the restoration of populations of the ACI species in their former range in Africa.</p>		
<p>Activity 4.1.5. Develop, on behalf of the Range States, general guidelines on the recovery or reintroduction of the ACI species.</p>		

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Objective 5. Conflict and coexistence</b></p> <p><b>To promote coexistence of local communities with the ACI species through understanding and mitigating human-carnivore conflicts by co-management, and by providing socio-economic benefits and improved livelihoods to communities living with these carnivores.</b></p>		
<p><b>Result 5.1. Coexistence of local communities with the ACI species is promoted and improved.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Report on best practice experiences for minimizing conflicts is reviewed, (2) best practice guidelines for conflict minimization are available, (3) priority areas with high human-carnivore conflict levels are identified, and (4) conflict mitigation projects are implemented.</i></p>	<p>13.88(a)</p> <p>13.91</p> <p>13.93(b)</p> <p>13.93(k)</p>	18.250
Activity 5.1.1. Review best practice experiences for minimizing conflicts of local communities with the ACI species.	13.93(k)	
Activity 5.1.2. Develop best practice guidelines for enhancing the coexistence of local communities with the ACI species and their prey and discuss and promote them at an ACI Range State Meeting.	13.93(k)	
Activity 5.1.3. Identify areas where human-carnivore conflicts are threatening the (local) survival of any of the ACI species and where there is need for urgent actions.		
Activity 5.1.4. Implement and map the best practice guidelines for local communities in the priority areas identified under Activity 5.1.3.		
Activity 5.1.5. Raising awareness of stakeholders living in human-carnivore conflict areas for a better coexistence and enhance coexistence of local communities with the ACI species by including local stakeholders into the development and implementation of sustainable management and conservation plans for the ACI species and their prey (see also Results 3.1 and 3.2).		
Activity 5.1.6. Promote socio-economic benefits for local communities living with the ACI species.		

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Objective 6. Sustainable use and management</b></p> <p>To ensure that any use and management of the ACI species and their prey (be it for consumptive or non-consumptive purposes) is sustainable and enhances their conservation and their value for people and the environment.</p>		
<p><b>Result 6.1. Guidelines for Non-Detrimental Findings (NDFs) for trade in lions and leopards are developed, reviewed and endorsed, and information on NDFs for trade in cheetahs<sup>4</sup> is collated.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) NDF guidelines are developed, and (2) NDF guidelines are endorsed.</i></p>	13.91	18.169(a) 18.169(c)
<p>Activity 6.1.1. Develop, in cooperation with relevant institutions of the ACI Range States, guidelines for NDFs for trade in lions and leopards and submit them to the ACI Range States and CITES bodies for review and endorsement; in collaboration with relevant Range States, collate information on NDFs for trade in cheetahs.</p>		18.132 18.134 18.169(c) 18.244(a) 18.244(c)

<sup>4</sup> Cheetahs are listed under CMS Appendix I. In accordance with Article III on *Endangered Migratory Species: Appendix I*, "Range States that are CMS Parties shall prohibit the taking of Cheetahs, except for the taking for scientific purpose, the taking for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of cheetahs; the taking to accommodate the needs of traditional subsistence users of cheetahs; or if extraordinary circumstances so require". Cheetah Range States that are Party to CMS are thus not allowed to hunt the species unless the Party can argue that such taking falls within one of the exceptions and is limited to a certain location and period of time.

Cheetahs are included in CITES Appendix I with the following annotation: "Annual export quotas for live specimens and hunting trophies are granted as follows: Botswana: 5; Namibia: 150; Zimbabwe: 50. The trade in such specimens is subject to the provisions of Article III of the Convention". In accordance with Article III on *Regulation of Trade in Specimens of Species included in Appendix I*, international trade in specimens of Cheetahs of wild origin requires the making of a non-detriment finding by the exporting and importing State.

