

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

NAIROBI DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL
TO INCLUDE THE GIRAFFE IN CITES APPENDIX II

This document has been submitted by Chad in relation to proposal CoP18 Prop. 5.*

**Nairobi Declaration in Support of the Proposal
to Include the Giraffe in CITES Appendix II**

**African Elephant Coalition¹
13 February 2019, Nairobi, Kenya**

WE, the representatives of the thirty countries of the African Elephant Coalition (AEC) present at the AEC Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 13 February 2019:

EXPRESSING our solidarity with AEC members who are giraffe range States;

RECOGNIZING that the conservation status of the giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) has deteriorated, and continues to deteriorate, due to habitat destruction and exploitation;

CONCERNED that the number of giraffes in the wild has declined by between 36 to 40% over the past 30 years despite the conservation efforts by range States;

FURTHER CONCERNED that only 68,293 mature individuals remained in the wild as of 2015, down from 106,191-114,416 mature individuals in 1985;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that, while global figures are not available, between 2006 and 2015, the U.S. alone imported a total of 39,516 giraffe specimens, 99.7% of which were wild-sourced, including 21,402 bone carvings, 4,789 bones, 3,744 trophies, 3,008 skin pieces, 1,903 bone pieces, 855 skins, and 825 jewelry items;

ALARMED that global trade level is likely to be much greater than U.S. import levels and that AEC member states from West, Central and East Africa concerned that international trade is impacting their giraffe populations;

CONCERNED that, while most specimens documented in trade to the U.S. originated in South Africa (31,245 specimens) or Zimbabwe (5,249 specimens) where giraffe populations are increasing, U.S. imports included giraffe specimens that originated in countries where giraffe populations are Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable, or those with declining or small populations;

* *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.*

¹ *Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Togo, and Uganda.*

CONCERNED that the international trade in giraffe specimens is a recently documented, emerging threat to the conservation of the species that urgently requires attention;

THANKFUL that six AEC member States, Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya, Mali, Niger and Senegal, have proposed to list the giraffe on Appendix II under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2(a) of the Convention;

NOTING that this proposal will be considered at the eighteenth meeting of the Parties to CITES that will take place from 23 May – 3 June 2019, in Colombo, Sri Lanka and that the species in the proposal meets Criterion B of Resolution Conf.9.24 (Rev.CoP17), Annex 2a;

NOTING that listing the giraffe on CITES Appendix II will allow international trade to be regulated in order to ensure that it is not causing a detriment to wild populations and that the specimens in trade are legally acquired;

EXPRESSING OUR STRONG SUPPORT for the proposal to list the giraffe on CITES Appendix II at the upcoming Conference of the Parties (CoP18) in May 2019 in Sri Lanka; and

STRONGLY ENCOURAGING other CITES Parties, the CITES Secretariat, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations to support this proposal.

Issued on 13 February 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya