UN 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

# 3rd Meeting of Range States of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI3)

*Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 7 – 10 December 2026*

CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.2

## MEETING SCHEDULE AND PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

*(As of 20 November 2026 / Prepared by the CITES and CMS Secretariats)*

**Summary**:

Please note that some documents may be revised, and new documents may be added before or during the Meeting. Therefore, it is advised to regularly check the website for any such revisions or additional documents.

# MEETING SCHEDULE

| TIME | MONDAY, 7 DECEMBER | TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER | WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER | THURSDAY, 10 DECEMBER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **08.00-09.00** | ***Registration*** | | | |
| 09.00-11.00 | Official opening of the meeting; organisational matters; and context for the meeting<br><br>Implementing the ACI Programme of Work<br><br>- Secretariat reports and updates, including new mandates | Focused discussions<br>- Results of the *Comparative study of African lion population trends and conservation and management practices* (AC34 recommendation – AC34 SR)<br>- Transboundary conservation and connectivity – identifying priority cross-border populations of ACI species and their corridors<br>- Updates to the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* and the *Roadmap for the Conservation of Leopards in Africa* | *Field trip* | *Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence (HWCC) Workshop* |
| **11.00-11.30** | **Coffee/Tea Break** | **Coffee/Tea Break** | | **Coffee/Tea Break (10.30)** |
| 11.30-13.00 | Implementing the ACI Programme of Work (cont.)<br>- ACI species conservation status: presentations and reports from IUCN species specialists<br>- Summary of questionnaire responses | Review of updated ACI Programme of Work:<br><br>- Objectives 1-11<br><br>➢ Working Groups | *Field trip* | *HWCC Workshop* |
| **13.00-14.00** | **Lunch Break** | **Lunch Break** | **Lunch Break** | **Lunch Break (12.30-13.30)** |
| 14.00-16.00 | Intersessional Working Group outcomes<br>Governance arrangements of ACI<br>- Working Group presentation on proposed governance options<br>- Discussing and agreeing on a governance structure | Reviewing the updated ACI Programme of Work (cont.)<br><br>- Objectives 1-11<br><br>➢ Working Groups | Funding implementation of the revised ACI POW | *HWCC Workshop* |
| **16.00-16.30** | **Coffee/Tea Break** | **Coffee/Tea Break** | **Coffee/Tea Break** | **Coffee/Tea Break (15.30)** |
| 16.30-18.00 | Intersessional Working Group outcomes<br>African Lion Database<br>- Presenting and adopting the Terms of Use<br>- Discussing the future scope of the ALD and an African Carnivores Database | Focused discussions – Range States only<br><br>- Managing and monitoring leopard quotas (CITES Decisions 18.169 (Rev. CoP20) and 20.140) | Reviewing and adopting outcomes<br><br>Next steps<br><br>Closing Remarks | *HWCC Workshop* |

# PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

## Monday, 7 December 2026

| Time | Agenda Item | Relevant Documents | Comments / Expected Outcomes |
|---|---|---|---|
| **08.00-09.00** | **Registration** | | |
| **09.00-10.00** | **Session 1**<br>**Opening of the Meeting, Organizational Matters, and Context of the Meeting** | | |
| | **Opening Remarks and Introductions** | No document | • Opening remarks by the two Secretariats.<br>• Welcome remarks by the representative of the Government of Zimbabwe. |
| | **Election of Chair** | No document | • The Chair is elected. |
| | **Adoption of the Meeting Schedule and Annotated Agenda** | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.1 Meeting Schedule<br>CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.2 Provisional Meeting Schedule and Annotated Agenda | • The Meeting Schedule and Annotated Agenda are adopted. |
| | **Setting the context of the meeting**<br>Background, objectives and *modus operandi* of the meeting | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Inf.2 Rules of Procedure - CITES<br><br>CITES-CMS/ACI3/Inf.3 Rules of Procedure - CMS | • The Secretariats highlight the background, objectives and *modus operandi* of the meeting.<br>• Range States agree on the *modus operandi* of the meeting. |
| **10:00-11:00** | **Session 2**<br>**Implementing the ACI Programme of Work** | | |
| | CITES and CMS Secretariat reports and updates, including new mandates | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.3 CITES and CMS Secretariat Reports | • The Secretariats provide overviews of CITES and CMS activities and mandates since the 2nd ACI Range States Meeting in 2023<br>• The Reports are noted. |
| **11.00-11.30** | **Group Picture and Coffee / Tea break** | | |
| **11.00-13.00** | **Session 2**<br>**Implementing the ACI Programme of Work (cont.)** | | |
| | ACI species conservation status: Presentations and updates | No document | • Experts from the IUCN Species Survivals Specialist Groups on Cats, Canids and Hyaenas present overviews on the conservation statuses of the ACI species.<br>• Q&A |

| Time | Agenda Item | Relevant Documents | Comments / Expected Outcomes |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Summary of questionnaire responses | No document | • The Secretariats provide an overview of the responses received from ACI Range States to the questionnaire circulated. |
| **13.00-14.00** | **Lunch** | | |
| **14.00-16.00** | **Session 3**<br>**Intersessional Working Group outcomes** | | |
| | Governance arrangements of ACI<br>- Working Group presentation on proposed governance options<br>- Discussing and agreeing on a governance structure | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.4 Report of Governance Working Group | • Benin (Chair of the Working Group) presents the discussions and outcomes.<br>• Range States discuss the outcomes and agree on next steps to establish a governance structure. |
| **16.00-16.30** | **Coffee / Tea break** | | |
| **16.30-18.00** | **Session 3**<br>**Intersessional Working Group outcomes (cont.)** | | |
| | African Lion Database<br>- Presenting and adopting the Terms of Use<br>- Discussing the future scope of the ALD and an African Carnivores Database | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.5 Report of African Lion Database | • Zimbabwe (Chair of the Working Group) presents the discussions and outcomes.<br>• Range States discuss the Terms of Use and agree on next steps. |

**Tuesday, 8 December 2026**

| Time | Agenda | Relevant Documents | Comments/Expected outcomes |
|---|---|---|---|
| **09.00-11.00** | **Session 4**<br>**Focused discussions** | | |
| | Results of the *Comparative study of African lion population trends and conservation and management practices* (AC34 recommendation – AC34 SR) | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.6 | • The CITES Secretariat will introduce the study and recommendations arising from the Animals Committee concerning the consideration of its findings by range States when reviewing the ACI Programme of Work. |
| | Transboundary conservation and connectivity – identifying priority cross-border populations of ACI species and their corridors | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Inf.4 CMS Resolution 11.24 (Rev.COP15) | • The CMS Secretariat will introduce prospective work on the identification of priority sites and corridors, based on the example of the CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative for consideration of inclusion in the revised ACI Programme of Work. |
| | Updates to the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa* and the *Roadmap for the Conservation of Leopards in Africa* | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.7<br>CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.8 | • The CITES and CMS Secretariat will introduce the amendments made to the Lion Guidelines and the Leopard Roadmap and explain next steps on integrating amendments in the documents.<br>• Range States are requested to review and endorse the document / process. |
| **11.00-11.30** | **Coffee / Tea break** | | |
| **11.30-13.00** | **Session 5**<br>**Reviewing the updated ACI Programme of Work:** | | |
| | Review of updated ACI Programme of Work:<br><br>- Objectives 1-11<br><br>Working Groups | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.9 | • Range States will split into Working Groups to review the Objectives of the updated ACI Programme of Work and amend it as necessary. |
| **13.00-14.00** | **Lunch** | | |
| **14.00-16.00** | **Session 5**<br>**Reviewing the updated ACI Programme of Work (cont.):** | | |
| | Review of updated ACI Programme of Work cont:<br><br>- Objectives 1-11<br><br>Working Groups | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.9 | • Continued |

| Time | Agenda | Relevant Documents | Comments/Expected outcomes |
|---|---|---|---|
| **16.00-16.30** | **Coffee / Tea break** | | |
| **16.30-18.00** | **Session 6**<br>**Focused discussions – Range States only** | | |
| | Managing and monitoring leopard quotas (CITES Decisions 18.169 (Rev. CoP20) and 20.140) | | • Zimbabwe and South Africa will share information relating to the management and monitoring of leopard and hunting quotas based on discussions among Parties with leopard quotas established under CITES Resolution 10.14 (Rev. CoP19). |

**Wednesday, 9 December 2026**

| Time | Agenda | Relevant Documents | Comments/Expected outcomes |
|---|---|---|---|
| **09.00-13.00** | **Field trip** | | |
| **13.00-14.00** | **Lunch** | | |
| **14.00-16.00** | **Session 7**<br>**Funding implementation of the revised ACI POW** | | |
| | Presentation on potential funding and financing mechanisms. | No document | • Ms. Hannah Fairbank (GEF Secretariat), Ms. Sue Snyman (ALU, School of Wildlife Conservation), Ms. Julia Levin (Endangered Wildlife Trust), Ms. Kyra Lunderstedt (Sustainable Finance Coalition) will present established funds and innovative financing opportunities potentially available for the implementation of the ACI Programme of Work. |
| **16.00-16.30** | **Coffee / Tea break** | | |
| **16.30-18.00** | **Session 8**<br>**Finalization of meeting** | | |
| | **Reviewing and adopting outcomes** | CITES-CMS/ACI3/Doc.9 | • Range States will review and endorse the final revised ACI Programme of Work. |
| | **Next steps** | No document | • The Secretariats will set out the next steps for the ACI, based on the discussions of Range States during the meeting. |
| | **Closing Remarks** | No document | • The Host Government will close the meeting. |

**Thursday, 10 December 2026**

**09:00 – 18:00 Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Workshop**

Detailed agenda forthcoming