



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 29.6

CMS JAGUAR INITIATIVE (*Panthera onca*)

(Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Paraguay)

Summary:

All proponent States submit this resolution in accordance with document UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.27.1.2. They state their intent that all states in the jaguar distribution area reach agreements and complete joint actions in order to ensure cooperative implementation of conservation measures and action plans for the jaguar.

CMS JAGUAR INITIATIVE (*Panthera onca*)

Background

1. Through document UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.27.1.2 dated September 25, 2019, CMS Member States (including the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Paraguay, the Republic of Peru, and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay) submitted the proposal to include the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in CMS Appendices I and II.
2. The proposal was approved by consensus as stated in the COP13 outcome report prepared by the Secretariat (UNEP/CMS/COP13/Informe).

CMS Jaguar Initiative

3. After holding a number of meetings between the Jaguar Range State Parties and the CMS Secretariat from 2019 through 2023, it was determined to establish a CMS Jaguar Initiative, similar to the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) and the African Carnivores Initiative (ACI), which would provide various benefits to achieve an integral vision for the conservation of the jaguar throughout its distribution range. Said initiative would allow the Range States to create and implement a Work Program with the support of the Secretariat in accordance with the existing national/regional action plans for the jaguar (e.g., the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap) and benefit from the continuity and visibility of the CMS Conference of the Parties and all services provided by the CMS Secretariat. Also, all non-CMS Parties in the jaguar distribution area could join the initiative and expand the same toward the Joint CITES-CMS Initiative. This would allow for a full geographical coverage of the jaguar distribution area and would enable actions to protect all habitats/connectivity, as well as to eliminate poaching and illegal trade of the species.
4. As part of the efforts conducted by the proponent countries for including the jaguar in Appendices I and II at COP13, 2020, regional meetings were held, seeking a potential synergy between CITES, CMS and the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap, thereby achieving a consensus for the CMS jaguar initiative to be submitted on May 26, 2023 within the deadline. This allowed other CMS Parties to be incorporated and to represent the whole distribution area (e.g., Panama, Brazil, Honduras, and Ecuador). Hence, this proposal for the CMS jaguar initiative included Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, Panama, Bolivia, Brazil, Honduras, Ecuador and Costa Rica.

Discussion and analysis

5. Establishing a CMS Jaguar Initiative requires the involvement of the Conference of the Parties, because, even though there are initiatives and laws protecting jaguars in virtually all countries in the species distribution range, threats persist—especially regarding habitat destruction, loss of connectivity, poaching, and trade between the Parties.
6. A coordination tool between the States in the jaguar range is required in order to ensure stability and connectivity of their populations along their distribution range—especially of endangered sub-populations.

Recommended Action

7. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) Adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex I of this document;
 - b) Adopt the draft Decision contained in Annex II of this document.

DRAFT RESOLUTION 14.20

CMS JAGUAR INITIATIVE (*Panthera onca*)

Acknowledging that the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) has been declared an emblematic species in the Americas given its importance for conservation of natural landscapes and ecosystem functionality, as well as for representing a spiritual/cultural icon of many people throughout its distribution range, and as a symbol of the fight against illegal trade of wildlife (Lima Declaration, 2019),

Recognizing document UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.27.1.2, which attests to the inclusion of the jaguar in Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and Article IV, paragraph 4 of the Convention: "Parties are encouraged to take action with a view to concluding agreements for any population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, members of which periodically cross one or more national jurisdiction boundaries.."

Recognizing all decisions in the Future Structure process framework (including all activities in Resolution 10.9 (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.16.1)), wherein the Parties are urged to "identify any opportunities for local/national-level cooperation/coordination through the creation of geography-based synergies", and "seeking opportunities to build synergistic relationships (either geography or species grouping-based)", such as is the case with the development of a common conservation program,

Concerned by the studies concluding that, in spite of a persistently large jaguar sub-population in the Amazon, 33 of the 34 jaguar sub-populations meet the criteria for the "Endangered" or "Critically Endangered" categories, due to their small size, isolation, deficient protection, and high density of human population in the surrounding areas,

Considering Decisions 19.110 through 19.114 on the Jaguar adopted at the COP19 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (which urge strengthening the response by the States in view of growing threats to the jaguar due to poaching, retaliation due to conflicts, the trafficking of parts and by-products, and the loss of habitats and connectivity. The Decisions urge for collaboration between CITES and CMS and the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap in order to identify financing opportunities, strengthening capacities, and fostering agreed-to information handling to promote the conservation of the species,

Acknowledging the significance of collaboration between the Jaguar Range States in order to carry out actions favoring connectivity and feasibility of jaguar populations and the obligation to reach cooperation agreements for trans-border conservation of migratory species (Appendix II, CMS),

Considering the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap as a broad effort that seeks to unite 16 governments of countries in the jaguar range, non-governmental/inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector with the purpose of establishing a jaguar corridor in the species' distribution area, securing 30 priority landscapes by 2030,

