

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

PROPOSED DECISION REGARDING THE CONSERVATION OF THE AFRICAN LION
AND THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. This document has been submitted by South Africa and Uganda^{*}, in relation to the following agenda items that relates to the African lion (*Panthera leo*):
 - i) 39.1 *Hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II*
 - ii) 88. *Proposals to amend Appendices I and II (CoP17 Prop. 4 – Transfer all African populations of Panthera leo from Appendix II to Appendix I)*
2. CITES Parties are invited to consider the attached Decision developed by the African countries that attended the Africa Regional Joint Preparatory meeting for the 17th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CITES.
3. The draft Decision is based on the Communiqué adopted by the delegates of 28 African lion range States that met in Entebbe, Uganda from 30 to 31 May 2016 to discuss the conservation, management and restoration of the lion (*Panthera leo*) and its habitat in Africa.

^{*} *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.*

Proposed draft Decision regarding the conservation of the African lion and the role of international trade

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.x Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species and the 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) Recommend the development of relevant databases by African lion range States;
 - d) Develop strategies to re-enforce international cooperation on the management of lions;
 - e) Undertake a study on legal and illegal trade in wild lions, including lion bones and other parts, to ascertain the origin and smuggling routes, in collaboration with TRAFFIC;
 - f) Establish a CITES Task Force on lions, composed of all African lion range States and consumer states for lion parts;
 - g) Undertake a comparative study of countries that allow or do not allow hunting;
 - h) Support capacity-building in lion conservation and management;
 - i) Support public awareness raising and education programmes in African lion range States;
 - j) Establish a fund for specific emergency projects for lion conservation; and
 - k) Report on the progress relating to paragraph a) – j) to the 30th Animals Committee meeting.

Directed to the Animals Committee

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

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 17.x The Standing Committee shall, at its 70th meeting:

- a) consider the reports submitted by the Animals Committee in terms of Decision 17.x
- b) recommend further actions to be taken; including the possible need for the development of a Resolution on the conservation of African lion.

Directed to African lion range States

17.x African lion range States are encouraged to

- a) Participate in the development of the inventory of African lion populations by providing the CITES Secretariat with information relating to their respective countries;
- b) Develop databases based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee;
- c) Implement joint conservation plans and strategies;
- d) Strengthen international cooperation on the management of lions;
- e) Participate in the CITES Task Force on lions and implement recommendations emanating from the Task Force;
- f) Implement capacity building activities to enhance lion conservation and management;
- g) Undertake public awareness raising and education programmes.

Directed to all Parties

17.x All Parties governmental, inter-governmental, non-governmental organisations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support the African lion Range States:

- a) In their efforts to conserve and restore this iconic species across the continent, taking into consideration existing land-use practices;
- b) In implementing the decisions contained in Decision 17.x a) – g)