

# Finding Common Ground in Africa: A Group Conversation

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# Outcomes for CITES CoP18 Species Proposals on Megafauna Mammals



- **Proposal #2: Saiga antelope** (both species, *Saiga tatarica* and *Saiga borealis*) - A proposal amended and adopted by consensus to have the species remain in Appendix II with a zero quota for the export of wild specimens for commercial purposes.
- **Proposal # 5: Giraffe** -A proposal to include the species in CITES Appendix II was amended to exclude Southern African populations but this proposal was rejected by a secret ballot vote of 96 Parties against, 29 in support, and 6 abstentions. Then the proposal to have the entire species included in Appendix II was adopted by a vote of 106 Parties in support, 21 Parties opposed, and 7 abstentions.
- **Proposal #8: Southern white rhino (SWR)** - A proposal by Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) to remove the existing annotations for their Appendix II population of SWR and thus, allow legal commercial trade in southern white rhino horn was rejected by a secret ballot vote with 25 Parties in support, 102 Parties against, and 7 abstentions.
- **Proposal #9: Southern white rhino (SWR)** - A proposal by Namibia to transfer their SWR populations from Appendix I to Appendix II for the purpose of allowing commercial trade in live rhinos and hunting trophies. The proposal was rejected by a secret ballot vote with 39 Parties in support, 89 Parties against, and 11 abstentions.



# Outcomes for CITES CoP18 Species Proposals on Megafauna Mammals



- ▶ **Proposal #10:** A proposal by Zambia to transfer their population of African elephant from Appendix I to Appendix II with an annotation to allow trade in registered raw ivory to approved trading parties, trade in hides and skins, and trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes. The proposal was amended to remove the ivory trade and was rejected by a vote with 22 Parties in support, 102 Parties against, and 13 abstentions.
- ▶ **Proposal #11:** A proposal by Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe to amend the Annotation to the listing of their African elephant populations in Appendix II to remove certain restrictions for trade in registered raw ivory. The consequence of the adoption of this proposal would be to allow trade for commercial purposes in registered government owned stocks of raw ivory. The proposal was rejected by a secret ballot vote with 23 Parties in support, 101 Parties against, and 18 abstentions.
- ▶ **Proposal #12:** A proposal by Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, and Togo to transfer the annotated African elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe from Appendix II to Appendix I. This proposal was rejected with 51 Parties in support, 67 Parties against, and 22 abstentions.
- ▶ **Proposal #13:** A proposal by Israel to include the extinct woolly mammoth in CITES Appendix II. The proposal was withdrawn and decisions were adopted to examine Mammoth ivory trade.



# Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18)



Geneva, Switzerland  
August 2019

## ► What We Saw & Heard:

- At CoP16 and since then, the divide among southern African Parties and Central, Eastern (Kenya), and West African Parties continues to grow and concern for its impact on the effectiveness of CITES grows too.
- At CoP18, the views and interventions in Committee I discussions of species proposals were polarizing, disparate, and the most divisive heard to date with threats by Southern African countries to evoke Article 18 to dispute resolutions, take reservations, and to withdraw from CITES. This is a concern for the United States.
- While CoP discussions center on elephants, rhinos, and other charismatic mammals, there is a need to move from species-centric discussions to encompass continent-wide conservation challenges.
- There is a need to bring the African Parties together to address continent-wide concerns such as wildlife trafficking and supporting community engagement and livelihoods.
- How do CITES Parties in Africa find common ground and rebuild trust and promote cooperation and collaboration?



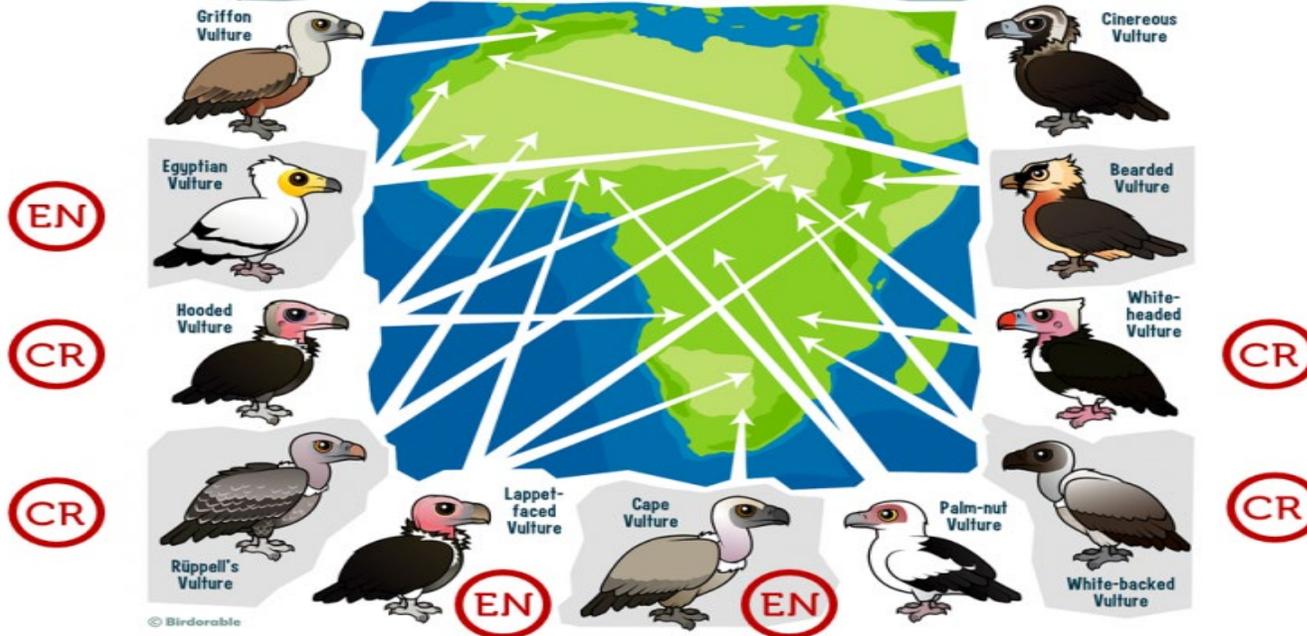
# Example of a continent wide conservation challenge - African Vulture Crisis

7 of Africa's vulture species are on the edge of **extinction**

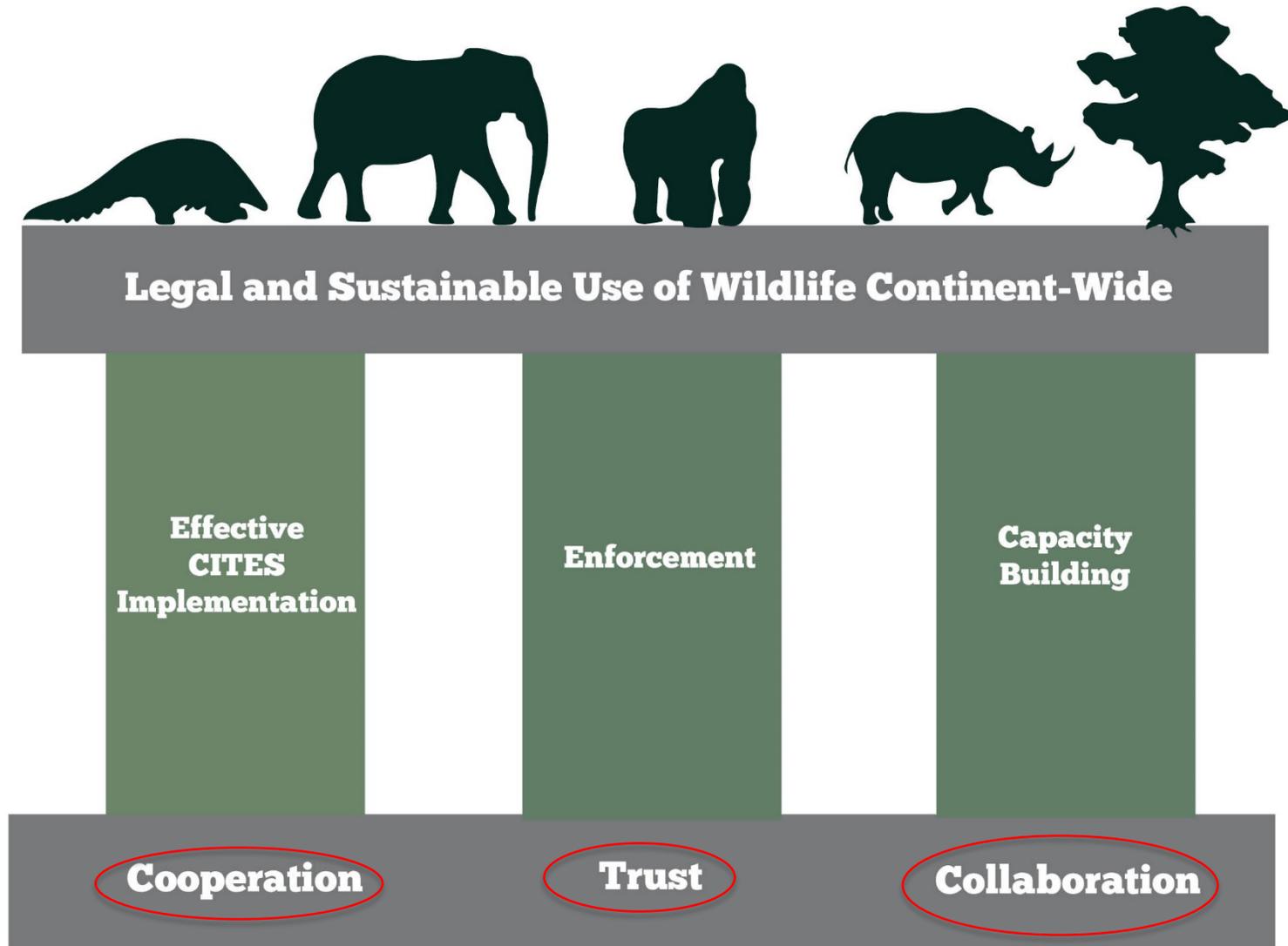


#lovevultures

[www.birdlife.org/savevultures](http://www.birdlife.org/savevultures)



# Addressing Continent-Wide Conservation Challenges



# Council Discussion Insights and Perspectives

**Finding Common Ground in Africa to  
Foster Trust, Cooperation and  
Collaboration in Conservation**

