



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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12th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Manila, Philippines, 23 - 28 October 2017
Agenda Item 24.3.2

CONSERVATION OF THE AFRICAN WILD ASS (*Equus africanus*)

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

As requested by the African Wild Ass Range States during the 1st International Range State Meeting in Bonn, Germany 6-7 March 2017, the Secretariat has prepared the draft Resolution contained in Annex 1 of this document.

Implementation of the attached draft Resolution will contribute towards achieving Targets 1, 6 – 8, 10 – 11, 13, and 15 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015 – 2023.

CONSERVATION OF THE AFRICAN WILD ASS (*Equus africanus*)

Background

1. The African Wild Ass underwent a severe decline, with the global wild population decreasing by 90 per cent since 1980. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, which estimates that there are at most 200 mature individuals in the wild today, though that number could be much smaller. Many threats have made the survival of this species increasingly difficult, most significantly a scarcity of drinking water and forage due to competition with overgrazing livestock. Known wild populations are present in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the State of Eritrea. Additional populations could further exist in former Range States of the Republic of Djibouti, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Republic of Sudan, although there is currently insufficient information. As a critically endangered transboundary species with current and former range extending across boundaries of several CMS Parties, the African Wild Ass is well placed to benefit from protection under the Convention. Proposals have been submitted by the Range States of Ethiopia and Eritrea, to list the African Wild Ass on Appendix I of CMS. Immediate and decisive intervention is needed to mitigate the high probability that this unique species will soon be extinct in the wild.
2. Previously, the Range States of Ethiopia and Eritrea independently developed their own Action Plans; additionally, the 2002 IUCN Equid Action Plan ([Equids: Zebras, Asses, and Horses: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan](#)) includes a section for the African Wild Ass. However, no current range-wide strategy exists for the species under any international agreement.
3. In March 2017, the 1st International African Wild Ass Range State Meeting was convened in Bonn, Germany, to bring together current and former Range States and create a range-wide conservation strategy. The Government of Germany generously financed the meeting.
4. This document does not follow the current nomenclatural reference for terrestrial mammals adopted by CMS, i.e. Wilson, D. E. & Reeder, D. M. (ed.) (2005): *Mammal Species of the World. A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference*. Third edition, John Hopkins University Press. The proposal follows instead the nomenclature for the taxon adhered to by CITES as described in [CITES CoP15 Doc12](#), which lists the African Wild Ass as *Equus africanus* to emphasize the wild form of the species in preference to synonymous name for the domestic form, *Equus asinus*.

Recommended Actions

5. The Conference of the Parties is requested to:
 - a) Take note of the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass contained in Inf.19
 - b) Adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex 1 of this document
 - c) Adopt the draft Decision contained in Annex 2 of this document

ANNEX 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

CONSERVATION OF THE AFRICAN WILD ASS (*Equus africanus*)

Concerned that the African Wild Ass is likely go extinct in the wild without immediate and decisive intervention,

Noting the dire global conservation status of the critically endangered African Wild Ass, which has a maximum of 200, and possibly as few as 50, mature individuals left in the wild, and experienced an approximate 90 per cent decline over its range since the 1980s,

Noting that it was once a widespread species across northern Africa and the Horn of Africa, and an intrinsic part of the ecosystem in that region,

Concerned about the unabated threats to the species, such as limited access to drinking water and lack of forage, recurrent and extreme droughts throughout the range, and hunting for food and medicinal purposes in some parts of the range,

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

1. *Encourages* current and former Range States to implement the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass, contained in UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.19 as the principal strategy for conservation of the African wild ass.
2. *Urges* current and former Range States to include conservation measures stated in the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass within their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
3. *Invites* Range States to develop and implement national legislation to increase the protection of the African wild ass.
4. *Requests* the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the State of Eritrea to monitor the existing populations of the African wild ass.
5. *Requests* the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the State of Eritrea and *invites* the former Range States to report to the Conference of the Parties at each meeting and to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Equid Specialist Group on the progress of implementation of the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass.
6. *Encourages* Parties, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations and donors to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Range State and to the Secretariat for implementing the actions set out by the Roadmap for the Conservation of the African Wild Ass.

DRAFT DECISION

CONSERVATION OF THE AFRICAN WILD ASS (*Equus africanus*)

Directed to the Republic of Djibouti, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Republic of Sudan

12.AA Requests the Republic of Djibouti, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Federal Republic of Somalia, as former Range States and Invites the Republic of Sudan to conduct research into whether naturally occurring extant populations of the African Wild Ass remain in their territory, and to report their findings at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.