



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE AFRICAN LION, *Panthera leo*

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th Meeting (Quito, 4-9 November 2014)

Aware that, in 2012, the IUCN-SSC Cat Specialist Group classified *Panthera leo* as Vulnerable, with an estimated global population reduction of approximately 30% over the past two decades (three generations); African lions occupying as little as 17% of their historic range; 42% of major lion populations in decline; and a substantial decline in lions outside protected areas;

Conscious that lions continue to face a number of threats leading to population declines and fragmentation, including indiscriminate killing (primarily as a result of retaliatory or pre-emptive killing to protect life and livestock), prey base depletion, habitat loss and conversion, disease, illegal international trade in lion products and unsustainable offtakes from poorly managed trophy hunting operations;

Aware that *Panthera leo* is presently listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and that CITES is undertaking a review to assess the need for stronger protection of the species; and mindful of the need to strengthen cohesion between the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES;

Concerned that lion populations are becoming increasingly isolated from each other, and that the biological and genetic viability of some populations are in question;

Noting that an updated assessment of *Panthera leo* by the IUCN, to be published in 2015, is widely expected to show continuing declines among lion populations, particularly in west and central Africa;

Recognizing that regional strategies for west/central and east/southern Africa, developed approximately a decade ago, acknowledged the threats to lions and identified potential solutions, but have failed to stop or reverse declines in lion range and numbers; and mindful of the need to define alternative measures to strengthen the protection of the species;

Noting that *Panthera leo*, as defined by Wilson & Reeder (2005), and all its evolutionarily significant constituents, including *Panthera leo persica*, satisfy the Convention's definition of 'migratory species'; and that Article VII.5(e) of the Convention mandates the Conference of the Parties to 'make recommendations to the Parties for improving the conservation status of migratory species', regardless of whether such species are listed on the CMS Appendices;

Noting that the strategic plan for migratory species 2015-2023, has the mission “to promote actions to ensure the favourable conservation status of migratory species and their habitats, and to ensure the ecological integrity, connectivity and resilience of migration systems”;

Recognizing the vital contribution made by the CMS Scientific Council through its technical and scientific support for improving the conservation of migratory species, including terrestrial mammal species, for example through its development of the Central Asian Mammal Initiative adopted at its 18th Meeting (Bonn, Germany, 1-3 July 2014);

Noting further the Government of Kenya’s proposal to the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to include the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) in Appendix I of the Convention and to include all other subspecies of the lion (*Panthera leo*) in Appendix II of the Convention; and

Considering that, in order for Parties to make an informed decision concerning the Appendix II listing of *Panthera leo*, more detailed information on the basis of additional consultations is required concerning its population status in all Range States;

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Requests* the Range State Parties and *invites* other Range States of *Panthera leo* to review the outcome of the IUCN process that followed the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to CITES in 2004, and the resulting *Conservation Strategy for the lion in Eastern and Southern Africa* (December 2006) and the *Conservation Strategy for the lion in West and Central Africa* (February 2006), based on the outcome of the latest IUCN assessment when available, in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of these strategies;
2. *Requests* the Range State Parties and *invites* other Range States to consult with each other concerning the population status of *Panthera leo*, and *requests* the Secretariat to provide assistance in this regard;
3. *Requests* the Range State Parties and *invites* other Range States to consult with the CITES Secretariat through national focal points to receive information from the currently ongoing process for the species;
4. *Recommends* a meeting of Range State Parties, other Range States, and partner organizations, including representatives from the CMS Scientific Council, to be convened as a matter of urgency in order to assess and evaluate the implementation of the Conservation Strategy for the lion in Eastern and Southern Africa (2006) and the Conservation Strategy for the lion in West and Central Africa (2006), and develop regional conservation action plans designed to reverse population declines and possible needs for capacity-building in lion Range States;
5. *Requests* the Range State Parties to present a review of progress to the 44th and 45th Meetings of the Standing Committee;

6. *Invites* the Range State Parties, subject to the findings of consultations among Range States and relevant stakeholders, to work towards an Appendix II listing proposal to be presented to the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
7. *Invites* partners and donors to consider providing financial assistance to support this process.