

THE CMS-CITES AFRICAN CARNIVORES INITIATIVE: LONGER-TERM VISION
(As at 3 November 2018/Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

Decision 12.60 directs the CMS Secretariat to establish the African Carnivores Initiative.

The CMS Secretariat is seeking views on the establishment of the African Carnivore Initiative in the context of the implementation of Decision 12.60.

The first meeting of Range States of the species covered by the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative provides opportunities to discuss the potential and future format of the African Carnivore Initiative in collaboration with range States and other participants.

This document includes some questions that could guide this debate.

THE CMS-CITES AFRICAN CARNIVORES INITIATIVE: LONGER-TERM VISION

1. Under the CMS and CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020¹, both Conventions aim to ensure “collaboration on the conservation and management of big cats, including regular exchange of technical and other relevant information, attendance at each other’s meetings, capacity-building, joint fundraising and collective reach-out to Range States, where appropriate”. The Secretariats are also to respond to any relevant recommendations, resolutions and decisions agreed by Parties or Signatories and that pertain to joint CMS/CITES work, including those resulting from the implementation of CMS instruments (e.g. MoUs).
2. In the context of the CMS and CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020, and in response to decisions taken at CITES CoP17 (2016) and CMS COP12 (2017), the CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) was created by the CMS and CITES Secretariats with a view to jointly implement the resolutions and decisions adopted by the CMS and CITES CoPs on four African carnivore species, i.e. Lion (*Panthera leo*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*).
3. Document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.3.1.1 explains that through the establishment of a Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative, the Secretariats of CMS and CITES seek to bring coherence and efficiency to the implementation of these resolutions and decisions. The Initiative also aims to work in close cooperation with IUCN. The African Carnivore Initiative thereby supports the effective implementation of dedicated CMS and CITES resolutions and decisions that concern these four species;
4. Document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.3.1.1 provides the following objective and operational guidance for the African Carnivore Initiative:

The African Carnivores Initiative seeks to contribute to the enhanced conservation of the four species across their range in Africa through the implementation of adopted CMS and CITES COP resolutions and decisions by:

- *developing concrete, coordinated and synergistic conservation programmes for all four carnivore species, with local and regional projects implemented across their African range;*
 - *developing policy guidance and recommendations for Range States, CITES and CMS Parties concerning the four species; and*
 - *organizing the collaboration with other conservation initiatives and organizations, such as IUCN.*
5. The added value of addressing the four iconic species together, and for joining efforts of CMS and CITES in this work, is expected to include:
 - increased conservation means for all four species by pooling funds and expertise;
 - more equitable deployment of resources amongst the four species; avoidance of duplicative activities and associated costs;
 - coordinated and consolidated support to Range States in implementing conservation measures;
 - more effective and immediate conservation actions across the range of the four species;
 - synergetic and holistic conservation approaches; and

¹ See document SC65 Doc. 16.2 at https://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/65/E-SC65-16-02_0.pdf.

