UN environment
United Nations Environment Programme

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CMS

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

CITES

1st Meeting of Range States for the Joint CMS – CITES African Carnivore Initiative (ACI1)

Bonn, Germany, 5 – 8 November 2018

CMS-CITES/ACI1/Communiqué

COMMUNIQUÉ

We, the delegates of 31 Range States[1] of the African Lion (*Panthera leo*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*) met in Bonn, Germany from 5 to 8 November 2018 to discuss the conservation of these iconic African carnivores.

Recalling Decision 12.60 of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), requesting the Secretariat of CMS to establish the African Carnivore Initiative jointly with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on the basis of their Joint Work Programme 2015-2020,

We -

Acknowledge that habitat degradation and fragmentation; conversion of habitat into agricultural land and livestock pastures; prey depletion through poaching and livestock rearing and human-carnivore conflict, including poisoning and illegal killing; are major threats to large African carnivores today;

Recognize that urgent action is required from Range States to conserve the populations of the four species;

Also recognize the importance of the collaboration between African Carnivore Range States, CITES, CMS and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to undertake effective conservation actions in favour of the four carnivore species;

Welcome the establishment of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative as a concerted effort to conserve the African Wild Dog, Cheetah, African Lion and Leopard in a comprehensive and holistic manner and *invite* the Conferences of Parties to CITES at its 18th Meeting and that of CMS at its 13th Meeting, to instruct the development of a Joint Programme of Work for the Initiative.

[1] The following Range States attended the meeting: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Recommend that the following measures and activities be prioritized in the Programme of Work of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative:

- Develop and implement conservation strategies for each of the four species;
- Take measures that allow and secure connectivity between populations of African carnivores;
- Promote the coexistence of local communities and the four carnivores in landscapes where they occur;
- Promote innovative approaches that deliver sustainable benefits to the local communities that pay the costs of living alongside wildlife;
- Establish a national coordination structure based on the *Range Wide Conservation Programme for Cheetah and Wild Dog* to provide technical support, training and mentoring to coordinators and a platform for regular meetings;
- Develop and implement reliable, comparable monitoring protocols for large carnivore populations to inform management decisions;
- Develop the capacity of Range States to monitor populations of the four species;
- Improve education and awareness on the plight of African carnivores;
- Enhance and facilitate communication and information sharing between Range States;

Welcome the proposed governance structure for the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative which is intended to include regular Range State meetings, a network of national and regional coordinators and a Joint CITES-CMS Programme Officer;

Agree to submit new and/or updated Decisions on the African Lion and Leopard for consideration at CITES COP18 and on Cheetah and African Wild Dog and Lion for consideration at CMS COP13.

Emphasize the importance of a sustainable funding mechanism to support Range States in implementing conservation actions under the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative and *welcome* the support and expertise of IUCN in this regard;

Urge Governments, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders to support the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivore Initiative in the implementation of its Programme of Work;

Thank the Governments of Belgium, Germany and Switzerland for their generous financial support; and the CITES and CMS Secretariats for convening and facilitating this meeting.