

PROPOSAL TO ADD PANTHERA LEO IN APPENDIX II

Summary:

The Government of Kenya has submitted a proposal for the inclusion of the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) in CMS Appendix I and the inclusion of all other subspecies of the lion (*Panthera leo*) in CMS Appendix II for the consideration of the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11), 4-9 November 2014, Quito, Ecuador.

A revised proposal for the inclusion of the lion (*Panthera leo*) in CMS Appendix II was subsequently submitted by Kenya pursuant to Rule 11 of the COP Rules of Procedure.

During the African consultation meeting, it was realised that there are gaps in terms of the information provided by range states. These gaps need to be filled and these range states need to be consulted.

It was then agreed that the draft Resolution to be presented for adoption by COP11 should request further work on the conservation of the African lion by its range states, and that the CMS Secretariat should be requested to assist in facilitating consultation amongst all range states, with the possibility of a range state submitting a proposal to COP12 for the inclusion of the lion in CMS Appendix II.

Conservation and Management of the African Lion, *Panthera leo*

(Submitted by Benin, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe)

1. In accordance with the provisions of Article XI of the Convention, the Government of Kenya submitted proposals for amendments to Appendices II of the Convention for consideration by the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11).
2. *Panthera leo* is categorised as Vulnerable in terms of the IUCN classification.
3. Based on genetic analysis (O'Brien et al. 1987, Dubach et al. 2005), two subspecies are recognized. These are the African lion, *Panthera leo leo* (Linnaeus, 1758) and the Asiatic lion, *Panthera leo persica* (Meyer, 1826).
4. The Range States of the African lion include Angola; Benin; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Ethiopia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; India; Kenya; Malawi; Mali; Mozambique; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; Senegal; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Swaziland; the United Republic of Tanzania; Uganda; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.
5. A global species population reduction of approximately 30% is suspected over the past two decades (= approximately three lion generations). The causes of this reduction are primarily indiscriminate killing in defence of life and livestock, coupled with prey base depletion (Bauer 2008), and are unlikely to have ceased.
6. This suspected reduction is based on direct observation; appropriate indices of abundance; a decline in area of occupation, extent of occupation and habitat quality; and actual and potential levels of exploitation.
7. During the African consultation meeting, it was realised that there are gaps in terms of the information from Range States, which need to be filled, and that these Range States need to be consulted before the African lion is listed in CMS Appendix II.
8. It was also agreed that the draft Resolution to be presented for adoption by COP11 should request further work on the conservation of the African lion by its Range States, and that the CMS Secretariat be requested to assist in facilitating consultation amongst all Range States with the possibility of a Range State submitting a proposal to COP12 for the inclusion of the African lion in CMS Appendix II.

Action requested:

The Conference of the Parties is invited to:

- Adopt the draft resolution annexed to this document, which refers to the proposal for the listing of lions on CMS Appendix II.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Conservation and Management of the African Lion, *Panthera leo*

(Submitted by Benin, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe)

Aware that, in 2012, the IUCN-SSC Cat Specialist Group classified *Panthera leo* as Vulnerable, with an estimated global population reduction of approximately 30% over the past two decades (three generations); African lions occupying as little as 17% of their historic range; 42% of major lion populations in decline; and a substantial decline in lions outside protected areas;

Conscious that lions continue to face a number of threats leading to population declines and fragmentation, including indiscriminate killing (primarily as a result of retaliatory or pre-emptive killing to protect life and livestock), prey base depletion, habitat loss and conversion, disease, illegal international trade in lion products and unsustainable offtakes from poorly managed trophy hunting operations;

Aware that *Panthera leo* is presently listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and that CITES is undertaking a review to assess the need for stronger protection of the species; and mindful of the need to strengthen cohesion between the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES;

Concerned that lion populations are becoming increasingly isolated from each other, and that the biological and genetic viability of some populations are in question;

Noting that an updated assessment of *Panthera leo* by the IUCN, to be published in 2015, is widely expected to show continuing declines among lion populations, particularly in west and central Africa;

Recognizing that regional strategies for west/central and east/southern Africa, developed approximately a decade ago, acknowledged the threats to lions and identified potential solutions, but have failed to stop or reverse declines in lion range and numbers; and mindful of the need to define alternative measures to strengthen the protection of the species;

Noting that *Panthera leo*, as defined by Wilson & Reeder (2005), and all its evolutionarily significant constituents, including *Panthera leo persica*, satisfy the Convention's definition of 'migratory species'; and that Article VII.5(e) of the Convention mandates the Conference of the Parties to 'make recommendations to the Parties for improving the conservation status of migratory species', regardless of whether such species are listed on the CMS Appendices.

[*Noting* that the strategic plan for migratory species 2015-2023, has the mission "[t]o promote actions to ensure the favourable conservation status of migratory species and their habitats, and to ensure the ecological integrity, connectivity and resilience of migration systems";]

Recognizing the vital contribution made by the CMS Scientific Council through its technical and scientific support for improving the conservation of migratory species, including terrestrial mammal species, for example through its development of the Central Asian Mammal Initiative adopted at its 18th meeting (Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 2014);

Noting further the Government of Kenya's proposal to the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to include the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) in Appendix I of the Convention and to include all other subspecies of the lion (*Panthera leo*) in Appendix II of the Convention.

Considering that, in order for Parties to make an informed decision concerning the Appendix II listing of *Panthera leo*, more detailed information on the basis of additional consultations is required concerning its population status in all Range States;

*The Conference of the Parties to the Convention
on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Requests* the Range State Parties and invites other Range States of *Panthera leo* to review the outcome of the IUCN process that followed the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to CITES in 2004, and the resulting *Conservation Strategy for the lion Panthera leo in Eastern and Southern Africa* (December 2006) and the *Conservation strategy for the lion in West and Central Africa* (February 2006), based on the outcome of the latest IUCN assessment when available, in order to identify the strengths and weakness of these strategies;
2. *Requests* the Range State Parties and invites other Range States to consult with each other concerning the population status of *Panthera leo*, and requests the Convention Secretariat to provide assistance in this regard;
3. *Requests* the Range State Parties and invites other Range States to consult with the CITES Secretariat through national focal points to receive information from the currently ongoing process for the species;
4. *Recommends* a meeting of Range State Parties, other Range States, and partner organizations, including representatives from the CMS Scientific Council, to be convened as a matter of urgency in order to assess and evaluate the implementation of the Conservation Strategy for the Lion in Eastern and Southern Africa (2006) and Conservation Strategy for Lions in West and Central Africa (2006), and develop regional conservation action plans designed to reverse population declines and possible needs for capacity-building in lion Range States;
5. *Requests* the Range State Parties to present a review of progress to the 44th and 45th Meetings of the Standing Committee;
6. *Invites* the Range State Parties, subject to the findings of consultations among Range States and relevant stakeholders, to work towards an Appendix II listing proposal to be presented to the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
7. *Invites* partners and donors to consider providing financial assistance to support this process.