- increased opportunities for donors to allocate resources to well-coordinated and internationally recognized conservation actions.
6. Providing an opportunity to pool policy guidance, expertise and resources, the African Carnivore Initiative can result in more effective conservation actions for the four target species. It will however be important that a clear direction on the future of the African Carnivore Initiative be articulated.
 7. In 2017, CMS adopted Decisions 12.55 to 12.60 on the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative (see annex).
 8. Decisions 12.55 to 12.57 call *inter alia* (a) Parties to recognize the importance of the African Carnivores Initiative to implement CMS and CITES resolutions and decisions relating to *Panthera leo*, *Acinonyx jubatus*, *Panthera pardus* and *Lycaon pictus*, *inter alia* through the joint CMS-CITES Work Programme with work under CITES to implement complementary CITES Resolutions and Decision.; (b) range States to work through the African Carnivores Initiative to implement CMS and CITES resolutions and decisions relating to these species as a way to increase efficiency and effectiveness of their actions; and (c) Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and technical support to the Range State Parties of the four species and to the Secretariat for implementing the actions set out by the African Carnivores Initiative.
 9. Decision 12.60 directs the CMS Secretariat to (a) Establish the African Carnivores Initiative, and work with the CITES Secretariat to jointly support Parties to CMS and CITES, in implementing conservation measures in CMS Resolutions and Decisions pertaining to African Carnivores; (b) support, subject to the availability of external resources, Range State Parties of the four species in their work through the African Carnivores Initiative in implementing relevant CMS Resolutions and Decisions; and (c) report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its 3rd and 4th sessions and the Standing Committee at its 48th and 49th meeting on the progress in implementing these decisions. Through Decisions 12.58 and 12.59, the CMS Standing Committee and Scientific Council are tasked with reviewing these reports of the Secretariat and formulating recommendations.
 10. As such, the CMS Secretariat is seeking views on the establishment of the African Carnivore Initiative in the context of the implementation of Decision 12.60. The first meeting of Range States of the species covered by the Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivore Initiative provides opportunities to discuss the potential and future format of the African Carnivore Initiative in collaboration with range States and other participants. Some questions that could guide this debate include the following:
 - a) The African Carnivore Initiative's operational content consists of the consolidation of existing CITES and CMS Decisions on African lions, leopards, cheetahs and wild dog, and of Resolutions that directly or indirectly affect these species. Should in future the African Carnivore Initiative's activities continue to consist of decisions and resolutions on African lions, leopards, cheetahs and wild dog that CITES and CMS Parties may agree to?
 - b) Should CITES and CMS develop a work programme for the African Carnivore Initiative? If so, should it be based on CMS and CITES resolutions and decisions, or could activities also be guided by other instruments or action plans?
 - c) Should CITES and CMS take longer-term engagements in the conservation of and trade in the four species of African carnivores, and if so, what role should the African Carnivore Initiative play therein?

- d) The African Carnivore Initiative was jointly initiated jointly by the CMS and CITES Secretariats. In case the Initiative has a longer-term future, how could its functions and activities be planned, and what governance structure should the African Carnivore Initiative have?
- e) How can the implementation of African Carnivore Initiative activities best be monitored and evaluated?
- f) What role could the African Carnivore Initiative play in generating or channeling funding concerning the four target species?

ANNEX

CMS Decisions 12.55 to 12.60 - Joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative

12.55 Decision directed to: Parties

Parties are urged to recognize the importance of the African Carnivores Initiative in implementing CMS Resolutions and Decisions relating to the African Lion (*Panthera leo*), the Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and the African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and seeking synergies, inter alia through the joint CMS-CITES Work Programme with work under CITES to implement complementary CITES Resolutions and Decision.

12.56 Decision directed to: Others

Range States are urged to work through the African Carnivores Initiative to implement CMS Resolutions and Decisions relating to the African Lion (*Panthera leo*), the Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and the African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*), as a way to increase efficiency and effectiveness of their actions.

12.57 Decision directed to: Parties, IGOs & NGOs

Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to the Range State Parties of the African Lion (*Panthera leo*), the Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and the African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and to the Secretariat for their work through the African Carnivores Initiative in implementing the relevant CMS Resolutions and Decisions.

12.58 Decision directed to: Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and make any recommendations it considers appropriate to the Conference of Parties at its 13th meeting.

12.59 Decision directed to: Scientific Council

The Scientific Council should consider the report of the Secretariat and determine at the meetings of its 3rd and 4th Sessional Committee whether further specific actions are required in relation to the conservation of the African Lion (*Panthera leo*), the Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and the African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*) through the African Carnivores Initiative and make recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 48th and 49th meetings, if appropriate.

12.60 Decision directed to: Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) Establish the African Carnivores Initiative, and Work with the CITES Secretariat to jointly support Parties to CMS and CITES, in implementing conservation measures in CMS Resolutions and Decisions pertaining to African Carnivores;
- b) Support, subject to the availability of external resources, Range State Parties of the African Lion (*Panthera leo*), the Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and the African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*) in their work through the African Carnivores Initiative in implementing relevant CMS Resolutions and Decisions; and
- c) Report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its 3rd and 4th sessions and the Standing Committee at its 48th and 49th meetings on the progress in implementing these Decisions.