

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Asian big cats

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 12.5 (REV. COP15)
ROLE OF THE WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL BUREAU (INDIA)

This document has been submitted by India^{*} in relation to agenda item 41 on *Asian big cats*.

^{*} *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Additional Information on implementation of the Resolution 12.5 (Rev CoP 15) regarding Conservation of and Trade in Tigers and other appendix-I Asian Big Cat Species; Role of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (India)

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is a statutory organization constituted by the Government of India in 2007, for combating organized wildlife crime and trans-boundary illegal trade of its derivatives. The Bureau is envisaged as a nodal, multidisciplinary agency consisting of personnel from Forest, Police and Customs dealing in intelligence, enforcement, investigation and prosecution relating to crimes related to endangered species of flora and fauna in country.

The mandate of the Bureau has been specified which includes collection, collation of intelligence and its dissemination, establishment of a centralized wildlife crime databank, coordination of the actions of various enforcement authorities towards the implementation of the provisions of the Act, implementation of the international Conventions, capacity building for scientific and professional investigation, assistance to authorities in other countries for a coordinated universal action towards control of wildlife crimes and to advise the government regarding various policy and legal matters.

Given the urgency to conserve the endangered species, this Bureau has felt the need to shorten its own learning curve by suitably adopting the learning curves of similar organizations like the Narcotics Control Bureau and other federal agencies. It has adopted a proactive, fast-track and multi-disciplinary strategy to reach its full potential in the shortest time. The performance of WCCB is monitored at the highest level.

Macro-level interventions by WCCB

1. Special Coordination Committee consisting of heads of apex intelligence and enforcement organizations including the Border Guarding Forces, Customs, Police, Narcotics Control Bureau, Bureau of Police & Research and Development, Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate, Coast Guard, Ministry of Defence, Civil aviation, Posts has been constituted to bring synergy amongst the different agencies to control wildlife crime.
2. WCCB is the designated nodal agency for CITES enforcement- WCCB has done significant interventions and review of the Export and Import Policy of the country; besides, sensitization programs and training modules to exit point agencies like Customs, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) etc has been done at regular intervals.
3. Foreign Office Consultation (FOCs)- Wildlife and its illegal trade has been included in the agenda of some important bilateral meetings with neighboring countries including visits to Nepal, Myanmar, China and Bangladesh.
4. Publication of 'Manual on Species in Wildlife trade and their identification' for the enforcement agencies by the Bureau in 2011.
5. Convening of multi-agency coordination meetings in different parts of the country to mainstream wildlife crime in the overall enforcement scenario.
6. A perspective plan (2009-2019) for the organization and for its future growth has been envisaged.
7. WCCB's Compilation of monthly intelligence report, analysis of information and delineation of crime patterns at country level has been very effective for policy level interventions.

Micro-level interventions by WCCB

1. Dissemination of actionable intelligence and several joint operations- In 6 tiger cases worked out by the enforcement agencies in which actionable intelligence and significant assistance was provided by the WCCB. As a result 9 tiger skins, 7 skeletons of tigers, 23 leopard skins were recovered in which more than 40 accused were arrested. This includes intelligence led multi-agency module busting operation with Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and other state police and forest agencies.
2. Identification of inter-state criminal networks and working out trans-border linkages in several tiger/ leopard cases.
3. Digitized signature of wildlife products and training to screeners at the airports, air cargo, foreign post offices and baggage checking points.
4. Launching of 'Friends of the Wild' initiative for enlisting volunteers as a situational crime control strategy and natural surveillance.
5. Collection and collation of base line data relating to poaching of mega faunal species- Photo data-base of wildlife criminals compiled for use by agencies.
6. History sheets in the pattern of police and Personal profiles of criminals for continuous surveillance have been prepared.
7. Emphasis on Scientific investigation and use of forensics tools such as Ballistics, DNA finger printing, Polygraph in wildlife crimes is being encouraged.
8. First time about 60 investigators from the Forest and Wildlife department have been trained by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and Central Detective Training Schools (CDTS) on scientific investigation techniques due to the initiative taken by the WCCB for capacity building of wildlife staff.
9. Follow up of cases under trial relating to tigers and leopards with close monitoring through court diary system and by the Bureau's prosecution cell- consequently tangible results in conviction rate has been achieved through speedy trial. National level absconders list has been compiled by the Bureau for effective follow up of the cases. As a result 25 poachers, middlemen and traders involved in 9 tigers and leopard cases have convicted in last three years with imprisonment upto 7 years.
10. Capacity building of Bureau's personnel in cyber crime related with wildlife and web patrolling done with the support of a premier institution of the country.

For its activities, the WCCB has been recognized with Clark R. Bavin Award for wildlife law enforcement during CITES-CoP 15 at Doha (Qatar) in 2010.
