



**PeLeWG  
Constituent  
Assembly**

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Mohammad Farhadinia

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CMS/IUCN Persian Leopard Meeting

# Supporting the implementation of the PeLe Conservation Strategy

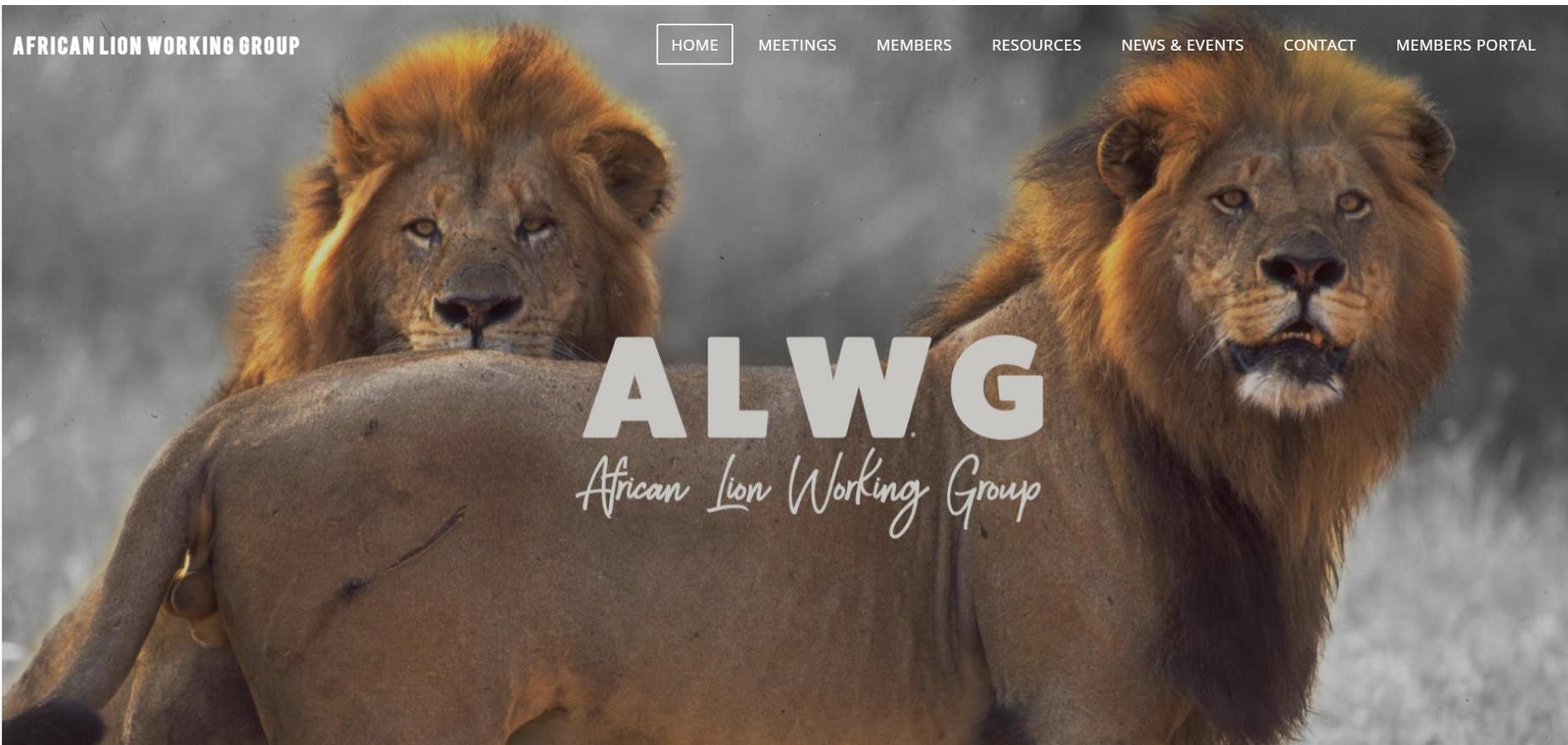
- The *Strategy* will not implement itself – **we** need to support it!
- Proposal: The experts who have participated in the development workshops for drafting the *Strategy* should remain in contact and form a permanent **Persian Leopard Working Group**.
- The group should...
  - Regularly exchange information, reports, publications on the PeLe in all Range Countries
  - Inform the authorities of their home countries about PeLe research and conservation
  - Support the Range Countries in the development/update of National Action Plans, the design of monitoring schemes and the launching of research and/or conservation projects
  - Supervise the implementation of the *Strategy* in their home countries and support the national authorities in reporting
  - Support the Cat SG in the continued assessment of the PeLe

## For more specific objectives, the CSG distinguishes two forms of groups:

- 1. Cat SG Working Groups:** These are specific subsets of the Cat SG taking care of a certain theme (e.g. genetics, taxonomy, distribution mapping) and are either permanent or limited to a specific term. All member of such an internal WG are members of the Cat SG and hence of IUCN SSC.
- 2. Affiliated Groups:** These are species-related or regional WGs which are independent from IUCN SSC, but have a cooperation agreement with the Cat SG

Although membership in an Affiliated Group (AG) is sovereign from SSC and the Cat SG, a group must fulfil a set of prerequisites to be affiliated (e.g. sign a MoU) with the Cat SG.

