

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

Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Species-specific matters

Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)

JAGUAR TRADE

1. This document has been submitted by Costa Rica and Mexico.\*

Background

2. The Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is listed in CITES Appendix I since 1975, and is classified as Near Threatened (NT) under IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; however, updated information suggests that in the near future, the species could qualify as Vulnerable (VU) (Quigley et al. 2018). In a recent assessment de la Torre et al. (2017) found that all of the subpopulations outside of Amazonia were ranked as Endangered or Critically Endangered due to a variety of threats that require immediate conservation action from many fronts, as described ahead.
3. The jaguar historically ranged from the southwestern United States through the Amazon Basin to the Rio Negro in Argentina. However, it has been virtually eliminated from much of the drier northern parts of its range—Arizona and New Mexico in the United States – and extreme northern Sonora State in Mexico as well as northern Brazil, the pampas scrub grasslands of Argentina and throughout Uruguay (Quigley et al. 2018). It has been recently estimated that jaguar range may have decreased by 55% in the last century. Brazil contains more than half of the Amazon basin, the single largest contiguous block of remaining jaguar habitat. Besides large jaguar subpopulations in the Amazon, the Pantanal, and the Chaco, virtually all other jaguar subpopulations are threatened because of human encroaching and high human population density enhancing threats such as habitat loss, direct persecution, human-wildlife conflict, small population size, isolation, and deficient law enforcement (De la Torre et al. 2017).
4. In addition to the pressures cited above, in recent years there has been increasing evidence that illegal trade in jaguar parts in Latin America may be on the rise, which could jeopardize the conservation advances of the past four decades, in addition to potentially driving population declines and local extinctions (Reuter et al. 2018).
5. In 2010, reports began surfacing of jaguars killed in the Guianas, reportedly to satisfy Asian demand of parts for jewellery, meat, and medicinal purposes (Kerman and Felix 2010). From August 2014 to February 2015, eight mail shipments from Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia, to destinations in China were intercepted and confiscated by the Bolivian Police of Forestry of Environment (POFOMA) and the Postal Company of Bolivia ECOBOL (Aliaga and Nuñez 2017). The exporter of one of these parcels was a Bolivian citizen; Chinese citizens residing in Bolivia were responsible for the other seven shipments. The packages contained a total of 186 jaguar canines, implying the poaching of at least 93 jaguars.

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\* 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. A recent report conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS; Reuter et al, 2018) on the illegal jaguar trade in Mesoamerica, highlights that jaguar trafficking may be increasing in Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama, where there is concern that a structured national and international illegal trade may be emerging, with anecdotal though largely unconfirmed claims of potential links to Asian markets. This WCS report shows that jaguars are mainly killed due to conflict with humans including livestock losses, which may create informal local markets for jaguar parts and incentivize increased retaliatory killings and targeted jaguar poaching. Notwithstanding the anecdotal nature of the expert-based information within this report, it provides a perspective on the current situation of jaguar illegal trade and highlights the need to collect more data to fully understand the growing threat posed to this species by illegal trafficking.
7. Indicative of the international's community concern on this grim scenario, and within the framework of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CBD (Sharm El-Sheikh; 2018), in an unprecedented global commitment to saving the jaguar, 14 range states joined together to launch the "Jaguar 2030 Conservation Roadmap for the Americas". Furthermore, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Panthera and government representatives also announced the creation of the first-ever International Jaguar Day, to be celebrated annually on November 29th to raise awareness about threats facing the jaguar, conservation efforts ensuring its survival and the role of the jaguar as keystone species of healthy ecosystems.

#### Recommendations

8. Bearing in mind that CITES Parties and the wider CITES community can significantly contribute in monitoring the trafficking in jaguar specimens and analyse the implications of this illegal trade on the conservation of populations of jaguar in the wild.
9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to consider and adopt the draft Decisions on illegal trade in jaguars (*Panthera onca*) included in Annex 1 to this document, in order to: assess the scale of the risk as well as to ascertain the key points for source and demand in the trade chain, through an externally-funded study; and, in close collaboration with Parties, relevant stakeholders, the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, to develop recommendations to take immediate action in tackling jaguar's illegal trade throughout its range.

#### COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

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## 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>.
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- Núñez, A., and E. Aliaga-Rosell. 2017. Jaguar fangs trafficking by Chinese in Bolivia. *CATnews*. "N° 65:51-52.
- 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. & 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, contract a consultancy to undertake the following study on illegal trade in jaguars (*Panthera onca*):
  - i) map the illegal trade in jaguar throughout its range, including poaching, trade pathways and networks, and main markets that are driving this trade;
  - ii) analyse the extent and uses of jaguar specimens both within range states, as well as in international markets;
  - iii) analyse the extent to which illegally-sourced jaguar products are entering international trade;
  - iv) analyse the mechanisms of the supply chain, as well as drivers of the trade;
  - v) characterize the overall impact of the illegal trade on jaguar populations throughout its range;
  - vi) develop a standardized database on georeferenced jaguar poaching/illegal trade cases to aid identification of trade routes and trend analysis; and
  - vii) based on the findings above, develop recommendations for Parties and relevant stakeholders to tackle the illegal trade of jaguar, including synergies with other organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- b) issue a Notification seeking input from Parties, in particular exporting, re-exporting and importing countries, and relevant stakeholders to provide information to the Secretariat to share with the consultant for the purposes of completing the study outlined under a) above;
- c) report on progress with the implementation of this Decision to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate; and
- d) seek external funding to support the study, as appropriate.

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

Parties, especially those that are range States for Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and relevant stakeholders, are encouraged to collaborate along the following lines:

- a) support the work of the consultancy referred to under paragraph a) of Decision 18.AA, including seeking external funding;
- b) respond to the Notification as described in paragraph b) of Decision 18.AA;
- c) raise awareness on jaguar importance, status and threats, including illegal trade of jaguar specimens; and
- d) strengthen capacity building and information exchange regarding jaguar conservation, legal and illegal trade.

18.CC ***Directed to the Animals Committee***

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) consider the progress reported by the Secretariat and make recommendations regarding the study referred to under Decision 18.AA; and
- b) make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

18.DD ***Directed to the Standing Committee***

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider any report prepared in response to Decision 18.AA, and by range States and the Animals Committee in accordance with Decisions 18.BB and 18.CC, and formulate recommendations as appropriate.

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.