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Result 6.2. NDFs for trade in Lions and Leopards are conducted by ACI Range States having a quota for Lion and/or Leopard according to the guidelines developed under Result 5.1.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) NDFs have been conducted in all countries with quotas for Lions and/or Leopards according to the guidelines, and (2) recommendations have been formulated and been submitted.</i></p>	13.88(d)	18.244(a) 18.244(c) 18.165
<p>Activity 6.2.1. Encourage ACI Range States that have a quota for Lion and/or Leopard (and/or Cheetahs) to use the guidelines when making NDFs for trade in these species.</p>		18.169(a) 18.169(c)
<p>Activity 6.2.2. Encourage ACI Range States with quotas for Lion and Leopard hunting trophies to exchange information and lessons learnt regarding the NDF process with other Range States and relevant bodies.</p>		18.169(a) 18.169(b) 18.166
<p>Activity 6.2.3. Review the information provided under Activity 6.2.2 and make recommendations, if necessary, to the ACI Range States, the CITES Secretariat, Animals Committee, Standing Committee, and COP and other relevant bodies.</p>		18.167 18.168 18.170
<p><b>Result 6.3. The legal trade in Lions, Leopards and Cheetahs has been reviewed and communicated.</b></p> <p><i>Indicator: (1) A report on legal trade in Lions, Leopards and Cheetahs is discussed at an ACI Range State Meeting and brought to the attention of other audiences, as appropriate.</i></p>	13.88(d) 13.92(a)(ii) 13.93(k)	18.246(a) 18.246(b)
<p>Activity 6.3.1. Compile and analyse, in cooperation with the ACI Range States, information on legal trade in lions, leopards and cheetahs across their range in a report, review the analysis at an ACI Range State Meeting, and formulate recommendations as needed.</p>		18.246(a) 18.246(b)

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Objective 7. Illegal trade and illegal or incidental killing</b></p> <p><b>To minimize illegal or incidental killing of the ACI species and their prey, and to minimize illegal trade and use at local, national and global levels.</b></p>		18.245
<p><b>Result 7.1. A study on illegal trade and illegal or incidental killing of the ACI species has been conducted and shared with all relevant stakeholders.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) A report on the impact of illegal killing on the populations is available, and (2) a report on the trafficking routes is available.</i></p>	13.92(a)(ii) 13.93(k)	18.246 18.250
<p>Activity 7.1.1. Collect, in cooperation with the ACI Range States and other relevant partners, information on illegal trade and illegal or incidental killing of the ACI species, analyse the data with regard to the impact of illegal killing on the populations and submit the respective report to CITES bodies, the ACI Range States and any other relevant bodies.</p>	13.92(a)(ii)	18.246(a)
<p>Activity 7.1.2. Analyse the routes, i.e., origin, transition and destination countries, of illegal trade and trafficking in ACI species; and summarize the findings in a report to be submitted to CMS and CITES bodies, the ACI Range States and any other relevant bodies.</p>	13.92(a)(ii)	18.246(a) 18.246(c)
<p><b>Result 7.2. Recommendations to mitigate illegal trade and illegal killing are developed in consultation with the CITES Big Cat Task Force and relevant institutions, and conclusions shared with the ACI Range States.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Recommendations have been formulated and submitted, and (2) information has been shared with relevant bodies.</i></p>	13.92a(ii)	18.244(a) 18.245(c)(iii)

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p>Activity 7.2.1. Formulate recommendations to mitigate illegal offtake and trafficking based on the outcomes under Result 7.1, considering the findings and recommendation of other relevant bodies (e.g., CITES BIG Cat Task Force), submit them to the ACI Range States and the relevant CITES and CMS bodies, and integrate the recommendation into all conservation strategies and action plans relevant for ACI species, and into national policies and legislation where possible.</p>		18.245(ii)
<p>Activity 7.2.2. Share information and conclusions on the illegal trade in Lion, Leopard and Cheetah between the ACI and the CITES Big Cat Task Force and other relevant bodies.</p>	13.92(a)(iv)	18.246(e)
<p><b>Result 7.3. ACI Range State Parties are better able to detect illegal, unreported or misreported trade in the ACI species.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) South Africa's Barcode of Wildlife Project is used when trading Lion specimens; (2) forensic-type techniques are used to identify ACI specimens traded, and (3) findings are presented and techniques implemented range-wide.</i></p>		18.249(a)
<p>Activity 7.3.1. Use, where appropriate, South Africa's Barcode of Wildlife Project to help identify lion specimens in trade, and collaborate with relevant authorities in South Africa to improve the traceability of such specimens.</p>		18.249(b) 18.249(c)
<p>Activity 7.3.2. Develop and promote, in consultation with relevant experts, the use of appropriate forensic-type techniques to identify and trace specimens of ACI species in trade (see also Result 7.4).</p>		18.246(d)
<p>Activity 7.3.3. Present findings from Activities 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 to the Range States and consider, at an ACI Range States Meeting, the implementation of these techniques for all ACI species across their range.</p>		

