

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*)

ILLEGAL TRADE IN JAGUAR

1. This document has been submitted by Peru.*

Background

2. The jaguar (*Panthera onca*) has been included in Appendix I since 1 January 1975. It occurs mainly in forests with dense vegetation and the presence of water bodies but can also be found in swampy areas, seasonally flooded grasslands and dry forests throughout the Americas, from the southern United States to the north of Argentina and the north west of Brazil. Its populations have substantially declined or have been extirpated in some areas of El Salvador, the United States, Uruguay, Argentina and Mexico. The jaguar is protected throughout its range, and it is forbidden to hunt it in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, French Guyana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Surinam, the United States and Venezuela.
3. The jaguar is the largest cat species and the only representative of the genus *Panthera* that occurs in the Americas; it also plays an important role in ecosystem balance. The species was historically subjected to a strong pressure from hunting and persecution; this, along with habitat loss and overexploitation of its prey species, led to its disappearance in part of its range, mainly in the United States, El Salvador and Uruguay. It has recently been estimated that the range of the jaguar may have declined by 55% over the last century. Except for the subpopulations of the Amazon, the Chaco and the Pantanal, all the other subpopulations are threatened due to their small size, isolation, low level of protection and growing human presence (De la Torre et al., 2017).
4. Conservation efforts and the decrease in hunting and 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 vulnerability of the species.
5. 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, from August 2014 to February 2015, the Bolivian authorities intercepted and confiscated eight postal shipments in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba that were destined to China. The total number of specimens confiscated in Bolivia amounts to 186 teeth, which is believed to have entailed the death of at least 50 jaguars.

* 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. The jaguar is protected in Peru by Supreme Decree No. 004-2014 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, approving the update of the list of legally protected endangered species of wildlife, and classified as “near threatened” in the list.
7. In Peru, several natural protected areas have been created in which jaguar populations are conserved: Tambopata National Reserve, Manu National Park, Bahuaja Sonene National Park, Alto Purús National Park, Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Regional Conservation Area and Pucacuro National Reserve. Population monitoring, environmental education and ecotourism activities take place in these protected areas.
8. In addition, Peru has a “National strategy to reduce illegal trade in wild species” (approved by Supreme Decree No. 011-2017 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on 14 August 2018) and is conducting actions for its implementation, including demand-reduction campaigns, identification of the main areas and routes of illegal trade, and intensified controls and seizures.
9. The Plurinational State of Bolivia recognizes the right of other living beings to develop in a normal and permanent way in Article 33 of its Public Constitution. In fact, the jaguar and all other wildlife are considered gifts from Mother Earth and the natural heritage of the Bolivian people, in accordance with Act No. 300.
10. It is forbidden to hunt jaguars in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph II of Supreme Decree No. 3048, which restricts the hunting and use of wildlife specimens included in CITES Appendix I.
11. The Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia is currently implementing actions aimed at the protection and legal defense of the jaguar. Since 2014, for example, it has initiated about fifteen criminal proceedings for the commission of offences related to illegal trade in jaguars. To date, there have been four convictions with penalties of imprisonment for these infringements. Bolivia’s commitment to conserve and protect Mother Earth requires the implementation of new strategies, actions and activities aimed at combating illegal trade in jaguars and other wildlife.
12. 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 origin, countries of destination and transit countries to end illegal trade in jaguar products.
13. Document SC70 Doc. 51, section 3.1.5 provides evidence of growth in the demand of jaguar parts to satisfy the Asian market.

Recommendation

14. In order to contribute to the conservation of this flagship species by reducing and/or ending its demand and/or illegal trade, we urge the Parties to implement the following actions:
 - a) Recognize the jaguar as the flagship species of its range countries so that the protection and conservation of the species and its habitat becomes a joint responsibility.
 - b) Strengthen cross-border control between the range States of the jaguar, increasing preventive actions and controls at the entry and exit points of goods and baggage, and also intelligence work to identify poachers, illegal traders and their networks.
 - c) Increase the inspection and control of goods and baggage in countries that constitute the final illegal market and adopt any policies and actions that may be necessary to raise awareness of the issue.
 - d) Increase awareness-raising and outreach efforts about the importance of the conservation of the jaguar and its habitats as well as the existing regulations and penalties.
 - e) Generate and exchange information about the status of jaguar populations, their habitats and the effects of existing threats.
 - f) Manage and strengthen cooperation mechanisms on a local, national and regional level in order to promote good conservation practices in the corridors of range countries, channel investments to the

conservation of the jaguar and its habitats, reduce the threats to the connectivity of its habitats, and strengthen the capacities of the main players involved in the conservation of the species and its habitats.

