



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

Distribution: General

UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.33
27 September 2017

Original: English

12th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Manila, Philippines, 23 - 28 October 2017

REVIEW OF LION CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Summary:

This document was prepared at the request of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Secretariat as a follow up to a resolution adopted at the 11th Conference of the Parties to CMS in Quito, November 2014 (see text box 1 UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.32). It aims to provide background information for the review of regional lion conservation strategies mentioned in paragraph 1 of that resolution and for the meeting mentioned in paragraph 4. It was provided to the Secretariat for distribution to Parties, in partial fulfillment of paragraph 5 of the Resolution. The objective of the document is to assist Parties to CMS in their individual and collective decision making on processes and mechanisms that they wish to progress in response to a proposed CMS Annex II listing of *Panthera leo*.

Review of Lion Conservation Strategies

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December 2015



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Preamble

Any view expressed in this document represents the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of any Party to, or the Secretariat of, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The authors have tried to avoid mistakes, but any errors are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not engage CMS, UNEP, WildCRU, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group or Born Free Foundation. Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission, with acknowledgement of the source. The designation of geographical entities in this publication, and the representation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of CMS or any of the above organizations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Introduction

This document was prepared at the request of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Secretariat as a follow up to a resolution adopted at the 11th Conference of the Parties to CMS in Quito, November 2014 (see text box 1 UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.32). It aims to provide background information for the review of regional lion conservation strategies mentioned in article 1 of that resolution and for the meeting mentioned in article 4. It is provided to the Secretariat for distribution to Parties, in partial fulfillment of article 5 of the Resolution. The objective of the document is to assist Parties to CMS in their individual and collective decision making on processes and mechanisms that they wish to progress in response to a proposed CMS Annex II listing of *Panthera leo*.

The aforementioned regional lion conservation strategies were developed in response to concerns over the status of lions that drew international attention at the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in October 2004 (Bangkok), at which a proposal to list the species on Appendix I was withdrawn. Range States agreed that a series of regional lion conservation workshops should be held to achieve consensus on the way forward for lion conservation. The IUCN Cat Specialist Group, together with Wildlife Conservation Society, organized two workshops which brought together stakeholders to develop regional lion conservation strategies using a participatory approach based on a logical framework. The stakeholders included government representatives from almost all African Lion Range States, typically at the level of Director of Wildlife or equivalent. IUCN partnered with a parallel initiative of the Wildlife Conservation Society to map current lion range and priority areas for lion conservation. The ‘2006 strategies’ referred to throughout this document are the outputs of these workshops: the Conservation Strategy for the lion in West and Central Africa (IUCN, 2006b) and the Conservation Strategy for the lion in Eastern and Southern Africa (IUCN, 2006a). Their logical frameworks were adopted on the last day of the workshops, and the narrative parts were based on background documents that had been made available to participants before the workshops. The strategy documents were finalized after the workshops and circulated for comment before they were considered final and published. However, there was no formal adoption or ratification process.

We consider an additional document, for convenience. In 2007, the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group published a synthesis of the two strategies, known as ‘Discussion paper: Towards a conservation strategy for the African Lion’ (IUCN, 2007). That discussion paper does not constitute a formal Conservation Strategy and was not intended to be adopted or ratified in any way. The Cat Specialist Group states: ‘... the two Regional Lion Conservation Strategies (one for West and Central Africa and the other for Eastern and Southern Africa) are the key documents describing the strategy for lion conservation, and resources should be channeled into their implementation. This discussion paper is merely an attempt to synthesize the two regional strategies, highlight their common elements and inspire those working in lion conservation’. Where we consider strategies at a continental scale, we will use this document.

Lion status update

IUCN Red List

The lion is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, in light of the 2015 assessment which found that a ‘population reduction of approximately 43% is estimated over the past 21 years (approximately three lion generations, 1993-2014; (Bauer et al., 2015). The calculation was based on time trend analysis of census data for 47 relatively well monitored lion populations. A taxon is listed as Vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. The Vulnerable assessment based on criteria A2abcd is the same as previous assessments, but is supported by a better underlying method. Previous assessments were based on a suspected decline of the total estimated number of lions, but in the most recent assessment a representative sub-set of lion populations was used to calculate an observed decline, from which a decline for the entire taxon was inferred.