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Result 7.4. The resource kit for the cheetah has been finalized and a resource kit for Lion, Leopard and African Wild Dog has been developed based on the resource kit for the Cheetah.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) The Cheetah resource kit has been finalized and shared, and (2) a resource kit is available for all ACI species.</i></p>	<p>13.92(a)(ii)</p> <p>13.93(k)</p>	<p>18.193</p> <p>18.246(c)</p> <p>18.246(d)</p>
<p>Activity 7.4.1. Produce a final version of the cheetah trade resource kit in the languages agreed on by the CITES Standing Committee and make it available to the ACI Range States and other relevant partners.</p>		18.193
<p>Activity 7.4.2. Develop a resource kit for the other ACI species or integrate the other ACI species into the cheetah resource kit, and share the kit with ACI Range States and all other relevant partners.</p>		18.246(d)
<p><b>Result 7.5. Illegal or incidental killing of the ACI species has been reduced (see also Results 9.2 and 10.1).</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Livestock depredation reduction recommendations are implemented; (2) disease prevention strategies are implemented in communities; and (3) income generating mechanisms are promoted.</i></p>	<p>13.91</p> <p>13.93</p>	18.250
<p>Activity 7.5.1. Develop and implement evidence-based best-practice recommendations to reduce livestock depredation and loss of human lives or injuries by ACI species (see also Objective 5).</p>	13.93(b)	
<p>Activity 7.5.2. Promote wildlife-based income generation mechanisms that benefit people and communities as well as wildlife, and that provide incentives for the sustainable management and conservation of ACI species (see also Result 5.1).</p>	13.93(d)	

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Objective 8. Infectious and zoonotic diseases</b></p> <p>To minimize the impact of infectious disease threats, including zoonoses, to populations of wildlife, including the ACI species, by supporting measures that protect human, wildlife, and domestic animal health.</p>	<p>13.93(c) 13.93(k)</p>	<p>18.56(b)(i)</p>
<p><b>Result 8.1. Infectious disease management plan for populations of the ACI species is developed and implemented.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) A management plan is developed, and (2) implemented in wildlife areas.</i></p>		
<p>Activity 8.1.1. Review available evidence to evaluate the likely impacts of rabies, canine distemper, canine parvovirus, and other pathogens of concern on key populations of the ACI species, and identify priorities for intervention at local, national and international level.</p>		
<p>Activity 8.1.2. Using a “One Health” approach, partner with national authorities for public health, animal health, and wildlife conservation, as well as the World Health Organization, to agree and implement vaccination of domestic dogs (e.g., against rabies, canine distemper; see Activity 8.1.1) in and around wildlife areas.</p>		
<p>Activity 8.1.3. Through a workshop process, identify the most appropriate management tools to reduce other disease threats to the ACI species, balancing impacts on human, wildlife, and domestic animal health, including identifying knowledge gaps.</p>		
<p>Activity 8.1.4. Implement identified management approaches in wildlife areas as appropriate.</p>		

