



**Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office, P. R. China**  
**(CITES Management Authority of China)**

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3 May 2011

Mr. John E. Scanlon  
Secretary-General  
CITES Secretariat

**Re: Conservation of and Trade in Tigers in China**

Dear Mr. Scanlon,

In response to the Notification to the Parties No. 2011/014, China would like to report its implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) and Decision 15.46 as following,

**Regarding Domestic Legislation and Trade Policy**

1. The death sentence to the smuggling of endangered animals and their products in the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China was abolished at the beginning of 2011, but the life imprisonment was kept.
2. The policy on banning of trade in tiger bone taken by China since 1993 is persisted in. The stockpiled tiger bones obtained before 1993 are kept sealed and the tiger parts coming from captive bred tigers are strictly regulated.
3. China has included the conservation of wild tiger into its Outline of the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Years Forestry Development Plan, and is coordinating to implement the 5<sup>th</sup> GET Program on Conservation of Siberia Tiger and its habitat, studying the re-wilding and re-introducing of South China Tiger plan and preparing to carry out the survey program on Siberia and Indo-Chinese tigers and their habitat.
4. The State Forestry Administration issued a special notification to the local forestry departments to ask them to further enhance the conservation and management of tigers and their habitats, the wildlife law enforcement and public education, and published a hotline and hot-email for collecting the information on illegal trade in tigers and their products in December 2009 as its welcome to the year of tiger of 2010.
5. China Traditional Chinese Medicine Association is developing a strategy on development of Traditional Chinese Medicine at the precondition that is beneficial to the conservation of endangered species.

### **Regarding Conservation and Management Measures**

6. China has invested billions of dollars to implement the programs of Natural Forest Protection, Recovery Farmlands for Forests and Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserves Development, which has greatly improved wildlife habitats and their management, including tigers.
7. China wildlife authorities have stopped approved hunting in tiger range areas and enhanced patrolling and monitoring of wild tiger habitats with the improved governmental funding in the past 10 years.
8. China published a law to strictly control the possession and use of hunting rifles in 1997 and uncontrolled firing at wildlife has become almost impossible in China.
9. China has started a house-amelioration policy with government investment specially for residents in forests which is attractive for many of them voluntarily to move out of forests and will significantly help to reduce human disturbance in wild tiger habitats.
10. China wildlife authorities have initiated a pilot program to ensure reasonable compensation for losses caused by key protected wildlife especially by tigers and their prey since 2007 and now, an insurance policy for local community in part of tiger range areas is in trial.
11. China has increased investment significantly for nature reserves and protection and monitoring units in tiger landscapes to purchase equipments such as vehicle, computer, GPS and telescope, and undertaken a series of workshops and training courses in the past ten years so as to improve the capacity.
12. A National Wild Tiger Recovery Program, outlined the major fields, priorities and investments of wild tiger conservation in China, was approved by the State Council. In accordance with the program, the major tasks in 2011 are to survey the wild population of tigers, select certain landscapes as trial and demonstrating sites to recover the tiger habitats, strengthen the capacity building of selected appropriate frontline conservation and monitoring institutions to undertake the trial and demonstrating works, to deal with the compensation of human-tiger conflicts, develop community economic development modes which is friendly to wild tigers and carry forward re-wilding of the captive bred south China tigers and releasing them into the wild.
13. The Chinese forestry department has labeled most of the captive bred tigers with microchips and established a database for those labeled individuals, which are able to make the captive tigers to be fully monitored by the forestry department and prevent the captive bred tiger parts from entering the illegal trade from or through such facilities.
14. In order to supervise the dead body of captive bred tigers, two operations in Guangxi and Heilongjiang are asked in standardized methods to dismember the frozen carcasses, seal the tiger bones, labeled the tiger skins and destroy other tiger parts, under the supervision of local forestry departments.

### **Regarding Enforcement**

15. The provincial governments of Tibet, Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan were requested by the State Forestry Administration, at the beginning of 2010, to carry out an awareness campaign on tiger conservation and enhance the inspection of the local fur markets. Currently, the illegal trade in Asian Big Cats in those areas has been effectively deterred.
16. The State Forestry Administration organized its staff and the experts and officials from China Wildlife Conservation Association, China Zoo Association and China Traditional Chinese Medicine Association to undertake a full inspection to the operations engaged in captive breeding tigers and the markets involved in the illegal tiger products trade from August to December 2010. Several measures such as labeling/sealing of captive bred tiger parts have been taken for the purpose of strengthening the supervision of captive bred tigers.