For the overall conservation status of the species, the 2015 assessment represented a technical improvement compared to previous assessments. The new approach used in this assessment showed an extreme dichotomy between regions. Lion populations increased by 12% in four southern African countries (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe) and in India, but declined by 60% in West, Central and East Africa over the last 21 years (three lion generations, the standard Red List timeframe). While this dichotomy resulted in the Red List status of lions across the continent remaining Vulnerable, across the majority of its range the Lion meets the A2 criterion for Endangered. The principal causes for the decline were i) indiscriminate retaliatory killing of lions in defense of human life and livestock, ii) habitat loss and iii) prey base depletion.

Lion populations appear to be stable where management is properly funded. However, many lion populations occur in areas where management budgets are low, leading to local decline and even extirpation, most notably in West Africa.

Along with the species assessment, the IUCN Red List published a Regional Assessment of Critically Endangered C 2a (ii) for West Africa (Henschel et al., 2015). That assessment was different from the previous one of Regionally Endangered based on declines. The new assessment is based on absolute numbers: only 404 (269-583) lions remain in West Africa. This is equivalent to 218 (121-375) mature animals, leading to a listing of Critically Endangered (CR) in West Africa based on criteria C: population size estimated to number fewer than 250 mature individuals, and declining, and at least 90% of mature individuals in one subpopulation.

A taxon is Critically Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. The lion population in West Africa is isolated from lion populations of Central Africa, with little or no exchange of breeding individuals. Most of these lions (*ca.* 90%) persist in a single population in the W-Arly-Pendjari ecosystem which covers parts of Burkina Faso, Benin and Niger. There is strong evidence for ongoing declines; in Senegal’s Niokolo-Koba NP, for example, continuing calamitous declines in prey populations are almost certainly causing concomitant declines in lions.

Abundance and distribution

The IUCN Red List assessment for lions is based on trends in sample populations. For a more complete picture of lion status it is important to know more about lion numbers and distribution. The lion assessment does not formally use these parameters for the Red List category determination, but does present some information as supporting evidence. As for distribution, the Red List includes the map in Fig. 1.

A recent paper summarized and updated efforts to estimate the size of the African lion population leading to the most recent estimate of 32,000 lions in 67 lion areas (Riggio et al., 2013). The authors presented some recent data, but where no new data were available they included unaltered numbers from earlier sources, such as Bauer and Van der Merwe (2004) and Chardonnet (2002). As a consequence, Riggio et al. (2013) included numbers from 2002 and 2004 for areas where a subsequent downward trend had occurred for over a decade. The IUCN considered these sources to be insufficiently precautionary, and attempted to find a better estimate by application of the regional trends to the 2002 population size estimates within the respective regions (Chardonnet, 2002; Bauer and van der Merwe, 2004). These are two largely independent and reasonably comprehensive sets of estimated numbers that were coherent in time. Rather than presenting these numbers as in any way current, the IUCN looked at how they might be expected to have changed and calculated putative present lion numbers per region by applying the observed trend over the subsequent 12 years and with some logical modifications. With all these considerations, Bauer et al. (2015) concluded having greater confidence in an estimate of closer to 20,000 lions in Africa, rather than over 30,000 as suggested by Riggio et al. (2013).