15. We recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft resolution included in Annex 1 to the present document.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

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DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Conservation and control of trade in jaguars (*Panthera onca*)

RECALLING that the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is included in Appendix I of the Convention, and that all commercial international trade in its parts and derivatives has been regulated by the Convention since 1975;

RECOGNIZING that the jaguar has a major cultural importance for the local communities of the Americas and is also the third largest cat species on the planet after the lion and the tiger;

AWARE that the jaguar is vulnerable to persecution for illegal trade, as evidenced by the disappearance of the populations of Uruguay, El Salvador and the southwestern United States, and due to its need of a broad habitat, its naturally low population densities and its relatively low reproductive rate;

NOTING that the jaguar has been classified as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List since 2008 and that since then there has been an increase in the threats to the species, such as the growing fragmentation of jaguar populations in Central and South America and the persecution of most of its populations, which could lead the species to be classified as Vulnerable in the near future;

NOTING WITH CONCERN that illegal trade and poaching have increased in recent years due to growth in the demand of jaguar teeth in the black market to replace tiger teeth used in the Asian illegal market;

CONCERNED that if both consumer countries and range States do not make an urgent and coordinated effort, the species' risk of extinction could increase;

AWARE that law enforcement and control of poaching and illegal trade, awareness raising about this problem, education and reduction of the demand and also cooperation with local communities are essential for the effective conservation of the species;

NOTING the initiatives taken by Peru and Bolivia to conserve wildlife and reduce its illegal trade and to combat poaching of the species;

RECOGNIZING that cooperation between all the relevant Parties – including range States and consumer States – to strengthen controls and conservation measures for the species as well as financial support will contribute to a more effective conservation of the jaguar;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. URGES all the Parties, particularly range States and countries with demand of jaguar specimens, to:
 - a) recognize the jaguar as the flagship species of its range countries so that the protection and conservation of the species and its habitat becomes a joint responsibility;
 - b) urgently adopt comprehensive legislation and enforcement controls aimed at eliminating the poaching of jaguars and trade in their parts and derivatives;
 - c) prohibit the sale and acquisition – including online sales – of live specimens and parts and derivatives of jaguars in the countries of the region;
 - d) establish the highest level of legal protection and increase current enforcement and control efforts, eliminating legal and enforcement gaps;
 - e) establish a cross-border cooperation network between range States for the management of contiguous habitat, the design and implementation of conservation corridors and the strengthening of enforcement controls, including anti-poaching measures and collecting and sharing of information between law enforcement agencies and INTERPOL regarding incidents of poaching, trafficking or illegal sales – including online sales – of the jaguar and its parts and derivatives;

- f) increase awareness-raising and outreach actions about the importance of the conservation of the jaguar and its habitats as well as the need to eliminate the demand of the species and promote awareness of applicable regulations;
 - g) increase the generation and exchange of information about the status of jaguar populations, their habitats and the effects of existing threats;
 - h) develop and strengthen cooperation mechanisms on a local, national and regional level to improve good conservation practices in the corridors of range States, channel investments to the conservation of the jaguar and its habitats, reduce the threats to the connectivity of its habitats and strengthen the capacities of the main players involved in the conservation of this species and its habitats.
2. DIRECTS the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Chairs of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee and subject to the availability of resources, to:
- a) cooperate closely with the Parties to formulate and implement measures that can increase the information available about the status of jaguar populations, their habitats and the effects of existing threats, and develop legislative and coercive measures as well as regional and subregional initiatives to reduce and ultimately eliminate illegal trade in jaguars;
 - b) commission a study to determine the geographic distribution of illegal trade in jaguars, including poaching, trafficking routes and their networks and markets as well as the mechanisms of the supply chain and the drivers of trade;
 - c) facilitate the exchange of information and experiences between the natural range States of the species and the Parties that constitute the final illegal trade in order to investigate the networks that enable illegal trade;
 - d) report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of this Resolution at each of its regular meetings;
3. URGES the relevant governments, donors and funding organizations as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to urgently support efforts aimed at conserving and controlling trade in jaguars through:
- a) the funding of activities to be undertaken by the Parties concerned in order to achieve the objectives of the present Resolution;
 - b) technical assistance and capacity building regarding generation of information, conservation, control and inspection strategies and awareness-raising and outreach;
 - c) information sharing on scientific, technical and legal aspects.

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 the following tentative budget and source of funding.

The authors of this document have not prepared a budget but propose that any task to be implemented by the Secretariat or the permanent committees in the framework of the draft resolution and decisions should be subject to the availability of funding.