



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/066

Geneva, 26 May 2023

CONCERNING:

Seeking information on the making of non-detriment findings
for African lions (*Panthera leo*) – Decision 19.205

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.205 to 19.210 on *African lions* (*Panthera leo*), which are presented in Annex 1. Decision 19.205 paragraph c) requested the following:

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and, as appropriate, taking into consideration the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and the Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa in information document CoP18 Inf. 10:

- c) *support capacity-building in African lion conservation and management including where appropriate, in the making of non-detriment findings by range States according to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings and the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.9 on Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II;*
2. The Secretariat invites Parties, especially range States of African lion, to complete and submit the questionnaire in Annex 2 to the Secretariat by **6 June 2023** to info@cites.org with a copy to hyeon-jeong.kim@cites.org with the subject "Re: African lions".
3. The responses received to the present Notification will be shared with IUCN to develop a draft non-detriment finding (NDF) guidance document for African lions that will be integrated into the broader process to elaborate NDF guidance under Decision 19.132 – 19.134 on *Non-detriment findings*, including the second international workshop on NDFs (Decision 19.134).

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

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Decisions on African lions (*Panthera leo*)

Directed to the Secretariat, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

- 19.205** Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and, as appropriate, taking into consideration the joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative and the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* in information document CoP18 Inf. 10:
- a) support the implementation of activities in joint African lion conservation plans and strategies that relate to trade in African lion specimens and the implementation of CITES and as needed, the review of such plans and strategies;
 - b) jointly with the CMS Secretariat, undertake a comparative study of African lion population trends and conservation and management practices, such as lion hunting, within and between countries, including the role, if any, of international trade;
 - c) support capacity-building in African lion conservation and management including where appropriate, in the making of non-detriment findings by range States according to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* and the implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.9 on *Trade in hunting trophies of species listed in Appendix I or II*;
 - d) assist in maintaining a joint CITES-CMS web portal on African lions, that also allows for the posting and sharing of information and guidance on the conservation and management of African lions;
 - e) share any relevant update of the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* with the Animals Committee for its review; and
 - f) report on the implementation of the present Decision to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee and to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

Directed to the Animals Committee

- 19.206** The Animals Committee shall:
- a) review any relevant update of the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa*;
 - b) review the information reported by the Secretariat under Decision 19.205 and submit recommendations to the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and African lion range States, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.207** The Standing Committee shall:
- a) review any reports received from the Secretariat and the Animals Committee under Decisions 19.205 and 19.206 and;
 - b) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, the Animals Committee, the Secretariat and/or African lion range States to improve the implementation of the Convention for African lions, as appropriate.

Directed to Parties

- 19.208** Parties, including range States and consumer countries of African lion, as relevant, are encouraged to:
- a) increase enforcement efforts to detect illegal, unreported or misreported trade in specimens of African lion and other big cats;
 - b) use, where appropriate, South Africa's Barcode of Wildlife Project to help identify lion specimens in trade and, when importing lion specimens from South Africa, collaborate where necessary with relevant authorities in South Africa to improve the traceability of such specimens;
 - c) provide details on the observed and/or removed lion body parts in trade when collecting and communicating data on illegal killing and illegal trade in lions to CITES in their annual reports; and
 - d) cooperate on lion conservation, including by sharing information on lion populations, illegal killing and illegal trade.

Directed to Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities

- 19.209** All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support African lion range States and the Secretariat in their efforts to conserve and restore African lions across their range, taking into consideration the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* and the implementation of Decision 19.205 and 19.208.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.210** The Secretariat shall:
- a) share relevant information generated through the implementation of Decision 19.208 with the CITES Big Cats Task Force, the Standing Committee, or both, as appropriate; and
 - b) report on the implementation of the previous Decision 18.246 to the 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee.