

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

ASIAN BIG CATS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*, the Conference of the Parties instructs the Secretariat to:

report to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties on the status of Asian big cats in the wild, their conservation, and trade controls in place in Parties, using information provided by the range States on measures taken to comply with this Resolution and related relevant Decisions and any relevant additional information provided by relevant countries.

Implementation of Decision 15.48

3. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decision concerning tigers:

Directed to the Secretariat

15.48 The Secretariat shall seek funds to convene, as soon as possible, a seminar involving senior-level Customs and police officers from tiger range States, to brief them on the threatened status of this species, particularly the impact wildlife crime has upon it. The officials shall also be briefed by the Secretariat regarding the Global Tiger Summit, planned under the Global Tiger Initiative, so that the law enforcement community throughout tiger range States is prepared to engage in efforts to safeguard this species and respond to measures adopted at the Summit. The Secretariat shall collaborate with ICPO-INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization in preparing the seminar. The Secretariat shall report on the outcomes of the seminar at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee.

4. At the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61, Geneva, August 2011), the Secretariat reported in document SC61 Doc. 41 that difficulties had been encountered in identifying an appropriate venue for the seminar called for in Decision 15.48, and that it was intended to convene the Seminar under the auspices of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) (see document SC62 Doc. 14.7). It also reported that INTERPOL was undertaking the logistical arrangements and that it was hoped that the seminar would take place before the autumn of 2011.
5. The Seminar was subsequently planned for 14 to 15 November 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, but had to be postponed due to severe floods. The Heads of Police and Customs Seminar on Tiger Crime was eventually held in that city on 14 February 2012, under the banner of ICWC. It was attended by representatives of 13 tiger range States (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Viet Nam) and representatives of the five ICWC partners (the CITES Secretariat, ICPO-INTERPOL, the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization). The Secretary-General of CITES delivered a keynote speech at that event which can be viewed at:

http://www.cites.org/eng/news/SG/2012/20120214_tiger_bkk.php

6. The Secretariat also delivered a presentation on *Wildlife crime: serious transnational organized crime*. The Secretariat emphasized that wildlife crime today had all the hall-marks of organized and sophisticated crime and required a more organized and sophisticated response from the law enforcement community.
7. The Seminar achieved the objectives set out in Decision 15.48, which was to bring together senior-level Customs and police officers from tiger range States to brief them on the threatened status of the species and on the impact that wildlife crime has upon it. The Seminar also made a positive contribution to enhancing national and international cooperation and collaboration between agencies.
8. Working group discussions demonstrated that the most urgent needs are to increase awareness of wildlife crime amongst enforcement and judicial authorities, to promote effective and coordinated national and international communication, as well as increased cooperation and exchange of criminal intelligence. The final report of the Seminar (in English only) is annexed to the present document.
9. The Seminar outcomes have been incorporated into the activities of the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI). Countries that participated in the Seminar indicated that national seminars would be useful to improve coordination and cooperation. INTERPOL has since established National Environmental Security Task Forces as part of the INTERPOL-initiated Project PREDATOR (see paragraphs 20 and 21 below), and seminars to bring together these national task forces are in the planning phase for India and the Russian Federation. This will convene enforcement and other officials from diverse disciplines extending beyond criminal justice.
10. The final report of the Seminar, accompanied by a letter from the ICCWC consortium, will be sent to the Ministers responsible for police, Customs and environment in tiger range States, encouraging them to take note of the outcomes of the Seminar and to continue engaging in efforts to safeguard this species.
11. The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank the European Commission for its financial support, which has enabled this Seminar to take place. The Secretariat also expresses gratitude to the World Bank for its additional financial contribution and to INTERPOL for taking the lead in organizing this event.

Global Tiger Initiative

12. The Secretariat has reported previously to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties on the GTI.
13. In accordance with the endorsement by all tiger range States of the Declaration on Tiger Conservation adopted in 2010 at Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation), the GTI works collaboratively to eradicate poaching and smuggling of and illegal trade in tigers (including parts and derivatives). It pursues this goal through various measures taken at the national level as well as by working with intergovernmental organizations to effect changes on the ground.
14. Since the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit, the *Global Tiger Recovery Program* has been launched. This Program is implemented through 13 *National Tiger Recovery Programs* and four *Global Support Programs* (see www.globaltigerinitiative.org). In the first 18-month implementation period, the tiger range States have reported to the GTI on their progress in taking actions under all seven themes: habitat management, controlling tiger and prey poaching, institutional strengthening and capacity building, tiger-human conflict and community engagement, controlling illegal trade and reducing demand, scientific monitoring, surveys and research, and transboundary management.
15. With regard to wildlife enforcement specifically, the tiger range States reported strong actions taken to strengthen wildlife protection laws, increase patrolling teams, conduct intensive training of front-line staff, and create and strengthen institutions to address wildlife crime. The GTI continues to build upon the existing CITES mandate to protect and safeguard tigers and other wildlife under threat.