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Objective 9. Policies and legislation</b></p> <p>To support appropriate global, regional and national policies and legal frameworks for the long-term conservation of the ACI species, their prey and their living space and, where necessary, generate incentives for enhanced political commitment, for local community support, and for stronger international support for the conservation of African wildlife and natural habitats.</p>		
<p><b>Result 9.1. Advice for ACI Range States on financing the effective implementation of the ACI POW is developed.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) A financing strategy is available, and (2) recommendations for policies are developed and distributed.</i></p>	13.88(f)	18.249
<p>Activity 9.1.1. Develop a lasting financing strategy to finance the effective implementation of the ACI POW (based on the CMS and CITES Decisions) and share it with the ACI Range States and potential donors (see also Activities 1.1.2 and 1.1.3).</p>		
<p>Activity 9.1.2. Promote policies to ensure the revenue generated from tourism, trophy hunting etc. of ACI species contributes towards meaningful conservation of the species (e.g., incentives to local communities).</p>		
<p><b>Result 9.2. Effective policies and legislations for the conservation of the ACI species, their prey, and their living spaces in the ACI Range States, are promoted.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) A review report on policies and legislation is available, (2) policy and legislation recommendations are formulated and distributed and (3) are discussed at an ACI Range State Meeting.</i></p>	13.93(f) 13.93(g)	
<p>Activity 9.2.1. Compile and assess, in a review report to the ACI Range State Parties and relevant bodies of the conventions, the effectiveness of relevant existing policies and legislation for the conservation of the ACI species with regard to offtake and trade and the management of their prey species (for ACI species, see Result 6.1 and Activity 6.1.1).</p>	13.93(f) 13.93(g)	18.249(a) 18.249(d)

Planned action	CMS	CITES
Activity 9.2.2. Develop general recommendations for the improvement of policies and legislation, including effective penalties for illegal killing, trade of wildlife and wildlife products (based on Activity 8.2.1), and for the development of sustainable wildlife-based enterprises, and present and discuss them at an ACI Range State Meeting.	13.93(e) 13.93(f)	
Activity 9.2.3. Present the findings and conclusions from the ACI Range State Meeting on Activity 9.2.2 to the relevant bodies and the COPs of the conventions.		
<b>Objective 10. Capacity and awareness</b> <b>To develop and strengthen human resources and capacity of ACI Range States to conserve, sustainably manage and monitor populations and habitats of the ACI species, and increase local, national and global awareness for the conservation of these species in collaboration with stakeholders, institutions, and the people and communities at the local, national and international level.</b>	13.88(a)	
<b>Result 10.1. Human resources and capacity of ACI Range States to conserve, sustainably manage and monitor populations of the ACI species are strengthened.</b> <i>Indicators: (1) Review report on capacities, opportunities and gaps is available, and (2) training opportunities are available.</i>	13.88(e) 13.92(a)(iii)	18.244 18.250
Activity 10.1.1. Review and evaluate capacities and training opportunities, identify gaps in and the needs for national and regional training in the ACI Range States for the conservation, sustainable management and monitoring of populations of the ACI species (see also Result 10.1).		
Activity 10.1.2. Support capacity-building and transfer of skills relevant for conservation, sustainable management and monitoring of the ACI species, especially to the local wildlife and enforcement authorities of and between the ACI Range States (see also Objective 10).	13.92(a)(iii) 13.88(e)	

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Result 10.2. Local, national and global awareness for the conservation of the ACI species in Africa is increased and the case for their conservation integrated into educational curricula at national and subnational levels.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Review report on existing educational tools and opportunities is available, (2) appropriate further educational tools developed, and (3) public awareness campaigns designed and implemented.</i></p>	13.93(j)	18.250
<p>Activity 10.2.1. Review the availability of educational tools on conservation of the ACI species at national and subnational levels, and discuss at an ACI Range State Meeting opportunities for further integration into educational curricula in schools, universities and professional training colleges and other public outreach efforts.</p>	13.93(j)	
<p>Activity 10.2.2. Design and implement outreach and (public) awareness campaigns targeting people and communities living with carnivores, other relevant stakeholders and the broad public in Africa, and, where appropriate, consumer groups of ACI species beyond Africa.</p>	13.88(a)	
<p><b>Objective 11. Knowledge and information</b></p> <p><b>To continually increase the knowledge base on the conservation status of, threats to, and effective management tools for the ACI species and their most important prey species by promoting the development of appropriate survey methods, coordinated data collection and analyses to enable adaptive conservation and management, and facilitate communication and information sharing among ACI Range State Parties and between the ACI Range State Parties and the local, national and international communities.</b></p>		
<p><b>Result 11.1. Standards for survey and monitoring of the ACI species and their most important prey species are established.</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) Monitoring guidelines for ACI species and their most important prey are available, (2) monitoring has been performed in the key areas and according to the guidelines, and (3) monitoring networks are established.</i></p>	13.88(b)	18.244(a) 18.244(b)

