

**5th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the
CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC5)**

Online, 28 June – 9 July 2021

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC5/Doc.6.3.1.2

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CHEETAH (*ACINONYX JUBATUS*) AND
AFRICAN WILD DOG (*LYCAON PICTUS*)**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

On the basis of CMS Decision 13.94, the Sessional Committee is recommended to establish an intersessional working group with the mandate to review the conservation status of Cheetah populations of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe and to report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its 6th meeting on its findings as well as recommendations concerning possible amendments to the list of Cheetah populations presently excluded from CMS Appendix I for its review and to inform a decision at COP14.

The Sessional Committee may wish to identify relevant focal persons to serve on the working group.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CHEETAH (*ACINONYX JUBATUS*) AND AFRICAN WILD DOG (*LYCAON PICTUS*)

Background

1. CMS Decision 13.94 on the *Conservation and Management of the Cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus) and African Wild Dog (Lycaon pictus)* and directed to the Scientific Council provides:

The Scientific Council should, after consultation with the respective Range States affected, make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties concerning possible amendments to the list of Cheetah populations presently excluded from CMS Appendix I to reflect the current conservation status and inform a Decision by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting.

2. The Cheetah was listed on Appendix I of CMS in 2009, excluding the populations of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe. While Botswana and Namibia are not Parties to CMS, Zimbabwe joined CMS in 2012. Zimbabwe's Cheetah population was not included in Appendix I, and no reservation was submitted by Zimbabwe upon its accession to CMS.
3. The Cheetah is also one of the four species of the Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) and therefore the activity under this Decision is also included in the draft Programme of Work for the ACI, which has been developed by the CMS Secretariat in close cooperation with the CITES Secretariat and IUCN, as per Decisions 13.86 to 13.87 *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative*. Any recommendations made regarding possible amendments to the list of Cheetah populations on CMS Appendix I will directly affect activities conducted under the draft Programme of Work for the ACI.
4. As instructed by COP13, the Scientific Council should, after consultation with the respective Range States affected, make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties concerning possible amendments to the list of Cheetah populations presently excluded from CMS Appendix I to reflect the current conservation status and inform a Decision by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting. To execute this task and obtain the relevant information for discussion at its next session, the Scientific Council may wish to establish an intersessional working group, working by electronic means.

Recommended actions

5. The Sessional Committee is recommended to establish an intersessional working group with the mandate to review the conservation status of Cheetah populations of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe and to report to the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council at its 6th meeting on its findings as well as recommendations concerning possible amendments to the list of Cheetah populations presently excluded from CMS Appendix I for its review and to inform a decision at COP14.
6. The Sessional Committee may wish to identify relevant focal persons to serve on the working group, including but not limited to the Party-appointed members of the Sessional Committee from the African region, representatives of the concerned Range States, the Scientific Councillor for Terrestrial Mammals, experts from the IUCN Cat Specialist Group.