

Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa (GCLA) – how to go on?

Urs Breitenmoser & Christine Breitenmoser-Würsten



Background

Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa

Version 1.0 – Décembre 2018



A collection of concepts, best practice experiences and recommendations compiled by the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group on behalf of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of V



Directives pour la Conservation du Lion en Afrique

Version 1.0 – Décembre 2018



Une collection de concepts, d'expériences de meilleures pratiques et de recommandations, compilée par le Groupe de Spécialistes des Félines de la CSE de l'IUCN au nom de la Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction (CITES) et de la Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage (CMS)



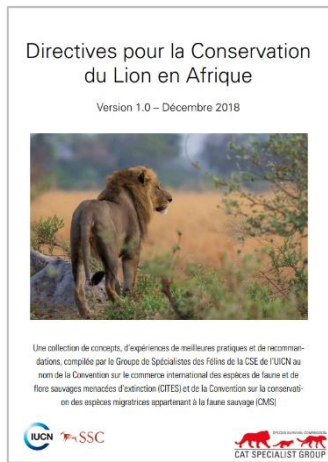
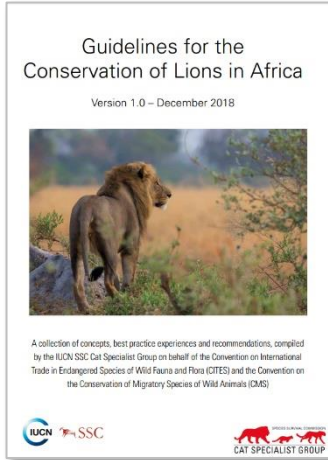
History:

- Developed in 2018 to be submitted to and discussed at
 - CITES COP18 (2019) and
 - CMS COP13 (2020)

<https://www.cms.int/en/publication/guidelines-conservation-lion-africa-gcla>



Background



CITES COP18 Decisions on African lions (*Panthera leo*) and the CITES Big Cats Task Force:

18.244: 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*:

- d) assist in maintaining a joint CITES-CMS webportal 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 the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* and any relevant update with the Animals Committee for its review, as appropriate; and ...

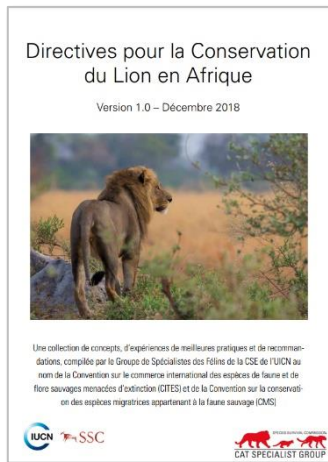
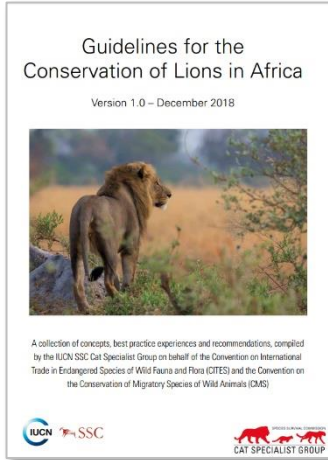
18.247: The Animals Committee shall:

- a) review the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* and any relevant update, as appropriate.

18.250: 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 in implementing Decisions 18.244 to 18.246, and 18.249



Background



CMS Decisions 13.88 to 13.91 - Conservation and Management of the African Lion (*Panthera leo*):
Decision 13.88 directed to: Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding and in collaboration with African Lion Range States and the Secretariat of CITES as well as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa*: ...

Decision 13.89 directed to: Scientific Council

The Scientific Council shall review the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa*, and formulate recommendations as appropriate for consideration by the African Lion Range States, IUCN and others, as needed;

Decision 13.91 directed to: Parties, IGOs & NGOs, Others

All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support the African Lion Range States and the Secretariat: a) in their efforts to conserve and restore this iconic species across the continent, taking into consideration the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa*; and b) in implementing Decision 13.88.



Critiques and challenges

- GCLA drafted in 2019 for First ACI Range States Meeting and discussed in Bonn
- Range Country review in autumn 2019 under time pressure to finalise for submission to CITES COP18
 - Time for Range Country consultation and review was too short
- GCLA is declared to be a “living document” but ...
 - Review through Range Countries, CITES Animal Committee and CMS Scientific Council, reporting and endorsement within the Conventions is a time consuming and clumsy process hampering the frequent and unbureaucratic update!



Possible way forward with the GCLA

- GCLA should be a collection of concepts and best practice methods for Lion conservation and management
- As a “living document” they must be easily accessible, frequently updated (by chapters!) and be flexible to add new findings and concepts
- The *Guidelines* should be expanded to all ACI species
 - Web-based depository allowing flexibility and adaptability in structure and content
 - Quality management and control is needed, but we should avoid...
 - Complicated review process with too tight deadlines and too long decision and endorsement processes!
- Fear: *Modus operandi* of two the Conventions together is too complicated to facilitate a “living document” and to adequately involve the Range Countries



Possible way forward with the GCLA

Questions:

1. Do we want to continue with and expand the GCLA to other ACI species?
2. How can we make the Guidelines a flexible and easy to update depository?
3. How can we organise the quality control and Range Country involvement but avoid a too complicated review process?



Thank you for helping with this!