16. Several tiger range States have joined, or are planning to join, the World Bank-financed regional project *Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Wildlife Protection in Asia*, which aims to address transboundary issues of wildlife crime and associated illegal trade.
17. The GTI has initiated strategic, high-level engagement with the industry and private sector on the issues of tiger conservation. In February and March 2012, Mr Robert B. Zoellick, President of the World Bank Group and founder of the GTI, convened roundtables in Singapore and India with chief executive officers of major Asian and multinational companies. Participants in these roundtables agreed to follow up with establishing wildlife business councils in major business hubs across Asia and internationally. Through their corporate channels, they will start addressing more systematically consumer-demand issues as well as the challenges of mainstreaming tiger and wildlife conservation into development goals.
18. During the *1st Stocktaking Meeting of Senior Officials and Experts to Review Implementation of the Global Tiger Recovery Program*, held in May 2012 in New Delhi, India, participants discussed how to further the integration of intelligence-driven and anti-poaching methods and technologies to support tiger range States. It was agreed that, by 2013:
 - a) all tiger range States should be able to evaluate wildlife law enforcement efforts using a common set of indicators;
 - b) all tiger range States would have implemented high-intensity best practice patrolling in all protected areas;
 - c) range-wide enforcement reporting based on agreed common enforcement indicators would be published; and
 - d) a global programme would be launched to eliminate the demand for tiger parts and derivatives.
19. The Secretariat is convinced that the significant number of initiatives and activities conducted through the GTI will continue to contribute positively to the conservation status of Asian big cats in the wild. The Secretariat will continue to work in close cooperation with the GTI within its mandate and resources.

Project PREDATOR

20. Interpol's Project PREDATOR, was launched during the 80th INTERPOL General Assembly in 2011. This Project is designed to support and enhance good governance and law enforcement capacity for the conservation of wild tigers in the range States. As part of this project, several campaigns were launched, both globally and in tiger range States, aiming at gathering intelligence for analytical purposes, in order to better equip INTERPOL member countries and to engage collaboratively in effective intelligence-led operations.
21. In April 2012, INTERPOL also called on several tiger range States to participate in Operation PREY, which was designed under Project PREDATOR. This operation, which encourages a multi-agency intelligence-led approach, is intended to be a dynamic operation leading to the prosecution of individuals engaged in the illegal exploitation of and trade in tigers.

Enforcement-related guidance

22. Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP14) was amended at CoP15 to include a standard form and guidance that had been prepared by the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force when it first met in New Delhi in April 2001. The guidance includes: a sample preliminary report form, which could be used at the national level for the reporting and recording of wildlife crime; guidance for reporting and intelligence analysis; and guidance for specialized wildlife law enforcement units. These were first communicated to the Parties via Notification No. 2001/047 of 9 July 2001.
23. In addition, the following Decision was adopted at CoP15:

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 15.70 *The Standing Committee shall review and update the form and guidance contained in Annexes 1 to 3 in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) and report on this matter at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

24. At SC61, the Standing Committee adopted the Secretariat's suggestion that the Senior Experts Group of the ICCWC be asked to conduct the review required in Decision 15.70.
25. The form and guidance contained in Annexes 1 to 3 to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) was in under review by the ICCWC Senior Experts Group at the time of writing (late May 2012).
26. The Secretariat will report orally on progress made in this regard at the present meeting.

Other matters

27. The Secretariat participated in the 23rd meeting of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13 to 16 February 2012. Discussions related to Asian big cats during that meeting reflected the outcomes of the *Heads of Police and Customs Seminar on Tiger Crime* as described in paragraph 8 above.
28. The Secretariat was encouraged to learn, through publicly available information, of seizures of tigers and tiger and other big cat body parts in Thailand between February and May 2012. The Secretariat was further encouraged to learn of two tiger poachers who were sentenced in March 2012 to the most severe punishments for wildlife poaching ever given in Thailand.

Recommendation

29. The Secretariat has no specific recommendation at this time and the Committee is invited to note this report.