

First Range State Meeting of the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative (ACI)

The First Range State Meeting of the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative (ACI) will be held from 5 to 8 November 2018 in Bonn, Germany, seeking to bring together representatives of the 47 African countries that are range States to the four iconic species covered by the ACI, i.e. African lion (*Panthera leo*), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), and African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*).

At the 17th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP17; Johannesburg, 2016) and at the 12th meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (CoP12; Manila, 2017), the Parties to these Conventions adopted several decisions relating to the conservation and management of the four target species.

Under CMS Decision 12.56 on the ACI, range States were urged to work through the ACI to implement the above-mentioned decisions as a way to increase synergies between the two Conventions. In the context of the ACI, the meeting in Bonn will bring together for the first time all range States concerned with the ACI, with the goal of setting priorities and mapping a way forward for implementing the decisions and measures that both Conventions have adopted for the four African carnivore species.

The official webpage of the meeting and respective documentation are accessible at <https://www.cms.int/en/meeting/first-range-state-meeting-joint-cms-cites-african-carnivores-initiative-aci>.



Photo credits: African lion: Jean-Louis Fel; Leopard: Jean-Louis Fel; Cheetah: Charles J. Sharp; African wild dog: Charles J. Sharp.