Planned action	CMS	CITES
Activity 11.1.1. Develop guidelines for the survey and monitoring of the ACI species and their most important prey, and submit them to the ACI Range State Parties and, as appropriate, relevant bodies of CITES or CMS.		
Activity 11.1.2. Promote and support the implementation of the guidelines (Activity 11.1.1), starting with identified priority/key areas for the ACI species (see also Activity 2.2.1).		
Activity 11.1.3. Establish monitoring networks for the ACI species and promote the standardized and synchronised monitoring of the ACI species and their most important prey species across the major distribution areas (e.g., transboundary metapopulations).		
<b>Result 11.2. The African Lion Database is developed and operational.</b> <i>Indicator: (1) The African Lion Database is operational and contains the relevant up to date data.</i>	13.88(b)	18.249(d)
Activity 11.2.1. Support the development, establishment and continued functioning of the African Lion Database.		
<b>Result 11.3. The African Lion Database is expanded into an African Carnivore Database.</b> <i>Indicators: (1) The African Carnivores Database is operational and contains the relevant up to date data, and (2) long-term funding is secured to maintain and curate the database.</i>	13.92(a)(iv)	
Activity 11.3.1. Expand the African Lion Database to an African Carnivores Database and compile, in cooperation with the ACI Range States and other relevant partners, the relevant data for the ACI species.	13.92(a)(iv)	
Activity 11.3.2. Secure long-term funding for the maintenance of the African Lion / African Carnivores Database.	13.92(v)	

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Result 11.4. A comparative study on African lion and leopard population trends, conservation and management practices is available (see also Objective 5).</b></p> <p><i>Indicators: (1) The inventory of all African lion populations has been conducted, (2) the results of the inventory are available in the African Lion Database, (3) the comparative report is available, and (4) recommendations have been formulated and submitted.</i></p>	13.88(d) 13.86(b)	18.244(b) 18.250
Activity 11.4.1. Conduct, in cooperation with the ACI Range States and other potential partners, an inventory of all African lion populations to establish population size, abundance and trends, and maintain and regularly update this inventory.	13.88(b)	18.249(d)
Activity 11.4.2. Ensure the availability of the information collected under Activity 11.4.1 in the African Lion Database (see also Result 11.2).		
Activity 11.4.3. Assess and compare Lion management (including, but not limited to, the role of (international) trade, hunting, informal offtake, problem animal control, and prey species management) within and between ACI Range States (see also Results 6.2 and 6.3 and Objective 7).	13.88(d)	18.244(b)
Activity 11.4.4. Formulate recommendations based on the Outcomes of Activities 11.4.1 and 11.4.3 and submit them to the ACI Range States and the relevant bodies at CMS and CITES.		18.247(b) 18.248(b)
<p><b>Result 11.5. A web portal for the ACI to disseminate all relevant information is developed and operational.</b></p> <p><i>Indicator: (1) The ACI web portal is operational.</i></p>	13.88(g) 13.92(a)(iv)	18.244(d)
Activity 11.5.1. Develop, e.g., based on the CMS Lion web portal, a web portal for the dissemination of all relevant information and documents for the conservation of the ACI species.	13.88(g)	

Planned action	CMS	CITES
<p><b>Result 11.6. Information on Lion, Leopard and Cheetah collected and analysed through the ACI is shared with the CITES Big Cats Task Force and any other relevant bodies.</b></p> <p><i>Indicator: (1) The CITES Big Cats Task Force and other relevant bodies are informed on the ACI activities.</i></p>		<p>18.245(c) 18.246(e)</p>
<p>Activity 11.6.1. Share relevant concepts and information on Lion, Leopard and Cheetah with the CITES Big Cat Task Force and any other relevant bodies.</p>		<p>18.245(c) 18.246(e)</p>