



Consequences for hunters

of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP17)

24 September – 5 October 2016

Johannesburg, South Africa

1. Hunting trophies

The EU proposed a far-reaching set of proposals containing a series of new requirements and conditions. South Africa made a counter proposal with less conditions. The two discussed and agreed in a small working group on a common proposal for a Resolution, which was then unanimously adopted by the Conference of the Parties (CoP). The main topics of this Resolution are:

The export of hunting trophies of all species listed in Appendix I or II requires an **export permit** except when they are considered as personal and household effects. This was so far the case for all Appendix II trophies except elephant and rhino.

Definition of hunting trophy:

a whole animal, or readily recognizable part or derivative thereof, as specified on the accompanying CITES permit; raw, processed or manufactured; legally obtained by the hunter through hunting for the hunter's personal use; imported, exported or re-exported by or on behalf of the hunter, as part of the transfer from its country of origin, ultimately to the hunter's State of usual residence.

Sustainability of trophy hunting

Parties exporting hunting trophies must ensure that trophy hunting is sustainably managed, does not undermine the conservation of target species and, as appropriate, provides benefits to local communities by having in place a robust regulatory framework relating to the harvesting of trophies; an effective enforcement mechanism with adequate deterrents in the form of penalties for noncompliance; a monitoring system designed to effectively monitor population trends and status, and an adaptive management system through which harvest levels can be adjusted according to the needs of the specific population and based on results of the monitoring programme.

Trophy hunting of Appendix I species should produce conservation benefits and thus may benefit from having a benefit sharing or incentive system in place to ensure that harvesting contributes to the offsetting of the cost of living with certain species such as elephants.

Parties should consider the contribution of hunting to species conservation and socio-economic benefits, and its role in providing incentives for people to conserve wildlife, when considering stricter domestic measures and making decisions relating to the import of hunting trophies.

Parties should make every reasonable effort to **notify range States** of the species concerned at as early a stage as possible **prior to the adoption of stricter measures** relating to trade in hunting trophies.

On top of all this, the EU, the USA and several other countries will maintain or adopt legislation requiring an import permit for Appendices I and II hunting trophies.

2. A procedure to review the quotas established for leopard skins

Parties, which have quotas are requested to review these quotas, and consider whether they are still set at levels which are non-detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, and to share the outcomes of the review and the basis for the determination that the quota is not detrimental, with the Animals Committee, which may lead to proposals for amendments at CoP18.

3. The African lion

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on Migratory Species and IUCN:

- a) Investigate possible mechanisms to develop and support the implementation of joint lion conservation plans and strategies, taking into consideration existing lion conservation plans and strategies;
- b) Develop an inventory of African lion populations across its range, taking due consideration of existing inventories developed by African lion range States;
- c) Support the development of relevant databases by African lion range States;
- d) Develop strategies to reinforce international cooperation on the management of lions;
- e) Undertake studies on legal and illegal trade in lions, including lion bones and other parts and derivatives, to ascertain the origin and smuggling routes, in collaboration with TRAFFIC and/or other relevant organizations;
- f) Undertake a comparative study of lion population trends and conservation and management practices, such as lion hunting, within and between countries, including the role, if any, of international trade;
- g) Support capacity-building in lion conservation and management, including where appropriate the making of non-detriment findings where a range State requests it;
- h) Support public awareness raising as well as education programmes in African lion range States, to support co-existence between humans and lions and to promote measures for the conservation and recovery of African lion populations;

- i) Promote fundraising, as part of its overall fundraising initiatives, to support the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lion and for a CITES Task Force on African lions;
- j) Create a portal on the CITES website to permit, amongst other things, the posting and sharing of information and voluntary guidance on the making of non-detriment findings for African lion; and
- k) Report on the progress relating to paragraph a) – j) to the Animals Committee.

The Animals Committee shall further review the taxonomy and standard nomenclature of *Panthera leo* and report its recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) Consider the reports submitted by the Animals Committee;
- b) Recommend further actions to be taken; including the possible need for the development of a Resolution on the conservation of African lion;
- c) Establish a CITES Task Force on African lions, inviting the participation of all African lion range States, consumer states for lion parts and derivatives, and relevant enforcement bodies, including the members of the ICCWC the Task Force;
- d) Provide Terms of Reference and modus operandi for this Task Force; and
- e) Consider the establishment of a multi-donor technical trust fund to attract funding and direct resources for the work of the CITES Task Force on African lions and to support the effective implementation of conservation and management plans and strategies for African lion.

Chad and other countries proposed the transfer of all populations of **Lion** to Appendix I.

The Conference adopted the following Decisions instead:

- A zero annual export quota is established for specimens of bones, bone pieces, bone products, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth removed from the wild and traded for *commercial* purposes (note: thus, not for hunting trophies).
- Annual export quotas for trade in bones, bone pieces, bone products, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth for *commercial* purposes, derived from captive breeding operations in South Africa will be established and communicated annually to the CITES Secretariat.

4. The role of rural communities in managing ‘their’ wildlife was an important issue at the meeting.

A working group of Parties and representatives of rural communities is to consider how to effectively engage rural communities in the CITES processes, leading to proposals for CoP18 in 2019.

5. Livelihoods

New case studies will be conducted on how legal and sustainable trade can generate economic incentives for the conservation of wildlife and improvement of livelihoods of indigenous and local communities. The CITES Secretariat is to facilitate workshops and side-events to showcase successful livelihood experiences and exchange lessons learnt, in collaboration with interested Parties and relevant international and regional organizations.

On another front, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, which, among other things, strongly encourages Member States to support the livelihoods of rural communities through “the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use, enhancing the rights and capacity of the members of such communities to manage and benefit from wildlife”.

It goes without saying that these developments are of major importance for the recognition of trophy hunting for sustainable wildlife management with important financial benefits for rural communities.

6. Decisions of interest concerning other species

- The **wood bison** was deleted from Appendix II.
- *Capra caucasica* was listed in Appendix II.
- *Puma concolor coryi* and *P.c. cougar* were transferred from Appendix I to II.
- The **Cape Mountain Zebra** was also transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II.

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