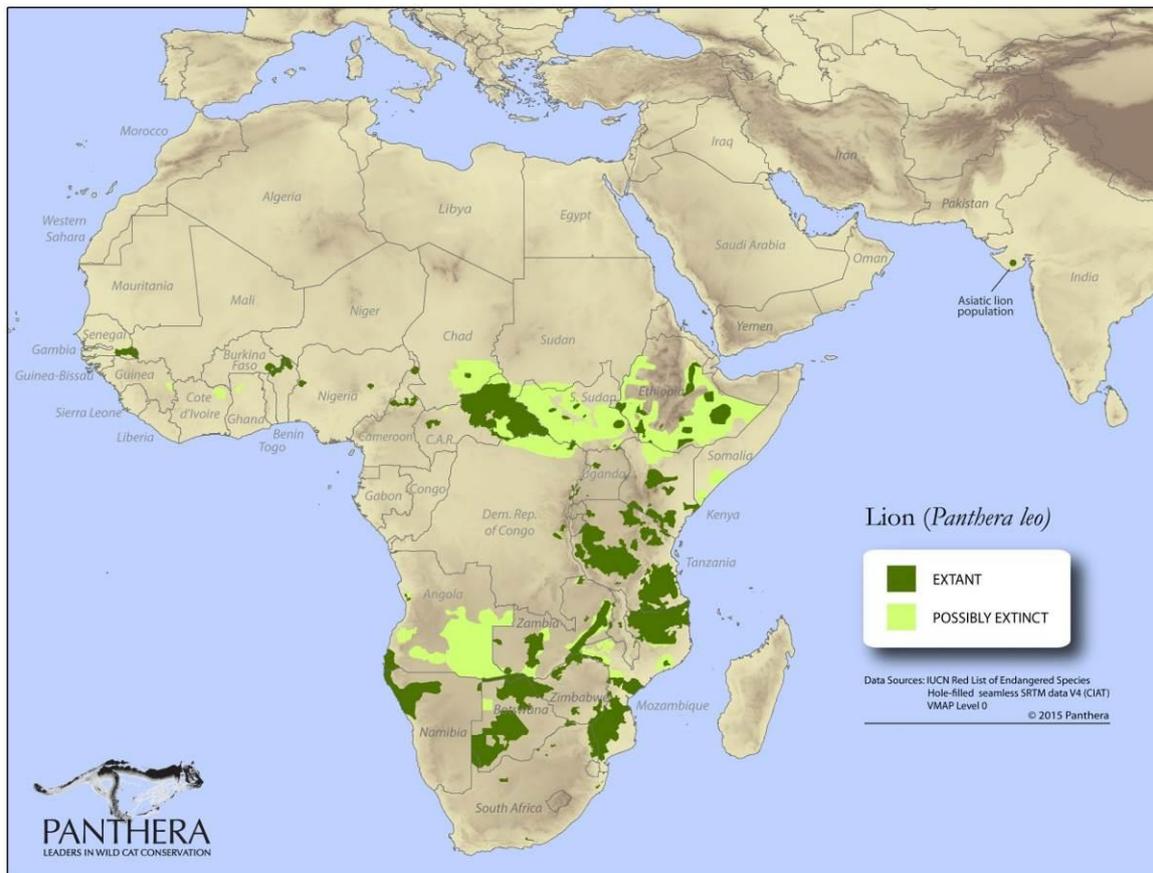


Figure 1: Lion range according to the 2015 IUCN Red List (Bauer et al., 2015).

Range State Consultation

Methods

We designed a questionnaire which was circulated to Range States / Parties by the CMS Secretariat. The questionnaire was composed of 16 questions, some of them containing sub-questions (see annex 1). Of 44 African CMS signatories, ten replied: Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, Mali, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Data were too few to analyze quantitatively, but there was a good geographic spread of the responses allowing for a qualitative analysis. One of the questions was about having a national action plan; for countries that did not respond we attempted to establish the existence of a national action plan by searching the internet, assuming that any national action plan would be discoverable using the Google search engine.

Results and discussion

Considering the low number of responses, a compilation of the distribution and numbers of lions reported would be very incomplete and therefore meaningless. Responses to questions number 5, 7, 8 and 16 similarly lack critical mass to give a representative continental outlook. Table 1 shows responses to other questions (note that formulation has been made as compact as possible for convenient reading and therefore deviates from the original wording).

We observed that the IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategies were considered important or very important by most respondents who were aware of them, and that there have been several efforts to translate them into National Lion Conservation Action Plans. Of ten respondents, six already had a National Action Plan, and five of those were related to the Regional Strategies. Several suggestions were made to improve implementation; of these, funding, coordination, expertise and collaboration stood out.

Table 1: Key responses to the questionnaire submitted to the CMS Range States.

