

PART 1

At its 25th meeting in July 2011, the CITES Animals Committee approved the inclusion of African lion (*Panthera leo*) in the Periodic Review and agreed that this Review should be conducted. Kenya and Namibia volunteered and were accepted to co-lead the review. In accordance with Resolution Conf 14.8, Kenya and Namibia requested input from all range States and other stakeholders regarding African lions through a questionnaire, which was sent on 27 October 2011.

Specifically, Range States were requested to submit reports on the status of their respective national populations by 27 December 2011. Kenya and Namibia compiled these reports into one document and shared this document with the range States, providing a final opportunity for range states to submit further input and validate the report before submission to the Animals Committee. A final report of the Periodic Review was submitted to the 27th Meeting of the Animals Committee. This document included information from 15 of the 32 range states.

During the AC27 meeting, the Animals Committee took note of the anticipated IUCN Red List reassessment of lion and requested Namibia and Kenya to incorporate this information into their review for consideration at this meeting, AC28. Additionally, the Animals Committee requested the Secretariat to request information by letter from range States that had not already submitted information on lion status.

The Secretariat's letter resulted in three range state responses, bringing the total number of responses received from 15 to 18 of the 32 range states.

IUCN provided a draft of the Red List reassessment of lion to Namibia and Kenya on May 11th, 2015 and published the final reassessment on June 23rd 2015, one week before the deadline for submission of AC28 documents to be considered at this meeting. Unfortunately, this was not enough time for Namibia and Kenya to finalise our document to be considered by AC 28, as we needed ample time to incorporate the new information and properly consult all range states. This was an insurmountable task considering the time factor. Chairperson, we have an advance documents which contains all the information as provided by Range States

and Experts. The only outstanding issue is the conclusion. The outcome of this review was suppose to inform the CITES CoP whether the African lion is correctly placed on the CITES Appendices. As you are aware, a proposal has been submitted for the next CITES CoP's consideration, to uplist the African Lion to Appendix from II to I. However, it is still imperative that this work be brought to conclusion.

It is our sincere hope as reviewers that we will be able to agree on a conclusion at this meeting.

PART 2

The African lion is categorized by the IUCN Red List as "Vulnerable" published in 2015 (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist>) and the species category listing has not changed over the years (1996, 2002, 2004,2008). The lion occurs today in 32 countries excluding a few countries with uncertain status. Lions became extinct long ago in the whole Northern Africa and more recently in a few sub-Saharan Africa countries, and currently occupies about 22% of the historic distribution range. The African lion population is roughly estimated to number between 23,000 and 39,000 today. Between 40% and 50% of the entire population is hosted by Tanzania where three of the 5 largest (with more than 2,200 mature individuals) continental populations occur (Rungwa, Selous, Serengeti). Available records show that between 1999 and 2008, 21,914 wild-sourced African lion parts were traded internationally from twenty range States. The most common purposes of international trade were scientific, sport hunting and commercial. Threats to African lions include, in West and Central Africa: (i) the loss, degradation and fragmentation of lion habitats, (ii) the decline of the lion's prey bases and (iii) human-lion conflict, according to the Regional Conservation Strategy for the Lion in West and Central Africa (IUCN Cat Specialist Group, 2006a); in East and Southern Africa: (i) indiscriminate killing of lions, (ii) hunting of lion prey for subsistence or bushmeat trade, (iii) small population size, and (iv) livestock encroachment (v) illegal trade in lion parts (paws, etc) according to the Regional Conservation Strategy for the Lion in Eastern and Southern Africa (IUCN Cat Specialist Group, 2006b). The conservation status of the African

lion is slightly improving in a few countries such as Namibia (steady expansion of the lion distribution range) and stable in other countries like Tanzania (hosting nearly half of the world lion population) and South Africa (with an estimated 2,800 lions and where lion numbers have increased and have probably been stable for the last thirty years), but it is a matter of great concern in many other range countries which are experiencing small, isolated and decreasing populations.