

REPORT ON JOINT CITES-CMS AFRICAN LION RANGE STATE MEETING

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Lions, *Panthera leo*, are listed on CITES Appendix II, with the Asian population, *Panthera leo persica*, listed on Appendix I. The species is not listed on the CMS Appendices.

Lions have been under the Periodic Review process of CITES for a number of years. This process, which is led by the Scientific Committees of CITES, aims at evaluating whether species are correctly listed in the CITES Appendices and meet relevant listing criteria. Kenya and Namibia agreed to assist with this review by submitting a report on the conservation status of the lion to the Animals Committee. A draft of this report was part of the discussion at the joint CITES-CMS meeting. Furthermore, lions are likely to be discussed at the 17th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES (COP17), scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 24 September to 5 October 2016.

At the same time, through Resolution 11.32, Parties to CMS have decided to work towards the inclusion of lions in Appendix II of CMS, to be discussed at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CMS (COP12) in 2017. In the same Resolution, CMS Parties requested Range States to: review the IUCN regional strategies for Western, Central, Eastern and Southern African lion populations; consult with the CITES Secretariat on ongoing processes related to lions under CITES; and convene a meeting among Range States and experts to assess and evaluate the implementation of the IUCN regional conservation strategies. A review of the implementation of the IUCN strategies has taken place already and was shared with lion Range States that are Parties to CMS.

There was a need to organize joint CITES-CMS consultation forum that can provide an opportunity for African Range States to take stock of lion conservation measures across the range and discuss a continent-wide, clear and concrete roadmap for the conservation of this iconic African species. To this end, a joint CITES-CMS African Lion Range State meeting was held from 30 to 31 May 2016, in Entebbe, Uganda. Ethiopia, as a range state to the species in question has taken part in the joint meeting where the following main agendas were addressed:

- Lion conservation status –
 - ✓ Findings of CMS Review of IUCN Regional Lion Strategies (IUCN Cat Specialist);
 - ✓ Findings of CITES Periodic Review Process (Compiled by Kenya and Namibia);

- Identification of information gaps, 'lessons learned'/'best management practices', conservation opportunities and threats;
- Review of IUCN Regional Lion Conservation Strategies: (Do they cover the identified threats? How can they be used in the CITES/CMS context?);
- Possible listing of lions under CMS – comprehensive conservation approach; and
- Listing of lions under CITES.

Finally, based on the outcome of the meeting the roadmap was discussed and a communiqué (attached herewith) was developed.