	Benin	Cote d'Ivoire	Guinea-Bissau	Somalia	Mali	Uganda	Kenya	United Republic of Tanzania	Zimbabwe	South Africa
Lions in the past	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lions in the present	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lion populations part of an international ecological network	yes, WAP	--	yes, Niokolo-Badiar	yes, Horn of Africa	no	no	yes, Serengeti-Mara, Amboseli, possibly north	yes, Serengeti-Mara and Selous-Niassa	yes, Greater Limpopo, Lower Zambezi and KAZA	yes, Greater Limpopo, Limpopo-Shashe, Kgalagadi
National Conservation Action Plan?	yes	no	No	no, most institutions still weak	no	yes	yes	yes	yes, but funds are limiting implementation	yes, ready for adoption
Aware of the IUCN Strategies	yes	yes	No	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
IUCN Strategy important for national plan	yes	no	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
IUCN Strategy partly implemented	yes	yes	--	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes

National Lion / Carnivore Focal Point	Mr. Aristide Tehou	no	no	no	Mr. Alfousseini Semega	wildlife authority	Dr. Samuel M. Kasiki	Dr. Dennis Ikanda	Ms. Roseline Mandisodza-Chikerema	no
Importance of the IUCN Strategies	very important (5)	average (3)	--	important (4)	very important (5)	--	--	very important (5)	important (4)	important (4)
How can IUCN Lion Strategies be implemented more effectively?	wide distribution, workshops, lion fund	funding and partnership	--	institutional strengthening	working with communities and authorities	adapt document to domestic context	adapt to country and local needs	pro-active implementation	periodic review and regional collaboration	offer more support

Degree of implementation of lion strategies

National Action Plans

According to the responses to the questionnaire and based on a search effort on the internet, the following countries have a National Lion Conservation Action Plan or equivalent:

1. Benin
2. Cameroon
3. Ethiopia
4. Guinea
5. Malawi (draft, not endorsed by Government)
6. Mozambique
7. Namibia (draft, not endorsed by Government)
8. Senegal (draft, not endorsed by Government)
9. South Africa
10. Zambia
11. Zimbabwe

In addition, we found the following relevant documents:

1. Kenya Lion and Hyena Conservation Plan
2. Rwanda National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity
3. Tanzania Carnivore Conservation Plan (TAWIRI, 2009)
4. Tanzania Lion and Leopard Conservation Action Plan (TAWIRI, 2006)
5. Uganda Large Carnivore Action Plan
6. WAP Transfrontier Conservation Area Large Carnivore Action Plan (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger).

This list is not exhaustive, but it represents all the information available to the authors at the time of writing. Countries not listed here do not appear to have followed up on the recommendation in the IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategies (IUCN, 2006a; IUCN, 2006b) to develop a National Action Plan.

More important than having an action plan is actually implementing it. To our knowledge, there has been no formal evaluation of any of the above action plans or the 2006 Strategies, so our assessment is limited to the consideration of circumstantial evidence. We observe that all these action plans have a goal of achieving at least stable lion populations. This has been achieved in a few countries, but for other countries declines are ongoing, albeit that implementation of NAP's may have slowed down the decline in some cases. We assume that all other countries have not met their goal, and that the implementation of their plans has been at most partially effective.

Regional collaboration

The lion is not strictly a migratory species, but in some areas lions may roam very widely. However, many lion populations are transboundary and in such cases trends in one country can impact the viability of the overall population, thus affecting conservation success in other countries. It is therefore appropriate that lion conservation and management should be the subject of collaboration between countries, or even across regions.

We are aware of several cases of such transnational lion conservation efforts. The Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA, which actually includes Protected Areas in Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Angola), W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP; Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger) and Serengeti-Mara (Kenya, Tanzania) complexes are the most famous examples of lion populations that span national boundaries and benefit from conservation efforts that are harmonized between the relevant Range States. Most notably, this is visible in the geographical representation of the conservation areas: efforts were made to ensure connectivity between adjacent or almost adjacent Protected Areas. In some cases regional collaboration is more intensive than just the facilitation of movements, such as joint patrols and common infrastructure between nations. Such lion landscapes, lion ecosystems or Protected Area complexes are important for species that have huge space requirements, not only lions but also cheetah, African wild dogs and elephants.

Case studies

Respondents to the questionnaires pointed at several successful lion conservation activities. Tanzania highlighted the Living Walls Programme (<http://afrpw.wildlifedirect.org/tag/living-walls/>) and stressed the importance of age-based trophy hunting. Zambia and Benin indicated that they have monitoring programmes that use spoor surveys to determine lion population trends. Law enforcement was also often mentioned as an important activity. In southern Africa, fencing plays a major role in the prevention of livestock conflict.