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

1. *Acknowledges* that the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) needs concerted efforts of regional conservation due to loss and growing fragmentation of its range and habitat, and increased poaching and trafficking in parts. This more severely affects endangered, isolated sub-populations;
2. *Establishes* the CMS Jaguar Initiative (Initiative) as the framework to foster coordination and cooperation between all CMS Jaguar Range States, in order to enable joint action for conservation of the species and its habitat;
3. *Recommends* all Parties, non-Parties (including all CITES Parties in the jaguar range, all 2030 Jaguar Roadmap non-governmental organizations, and other institutions, communities, and individuals linked to the conservation of the jaguar) to officially join this Initiative, with the aim of creating a Joint CITES-CMS Jaguar Initiative, allowing greater cooperation in view of the threats faced by the jaguar and the deterioration of the habitat and illegal trade;
4. *Agrees* that the objective of the Initiative consists of maintaining the integrity of large/mid-sized/small jaguar populations along its distribution and connectivity between each other and between transboundary populations, considering the needs of and means of support to local communities coexisting with the jaguar;
5. *Acknowledges* that the Initiative is a tool for:
 - a) coordinating regional efforts and plans for the conservation of the jaguar in order to leverage synergies and avoid duplication of activities and associated expenses;
 - b) leveraging financing opportunities and generating resources for the conservation of the jaguar;
 - c) supporting and expanding sub-national/national, and regional jaguar conservation programmes, prioritizing those with a holistic and inclusive approach;
 - d) creating spaces and systems to exchange experiences and standardized information regarding the jaguar and any threats thereto;
 - e) increasing the interest of non-Party countries to work with CMS Parties in jaguar conservation efforts, laying the foundations to unify said efforts through the Joint CITES – CMS Jaguar Initiative.
6. *Agrees* that the Initiative must focus on:
 - a) creating and strengthening strategic alliances and bilateral/regional agreements for jaguar conservation (including transformation of this Initiative into a Joint CITES-CMS Jaguar Initiative, in line with the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap with its respective Work Programme;
 - b) preparing proposals and materials enabling funding for conservation of the species, and analyzing potential mechanisms for proper handling of funds and capacities of the Initiative, and through the creation of a jaguar fund;
 - c) defining the current distribution, per the available knowledge on the species per state of its geographical range with prioritization of significant trans-border areas, connectivity corridors, and a species preservation hub to feed all other handling steps to be developed;

- d) preparing and implementing jaguar conservation strategies in order to address threats to their survival—especially in view of illegal parts trade, poaching, and retaliation due to human conflicts, and loss of habitats, dams, and connectivity;
 - e) adopting actions that allow and ensure connectivity between jaguar populations (including the creation and official designation of biological corridors), as well as effective handling of protected areas, indigenous territories, and other effective area-based conservation action;
 - f) promoting coexistence between jaguars and local communities through efforts for changing behaviors, and adoption of productive practices and jaguar-friendly means of support —especially in priority zones for connectivity and for the reduction of hunting/trafficking;
 - g) developing the capacity of Range States to handle the conservation, management, monitoring, and enforcement of species-related law, reviewing and updating national conservation plans, and other strategies and legal frameworks, as required;
 - h) improving education and awareness of local communities and the overall population on the state of conservation and any threats to the jaguar;
 - i) widening all efforts to evaluate the state of local/regional conservation of jaguar populations and any trends thereof over time—especially of shared/trans-border populations, and monitoring any threats thereto;
 - j) fostering and enabling communication and exchange of information between Range States, and other stakeholders for species conservation (including generation of standardized systems for data collection and analysis on jaguars and the threats thereof).
7. *Agrees* that the Initiative shall be implemented through a Programme of Work considering concrete actions framed by clear objectives and quantifiable goals;
 8. *Requests* the Secretariat to hold regular meetings of the Range States with the objective of evaluating the implementation of the Programme of Work , as required, and supervise the Initiative's functionality;
 9. *Encourages* Parties, inter/non-governmental organizations, and donors to contribute to the Initiative's objectives, and to support the Initiative by providing human/financial/technical resources;
 10. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of this Resolution to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

ANNEX 2

DECISIONS DRAFT
CMS JAGUAR INITIATIVE

Directed to the Parties

14.AA Parties are requested:

- a) To cooperate with the Secretariat in preparing a Programme of Work for the CMS Jaguar Initiative;
- b) To participate in a Range State meeting to discuss and agree upon the Initiative's Programme of Work;
- c) To report to the Standing Committee at its XXth meeting on the progress toward implementing this Decision.

Directed to the Parties and Inter/Non-Governmental Organizations

14.BB The Parties, and Inter/Non-Governmental Organizations are encouraged to:

- a) Provide financial/technical support to prepare a Programme of Work and hold a meeting of the States;
- b) Unify or align all efforts in the CITES framework and 2030 Jaguar Roadmap with this Initiative.

Directed to the Standing Committee

14.CC The Standing Committee shall:

- a) Review and approve the Programme of Work submitted by the Secretariat;
- b) Report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on progress toward implementing this Decision.

Directed to the Scientific Council

14.DD The Scientific Council shall:

- a) Report to the Standing Committee at its XXth meeting on progress towards implementation of this decision.

Directed to the Secretariat

14.FF The Secretariat shall, subject to funding availability,

- a) Prepare, in close collaboration with the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap's Coordination Committee, and along with the Jaguar Range State Parties, and other relevant actors, a draft Programme of Work, aligned with the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap and all National Jaguar Action Plans;

- b) Organize a meeting of the Range States in close cooperation with the CITES Secretariat and with the support of the 2030 Jaguar Roadmap's Coordination Committee to discuss and agree upon the draft Programme of Work;
- c) Submit the Programme of Work for approval to the CMS Standing Committee.