

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Geneva (Switzerland), 17 - 28 August 2019

Species-specific matters

Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)

JAGUAR TRADE

1. This document has been submitted by Costa Rica and Mexico.*
2. Considering the observations made by the Secretariat to documents CoP18 Doc. 77.1 and CoP18 77.2, the submitting Parties agreed to merge both documents and submit this consolidated version as a revision of document CoP18 Doc. 77.1 for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties. The present version was produced by Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru, with the support and input of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Guatemala.

Background

3. The jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is the largest cat species and the only representative of the genus *Panthera* that occurs in the Americas. It has been included in Appendix I since 1975 and is classified as Near Threatened (NT) in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; however, updated information suggests that the species may qualify as Vulnerable (VU) in the near future (Quigley *et al.* 2018). A recent assessment by De la Torre *et al.* (2017) concluded that all subpopulations occurring outside of the Amazon were classified as Endangered or Critically Endangered, which is due to a series of threats that require taking urgent conservation measures on several fronts, as described below.
4. The jaguar is important for ecosystem balance. Its historic range extended from the southwestern United States through the Amazon basin all the way to the Río Negro in Argentina. However, it has practically disappeared from the majority of the most arid areas in the north of its range –Arizona and New Mexico in the United States and the state of Sonora in the north of Mexico– but also from the north of Brazil, the scrublands and grasslands of the Pampa in Argentina, and most of Uruguay (Quigley *et al.*, 2018). It has recently been estimated that the distribution of the jaguar may have declined by more than 55 % in the last century. Brazil contains more than half of the Amazon basin, the only and largest contiguous block of habitat remaining for the jaguar. With the exception of the large jaguar subpopulations in the Amazon, the Pantanal and the Chaco, most subpopulations are threatened by the encroachment of human populations with high densities, which worsens threats such as habitat loss, direct persecution, human-wildlife conflict, low population size, isolation and poor law enforcement (De la Torre *et al.*, 2017).
5. Conservation efforts and the decrease in hunting to satisfy the demand of jaguar skins have contributed to the recovery of the species in some countries. However, international demand of other jaguar parts (e.g., teeth, skulls, claws) persists and has increased. This, combined with habitat pressure, remains a threat to the medium-term survival of the species. The growing international demand of jaguar teeth and other parts has emerged to replace tiger parts in the Asian market, which increases the species' risk of extinction.

* 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.

6. Since 2010 there are records of the killing of jaguars in the Guianas, reportedly intended to meet the Asian demand of parts for crafts, meat and traditional medicine (Kerman and Felix, 2010). Moreover, since 2014, the Bolivian authorities have confiscated twenty-five postal shipments destined to Asia. To date, about total 627 jaguar teeth have been confiscated in Bolivia, which implies the death of at least 150 jaguars.
7. A recent report prepared by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) on illegal trade in jaguars in Mesoamerica suggests that this activity may be increasing in Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama. The report also warns about the possible resurgence of an illegal network of domestic and international trade with possible links to Asian markets (Reuter *et al.*, 2018). Despite the circumstantial nature of the information provided in the report, the document highlights the need to collect more data to fully understand the growing threat posed by illegal trade of this species and to increase efforts aimed at strengthening controls and related legislation among the authorities involved.
8. In March 2018, the Jaguar 2030 High Level Forum took place, with the participation of representatives of 14 range states of the jaguar. At the forum, these countries issued a joint statement committing to protect the species, highlighting the importance of international cooperation between countries of destination, countries of origin and transit countries to dismantle the illegal market of jaguar products. In this context, in an unprecedented global commitment, during the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), WCS, Panthera and government representatives announced the creation of the first-ever International Jaguar Day, celebrated annually on 29 November to raise awareness about the threats faced by the jaguar, conservation efforts aimed at ensuring its survival and the role of the jaguar as a keystone species whose presence is indicative of a healthy ecosystem.
9. Moreover, the growth of the demand of jaguar parts to satisfy the Asian market is recognized in section 3.1.5 of document SC70 Doc. 51, prepared by K. Nowell, CAT and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cat Specialist Group with the support of WWF.
10. During the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade (2018), over 60 countries reaffirmed their commitment to combat illegal wildlife trade and adhered to the London Declaration. In this context, the countries of the Americas recognized that illegal wildlife trade is a major problem that must be treated as serious and organized crime affecting the region's economy, security, indigenous peoples and ecosystems. In the framework of these efforts, Peru will host the First Regional Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in the city of Lima on 3 and 4 October 2019.