Benin has implemented a variety of lion conservation activities that were identified by the Regional Strategy, including the elaboration of a National Action Plan that is fully aligned with the Strategy. Activities that have been implemented include construction of demonstration bomas, monitoring of depredation, scientific research, a revision of hunting regulations, and more recently the deployment of Lion Guards - scouts who, in addition to their routine tasks, have been trained and equipped to focus on lions. One factor behind this dynamism is the relatively good technical and financial support, through a multitude of donor-supported programmes (<http://www.cenagref.net/projets-programmes/>); some of these programmes are regional and support similar activities in Burkina Faso and Niger.

Tanzania is possibly the country with most free-ranging lions in Africa, and several lion populations are contiguous with neighbouring countries. Successful lion conservation in Tanzania can preserve more lions than anywhere else. Tanzania has recently started a Lion Guardians programme, an extension of a successful practice in Kenya (<http://lionguardians.org/>). This is just one of many projects aimed at promoting coexistence between lions and local communities, a formidable challenge in a country where lion range covers more than half of a nation experiencing rapid human population growth. Tanzania is deriving benefits from trophy hunting and has been instrumental in efforts to make the industry more sustainable by introducing age-based hunting.

These are just some examples of many lion conservation activities across Africa. However, we cannot evaluate to what degree these activities were implemented within the framework of the IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategies, nor whether or to what extent they contribute to the achievement of their objectives.

Technical assessment of the present relevance of the 2006 strategies

Article 4 of UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.32 calls for a meeting of the Lion Range States to evaluate the IUCN Lion Conservation Strategies (2006 a, b) and to ‘develop regional conservation action plans designed to reverse population declines and possible needs for capacity-building in lion Range States’. In the present chapter, we aim to anticipate the technical outcome of such a meeting.

A meeting of Lion Range States in the framework of CMS decision making would have various potential benefits in terms of consensus building, information exchange, networking and creating understanding of differing perspectives among Parties. The question we examine here is: in terms of conservation planning, is it likely to bring anything new compared to previous similar exercises (IUCN, 2006a; IUCN, 2006b)?

One fact that might change lion conservation planning today, compared to a decade ago, is the observation that lion status is divergent in Eastern and Southern Africa (Bauer et al., 2015). It is likely that lion conservation planning today would again be a joint exercise for West and Central Africa, even if they split into separate working groups and arrive at region-specific elements within the overall strategy. In contrast, the needs and priorities for lion conservation may be better addressed by separate exercises for Eastern Africa and Southern Africa, respectively. Nevertheless, some issues are cross-cutting and there could be an overall continental strategy outline that assembles the common elements across regions.

Conservation strategies typically follow a logical framework (log frame) approach. They first analyze the problems and their causes (problem tree). They then set objectives describing the desired state of the problem, and working down the problem tree, define activities that will counteract the causes. We therefore examine if the 2006 problem analysis is still valid, if the 2006 objectives are still sufficient, and finally if the activities defined in 2006 are still relevant and appropriate.

Problem analysis

The two regional strategies identified the same main problem; the reduction in lion range and numbers. They also identified the same root causes; issues of human population growth and poverty. An expanding poor human population leads to increasing expansion of human settlement into lion habitat, bringing with it the livestock and agricultural practices necessary to sustain people in both rural and urban areas. For lions, this results in habitat loss, population fragmentation, and reduction in the wild prey base. As human-lion contact increases, so does human-lion conflict, resulting in reductions in lion numbers through persecution (poisoning, trapping and shooting) and lack of support for lion conservation among local communities. In the Sahel especially, habitat loss is compounded by consecutive droughts over the last decades and the process of desertification.

Another root cause of lion declines is armed conflict. Beyond its greater costs to people and their society and economy, in relation to lions and wildlife, war prevents tourism and facilitates wildlife poaching and illegal trade, which is in turn exacerbated by the spread of firearms and anarchy.

Some root causes for lion declines are external to Africa. African wildlife-based economies rely on Western tourists (both photographic and hunting safari) to generate valuable foreign currency. This is vulnerable to external developments such as terrorism resulting in a general decline in international tourism. In addition, Western governments and conservation groups

provide significant funding for conservation in Africa, and African governments can be subject to donor demands, and the politics of conservation in Western countries.

