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# Non-detriment finding for leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

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**Competing interests:** The authors declare no competing interests in relation to this non-detriment finding (NDF).

**Date:** 23.09.2025

**Scientific name:** *Panthera pardus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Common names:** Leopard, panther.

**Norwegian name:** Leopard.

**Type of permit:** CITES Appendix I; Norwegian CITES Regulation Annex 1, list A

Country of export: Mozambique (MZ)

Country of import: Norway (NO)

**Purpose and source:** The proposal concerns the import (purpose-of-transaction code H) to Norway from Mozambique of hunting trophies (skin and skull) from one leopard individual (source code W). The self-locking, non-reusable tag attached to the skin should have the number: MZ PAR 118/2024 0000048 as given in block 9 of the export permit.

For Appendix I species (Norwegian CITES Regulation Annex 1, list A) it is required to establish that import will not be detrimental to the survival of that species, in compliance with CITES Article III. In the Norwegian CITES regulation (Lovdata, 2018) the criteria for import to Norway are described in Chapter 2, Section 4.

VKM has adopted the definition of detriment, cf. Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) suggested by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Scientific Authority:

1. Harvest that is not sustainable.
2. Harvest that harms the status of the species in the wild.
3. Removal from the wild that results in habitat loss or destruction, or that interferes with recovery efforts for a species.

**Conclusion:** *Positive*

**VKM concludes that the import of one *Panthera pardus* hunting trophy (skin and skull) from Mozambique to Norway will not have a harmful effect on the conservation status of the species.**

The import will be in agreement with CITES Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19).

## 1. Biological information

### Distribution

*Panthera pardus* has a wide, but increasingly patchy distribution covering areas in Asia and Africa. The IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group proposes eight leopard subspecies of which *Panthera pardus pardus* is found across sub-Saharan Africa (Stein et al., 2025). The species is abundant in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces of South Africa, that are bordering to Mozambique (Stein et al., 2025). The population in Mozambique has been negatively impacted by armed conflicts, and its status is largely unknown (Briers-Louw et al., 2024).

### Life history

The generation time of *P. pardus* is 7.42 years (Stein et al., 2025) and the expected life span is 14 years (Macdonald, 2021).

### Role in the ecosystem

*Panthera pardus pardus* is found in various habitats and its diet and habitat use will adapt to food availability pertaining to presence of competing predators. It has relatively high tolerance to human presence and can reach high densities if hunting pressure is low and if prey is abundant (Stein et al., 2025).

## 2. Population trend

The population of *P. p. pardus* is decreasing overall, in sub-Saharan Africa much of the population is found outside protected areas and is in decline (Stein et al., 2025).

## 3. Conservation status

*Panthera pardus pardus* is listed as Vulnerable A2cd on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species, the assessment was performed in 2024 (Stein et al., 2025).

## 4. Threats

Negative impacts from the rapidly growing human population causing habitat loss, deliberate or accidental killing are main threats to *P. p. pardus* (Stein et al., 2025). According to Briers-Louw et al., (2024), the hunting quota for *P. p. pardus* in Mozambique are not based on robust density estimates and could be too high and prevent population recovery.

## 5. Conservation and management measures:

### International legislation

*Panthera pardus* is listed on Appendix II by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

### Conservation measures

Trophy hunting of *P. p. pardus* in Mozambique is managed by the provincial offices of Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (MITADER, 2018).

## 6. Trade/use

### Legal

Legal trade of leopard trophies and skins is regulated through CITES Resolution Conf. 10.14 (Rev. CoP19). Mozambique has an annual quota of 120 whole skins or nearly whole skins (including hunting trophies).

### Illegal

Illegal hunting of *P. pardus* for skins and other parts occurs throughout Africa (Stein et al., 2025)

## References

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