Recommendations

11. Considering that CITES Parties and the broader CITES community can contribute significantly to monitor illegal trade in jaguar specimens and analyse its consequences for the conservation of the populations of this species in the wild,
12. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider and approve the draft decisions on illegal trade in jaguars (*Panthera onca*) included in Annex 1 to the present document in order to: assess the extent of the risk and determine the key points of origin and demand in the trade chain through an externally funded study; and, in close cooperation with Parties, relevant stakeholders, the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, make recommendations to adopt urgent measures aimed at fighting illegal trade in the jaguar throughout its range.

References

- De La Torre, J.A., J. González-Maya, H. Zarza, G. Ceballos, and R.A. Medellín. 2017. "The Jaguar's Spots Are Darker than They Appear: Assessing the Global Conservation Status of the Jaguar *Panthera onca*." *Fauna & Flora International*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605316001046>.
- Kerman, Irvin, and Marie-Louise Felix. 2010. "Exploitation of the Jaguar, *Panthera onca* and Other Large Forest Cats in Suriname. Commissioned by WWF Guianas under its Wildlife Management Conservation.
- Reuter, Adrian, Leonardo Maffei, John Polisar, and Jeremy Radachowsky. 2018. "Jaguar Hunting and Trafficking in Mesoamerica, recent observations." WCS.
- Quigley, H., Foster, R., Petracca, L., Payan, E., Salom, R. and Harmsen, B. 2017. *Panthera onca* (errata version published in 2018). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017: e.T15953A123791436. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-3.RLTS.T15953A50658693.en>. Downloaded on 05 December 2018.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON ILLEGAL TRADE IN JAGUARS (*Panthera onca*)

18.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) Subject to the availability of external funding, commission a study on illegal trade in jaguars (*Panthera onca*) to:
 - i) map illegal trade in the jaguar throughout its range, including poaching, trade pathways and networks, and main markets that are driving this trade;
 - ii) analyse the uses of jaguar specimens, both within range states and in international markets, as well as the extent to which illegally-sourced jaguar products are entering international trade;
 - iii) analyse the *modus operandi* associated with illegal trade in jaguar specimens and possible drivers of this activity; and
 - iv) characterize the overall impact of illegal trade on jaguar populations throughout the species' range;
- b) present the findings of the study referred to in Decision 18.AA, paragraph a) to the Standing Committee together with any recommendations it may consider relevant; and
- c) issue a Notification seeking input from Parties, in particular exporting, re-exporting and importing countries affected by illegal trade in jaguar (*Panthera onca*) specimens, and relevant stakeholders to provide information to the Secretariat for the purposes of completing the study outlined in Decision 18.AA, paragraph a).

18.BB Directed to Parties, especially those that are range States of the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), and relevant stakeholders

Parties, especially those that are range States of the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and relevant stakeholders, are encouraged to take action to:

- a) support the preparation of the study referred to under paragraph a) of Decision 18.AA;
- b) respond to the Notification as described in paragraph b) of Decision 18.AA;
- c) recognize the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) as the flagship species of its range countries so that the protection and conservation of the species and its habitat becomes a joint priority;
- d) urgently adopt comprehensive legislation and enforcement controls aimed at eliminating the poaching of jaguars (*Panthera onca*) and illegal trade in their parts and derivatives, including online sales of specimens;
- e) promote the design and implementation of conservation corridors between range countries of the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), strengthening cooperation mechanisms on a local, national and regional level in order to promote good conservation practices, channel investments to the conservation of the species, reduce the threats to the connectivity of its habitats, and strengthen the capacities of the main players involved;
- f) raise awareness about the importance of the jaguar, its role in the ecosystem and the threats it faces, including illegal trade;
- g) participate in conferences and workshops, among other events, in order to share experiences and knowledge about the priority issues identified to combat illegal trade in jaguars (*Panthera onca*); and

- h) consider making a voluntary contribution to conduct the study or implement its recommendations.

18.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

- a) The Standing Committee shall consider the findings of the study referred to in Decision 18.AA, paragraph a) as well as the report and recommendations of the Secretariat and make recommendations as appropriate until the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The authors of this document propose a tentative budget of USD 80,000 to fund this study and a source of funding.