Root causes are the primary concern of Range State governments, and if they are not addressed, the problem is unlikely to be resolved. The immediate threats resulting from the root causes were subsequently analyzed differently, however, both between the regions and between the sessions of the workshops. Looking at the texts of the Strategies, the following continental threats can be synthesized:

1. Inappropriate lion population management. This threat includes ineffective protection of protected areas, unsustainable hunting practices in some wildlife management areas, lack of knowledge and monitoring of lion populations, etc.
2. Habitat degradation and reduction of prey base. This threat includes fragmentation, habitat loss, integration of wildlife in land use, unsustainable local hunting for 'bushmeat', encroachment of agriculture and livestock, etc.
3. Human-lion conflict. This threat includes the notorious problem of man killing in certain areas, depredation of livestock by lions, indiscriminate killing of lions (poisoning, snaring, retaliatory or pre-emptive killing), ineffective Problem Animal Control, etc.
4. Adverse socio-economic factors. This threat includes the negative perception of lions among local people, the lack of incentives to tolerate lions, the inequitable sharing of lion related benefits, lack of local participation in planning and decision-making, etc.
5. Unfavourable policies and political factors. This threat includes the policy aspects of integration of wildlife in land use, political controversy over trophy hunting, low priority on the political agenda, management of transfrontier populations, compliance with regulations, etc.
6. Institutional weakness. This threat includes the limited capacity of various levels of government and other stakeholders to manage lion populations effectively, inadequate institutional frameworks for integrated wildlife management (e.g. consultation between agriculture and wildlife sectors), etc.

If we look at the 2015 Red List we find all the above threats; they are worded and grouped differently but they are basically the same. However, one additional threat has been identified in addition to the above:

7. Increasing trade (legal and illegal) in bones and other body parts for traditional medicine, both within the region and in Asia (Bauer et al., 2015).

Objectives

Recognizing that these problems will require international, national and local resources to solve, the 2006 Strategies had a global *vision* of a future in which Africa manages its natural resources sustainably for the mutual benefit of lions and people.

The *goal* of the Strategy was to ensure the conservation of lions across Africa, recognizing their potential to provide substantial social, cultural, ecological and economic benefits.

To achieve this goal, the Strategy set out *six objectives* which were:

1. To conserve current populations of free ranging African lions;
2. To conserve current lion habitat and prey base;

3. To minimize human lion conflict;
4. To equitably distribute the costs and benefits of long-term lion management;
5. To have global, regional and national policies and legal frameworks provide for lion conservation and associated socio-economic benefits, and;
6. To promote institutional strengthening towards an enabling environment for lion conservation.

Following the logic above, a new strategy would probably include a seventh objective:

7. To minimize trade in lion bones and body parts.

Activities

We will not copy the multitude of activities from the strategies. Suffice it to say that we have examined all of them and that they are all still relevant. Surprisingly, even ‘threat number 7’, is covered with relevant activities listed among the activities addressing threat number 5. This would suggest that a strategy defined today would make the problem of trade in lion bone and body parts more visible by listing it as a separate threat and objective, but that such a change would be a shift in emphasis with very limited consequences for the rest of the log frame.

Conclusions and recommendations

Strength and weaknesses of the Lion Strategies

Our analysis has shown that the Strategies published in 2006 are still relevant today; the description of threats remains valid and the proposed log frame (vision-mission-goals-activities) could very well serve as a starting point for lion conservation at any time. However, in view of the divergent regional contexts, Range States may want to revise the grouping; the Red List suggests that lion status is different in southern Africa, possibly leading to difficulties in joint planning with eastern Africa.

In contrast, our analysis has shown that the Strategies have had mixed success: implementation of the Strategies has been fragmented and partial. The partial implementation may in some instances have slowed down the declines, but the fact is that the goal has not been achieved and that decline in numbers and range of lions continues across most of Africa. Many countries and organizations have implemented lion conservation projects; these surely mitigated declines and possibly contributed to objectives on conflict mitigation and distribution of benefits, but they were not explicitly implemented within the framework of the Strategies and have not resulted in the achievement of their objectives.