# African Lion Working Group as similar example



# Supporting the implementation of the PeLe Conservation Strategy

The Persian Leopard Working Group Constituent Assembly was formed following a general call the participants of the PeLe conservation strategy workshops

Three meetings in summer 2022

## Members of the PeLeWG Constituent Assembly

1. Arash Ghoddousi
2. Deniz Mengüllüoğlu
3. Emre Can
4. Hana Raza
5. Igor Khorozyan
6. Mohammad Farhadinia
7. Aurel Heidelberg
8. Shirin Karryeva
9. Tanya Rosen
10. Urs Breitenmoser
11. Zalmai Moheb
12. Muhammad Kabir

## **An Affiliate Group must have an organisational structure including:**

1. A mission statement and goals
2. A defined membership
3. A defined structure
4. An operational communication system and a transparent reporting

# 1. PeLe Working Group: Mission

Persian Leopard Working Group (PeLeWG) brings together specialists involved in the study and conservation of Persian leopard in nature and in captivity, and other interested people to exchange information and experience, provide advice, and organize joint projects and to support the implementation of the Persian Leopard Conservation Strategy

**Mission:** The mission is to ensure the continued existence of Persian leopards and their prey in coexistence with local communities in their native habitats

# 1. PeLe Working Group: Goals

1. Accumulate available information about Persian leopard and regularly exchange information, reports, publications on the PeLe in all range countries
2. Inform the authorities of their home countries about Persian leopard research and conservation (e.g. developing MoU with range countries and international organizations such as the CMS)
3. Expert advice and support the range countries in the development/update of National Action Plans, the design of monitoring schemes and the launching of research and/or conservation projects under Persian Leopard Conservation Strategy
4. Provision of expertise and technical support for the implementation of the Strategy in their home countries and support the national authorities in reporting (e.g. related to the CMS general requirements)
5. Disseminate the progress report (every 3 years) on the latest activities, outcomes and achievements on Persian leopard conservation and research in range countries as well as related institutions
6. Support the Cat SG in the continued assessment of the Persian leopard
7. Facilitation of the research and conservation projects on Persian leopards and their habitats

## 2. PeLe Working Group: Membership

- **Membership criteria:**

1. Experience and skills in working with leopards/prey supported by tangible evidence which can be transparently checked (e.g., reports, papers, videos, etc)
2. Membership is competitive and based solely on the applicant's merits regardless of gender, education, ethnicity, religion, and other personal factors
3. Any person active in working on PeLe and/or its prey, in situ or ex situ
4. Applicants must provide a half-page motivation letter (written in a native language or English), clearly describing the applicant's current experience with Persian leopard and/or its prey
5. Sign the application form and the ethics form (to be developed by the PeLeWG)
6. Fluency in English is an advantage
7. Members of PeLeWG can be consulted on potential membership of the candidates
8. Active communication within the PeLeWG

- **Selection process:**

1. Membership will be decided four times a year by members of the steering committee
2. Membership lasts 4 years and can be extended by invitation of the PeLeWG if the applicant's status report is satisfactory

### **3. PeLe Working Group: PeLeWG steering committee (SC) structure**

1. Preferably all range countries are represented in the PeLeWG Steering committee
2. The SC consists of 11-15 members (from at least 11 countries)
3. There are no more than 2 members at the SC from each country
4. All decision approved by more than 50%
5. The election held every three years (within 3 months after the submission of the three years progress report to the members)
6. Positions are announced to the members of the PeLeWG
7. Nominated persons will be elected based on the number of votes (with representation of each country)
8. The steering committee is co-chaired, to be elected within the SC for 3 years
9. The chair and the deputy chair facilitate the tasks of the SC, voted by the SC members

### **3. PeLe Working Group: PeLeWG Steering committee tasks**

1. Coordinate the election process of the steering committee members
2. Coordinate the selection process of new applicants for membership and supporting the potential members with their application to the PeLeWG
3. Coordinate collaborations (such as MoU) and communication with the CSG and other partner organizations (e.g., EAZA, EEP, CMS)
4. Coordinate information sharing between range countries, members, and international partners about the PeLeWG activities, research outcomes or conservation progress
5. Coordinate the reporting process, such as status reports for the CatSG and three-year reports to the range countries
6. Hold quarterly meetings of the steering committee
7. Hold meetings and training workshops with the PeLeWG members
8. Support range countries in developing funding proposals and coordinate the sharing of available resources based on transparent selection process
9. Advocate range countries in the development/update of National Action Plans (e.g., provide NAP structure), the design of monitoring schemes and the launching of research and/or conservation projects under Persian Leopard Conservation Strategy

## **4. PeLe Working Group: An operational communication system and a transparent reporting**

1. Serve on committees and thematic teams aimed to prioritize topics for future actions;
2. Participate in the identification of priorities and implementation of research, management and conservation initiatives (e.g., PeLeWG projects, review proposals and reports);
3. Participate in the collection and consolidation of databases and contribution of information, maps and photos for the use by PeLeWG;
4. Actively communicate on news, updates and emerging threats to Persian leopard and prey within range countries
5. Participate in international research and conservation efforts (e.g., IUCN Red List and Green List Assessment)
6. Respond promptly to invitations to elections, meetings, evaluation, etc. by the Steering Committee
7. The external communication related to the PeleWG official positions/statements will be done by the chair/deputy chair with approval of the Steering Committee;