We note that follow-up of the implementation of the Strategies has been absent, and we consider this to be an inherent weakness of the strategic planning process as practiced a decade ago. IUCN has observed this on several occasions and new guidelines for strategic planning will emphasize the iterative nature of planning and the need for clearly defined and more active follow-up. It is unrealistic to expect that people and institutions would automatically adopt a regional consensus and translate it at a national level. Furthermore, securing sufficient funding, human resource and institutional capacity remain challenging. All this is clearly demonstrated by the questionnaire responses which demonstrated a low uptake of the Strategies in National Action Plans, for various reasons, despite the importance that respondents attached to the Strategies. It would be good to have a regular cycle of promotion of conservation strategies on the agenda of international entities, including IUCN, but possibly also CMS.

In short: the Strategies are technically strong, but the processes that should have led to their implementation have been very weak.

Collaboration among Range States and parties to CMS & CITES

The lion is a powerful symbol of Africa, yet living with lions is challenging for many African communities. The lion is also a primary attractor for tourism and one of Africa's "Big Five".

The lion is not strictly a migratory species, but many important lion populations are transfrontier populations, and many of the ecosystems that represent lion strongholds are contiguous across multiple national borders. It is also a species where polarization is particularly acute between advocates and opponents of trophy hunting, since trophy hunting is practiced across a substantial part of extant lion range.

This makes the species very relevant for policies at Range State level, but also at regional levels and for international fora including CMS and CITES. It is difficult to keep debates grounded in science while various constituencies are immune to arguments because they hold passionate subjective opinions based on the charisma of this species. It would be beneficial if Range States and parties to CMS and CITES maintain dialogue based on a holistic view, rather than engaging in discussions on separate sub-topics.

The way forward

A platform is required for the above-mentioned dialogue. While such a platform could come under the auspices of CMS, the normal cycle of CMS meetings often involve multiple forces debating multiple issues and may not offer sufficient focus to achieve this holistic lion-specific dialogue. If that is the case, a specific CMS-related forum could be convened, which could take the form of one or a series of lion-specific regional meetings. Such a forum could build on technical aspects of the existing Strategies, but should aim to design instruments that promote awareness, implementation, and assessment of the impacts of the strategies; it should muster political and financial buy-in and focus on the implementation of urgently needed lion conservation activities.

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Annex 1: Questionnaire on lion conservation

You are kindly requested to fill out this questionnaire on behalf of your country. Your responses will be processed by researchers of the University of Oxford (WildCRU) who will report to the CMS secretariat. The CMS secretariat will ensure that the outcomes are used to contribute to the implementation of resolution UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.32. Please send your reply and any attachments or additional information to Ms. Samantha Watts, samantha.watts@cms.int

1. Did your country historically have lions (yes/no) ?.....
2. Does your country have lions at present (yes/no) ?.....
3. Please list your lion populations:

Name of area and size (in km ²)	Approx. no. of resident lions	Transboundary? (if yes: with which other range state)	Population increasing/decreasing/stable/don't know? What are the main threats? Other comments?

4. Are your lion populations part of an ecological network that favours international migration (e.g. 'peace park', 'regional conservation area', etc.) ?.....
 - a. If yes, provide details:.....
5. Do you have other species that are dependent on lion conservation efforts for their survival?.....
 - a. If yes, provide details:.....
6. Does your country have a National Conservation Action Plan for lion or for large carnivores?.....
 - a. If yes, to what degree is it being implemented? What are the main obstacles? (and please attach a copy).....
 - b. If no, what is required for your country to firstly have such a plan and secondly implement such a plan?.....
7. How is the lion protected under your national legislation?.....

8. If your country is a [CMS Party](#), have you submitted a report for the 44th Standing Committee (14-15 Oct 2015, Bonn, Germany) in response to [Resolution 11.32](#) para 5?.....
 - a. If yes, please attach your report.
9. Do you know the IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategy?
 - a. I know it exists: yes/no.....
 - b. I have a copy: yes/no.....
10. Has the IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategy played a role in lion conservation in your country?
 - a. If yes, provide details:.....
11. Have elements of the IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategy been implemented?.....
 - a. If yes, provide details:.....
12. Does your country have a national Focal Point for Lions or for Large Carnivores?
 - a. If yes, provide contact:.....
13. Are there any lion conservation activities in your country?
 - a. If yes, how do you measure their success?.....
 - b. If yes, which type of activity do you find most effective, and why?.....
14. How would you describe the importance of the IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategy?
.....
.....
15. Please suggest how the IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategy could be implemented more effectively?
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16. What lion conservation activities are planned in your country (including where and when)?
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