17. The information provided by TRAFFIC, IFAW and WCS, in relation to the illegal trade in genuine or fake tiger parts or their derivatives found at the Chinese markets or websites, would be verified by the Chinese wildlife enforcement agencies. If it was true, an investigation would be initiated subsequently.
18. China is establishing a national Inter-Agency CITES Enforcement Task Force to unite the forces of various wildlife law enforcement agencies to enhance the CITES enforcement in China. It is expected to coordinate the domestic CITES enforcement as well as the international wildlife enforcement cooperation.
19. To crack down tiger crime is always on the top priority of China's forest and Customs police organs. In accordance to our incomplete statistics, from January 2007 to June 2010, the Chinese forest police had detected 14 tiger cases and seized 6 live tigers, 8 tiger skins, 3.5kg tiger meats, 0.3kg tiger bloods, 4 tiger beards, 13kg + 15 piece tiger bones and 1 tiger skeleton; Meanwhile, the Chinese Customs police had detected 12 tiger cases and seized 12 tiger skins and 27.907kg + 70 pieces tiger bones. Since June 2010, at least 2 tiger cases were detected by our Customs. Those seizures have already been informed the CITES Secretariat.
20. All of the wildlife seizures made by China Customs are collected annually by the CITES Management Authority of China and provided to the CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC, relevant inter-governmental organizations and Parties in the format of eco-message for implementing the Resolution Conf.11.3 (Rev.CoP15). Besides that, a strategy on combating of the smuggling of wildlife will be developed based on analysis of the seizure information and subsequently provided to the relevant wildlife enforcement agencies for reference at their daily work.
21. The CITES Management Authority is organizing its 22 branch offices to undertake national surveys on illegal wildlife trade in 2011. It is expected that all of the illegal activities found by the CITES officers could be dealt with by the wildlife enforcement agencies immediately and the links between CITES Management Authorities and wildlife enforcement agencies at all levels could be strengthened. In achieving so, a training seminar will be held in April 2011 and the experts from TRAFFIC, IFAW and WCS will be invited to the seminar to introduce their methods and experiences in surveying market and monitoring internet.

#### **Regarding Capacity Building and Public Awareness**

22. China has carried out a series of public awareness campaigns, including the celebration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Tiger Day in 29 July, 2010, International Forum on Tiger Conservation and Tiger Culture and China 2010' Hunchun Amur Tiger Culture Festival in August 2010.
23. The vice minister of the State Forestry Administration hosted a press release at the beginning of the Year of tiger of 2010 and fully introduced China's position on tiger conservation. Her opinions have been widely reported at the domestic and international media.
24. In an effort to further raise public CITES awareness, a Symposium on celebration of 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of China Accession to CITES will be organized by the CITES Management Authority on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and the senior officials from the relevant government agencies, medium as well as the CITES Secretary General will be invited to the event.
25. More and more resources have been allocated to the wildlife conservation and enforcement agencies at all levels, that has gradually mitigated the financial pressure to the frontline wildlife conservation and enforcement agencies.
26. Since the significant trade in illegal wildlife in China in recent years is gradually reduced and the illegal personal taking and mailing of endangered species is gradually rising, the CITES Management Authority of China works with the State Customs General Administration and International Fund for Animal Welfare to display a set of CITES posters at the entry and exit gates of 400 Chinese ports to remind the international passengers not bring in/out endangered species without approval. The CITES Management Authority of China is also working with the Ministry of Commerce and the State Tourism Administration to produce a CITES leaflet and asking the local forestry, commerce and tourism departments to provide CITES knowledge to the traders, labors and tourists who are already at abroad or will go abroad. In addition to that, all of the branch offices of CITES Management Authority of China have taken different means to undertake the CITES campaigns within their jurisdiction.
27. A national workshop on management of international trade in endangered species is held annually by the CITES Management Authority for the purpose of providing update training to its staff. 22 branch offices of

the CITES Management Authority are also arranged to provide trainings to the local Customs and police officers and wildlife traders. Besides that, the staff of the CITES Management Authority and its branch offices are always invited to the training seminars organized by the forestry, fishery, police and Customs departments at all levels to make CITES presentations.

28. An inter-agency CITES enforcement meeting is held annually by the CITES Management Authority of China. The wildlife, police and Customs officials from the central and provincial governments as well as some experts from TRAFFIC, IFAW and WCS are invited to the event for introducing the international and national wildlife enforcement trend, exchanging the wildlife law enforcement experience, evaluating the existing problems and difficulties faced by the enforcement agencies and made the operational enforcement recommendations to the priority areas or species.
29. A workshop on control of online trade in wildlife is held annually by the CITES Management Authority of China. The officials from the relevant government agencies as well as the experts from TRAFFIC, IFAW, WCS and Websites are invited to the event for reviewing the progress made in the previous year, introducing the monitor results about the online trade in wildlife, sharing the control experiences drawn from the government agencies and websites, identified the fields/measures to be focused/taken in the next year. This kind of meeting has played an active role in deterring the rising of illegal online trade in wildlife.
30. With the financial support from CI and technical assistances from WCS, TRAFFIC and IFAW, the CITES Management Authority of China is working with the State Customs General Administration and the State Forestry Administration to produce thousands copies of *Endangered Species Enforcement Techniques*, that will included the Chinese versions of *Controlled Delivery*, *Questioning Wildlife Smugglers*, *Concealment Methods of smuggled Wildlife*, *Guide for Cooperation between Interpol NCB and CITES Management Authority*, *Guide for Cooperation between Customs and CITES Management Authority*, *ID Manual of Species Commonly in Trade in Southeast Asia* and *Internet Search Toolkit* compiled by Interpol, WCO, CITES, ASEAN-WEN or Environment Canada, for distribution to the frontline wildlife enforcement officers.

#### **Regarding International Cooperation**

31. China has attended a series of international tiger conservation meetings organized by GTI in Kathmandu, Hua Hin, Washington, Bali, St. Petersburg and New Delhi, involved in producing the Global Tiger Recovery Program and actively promoting the global tiger conservation.
32. China is enhancing its communication with the other tiger range states and welcomes the delegations of tiger range states visiting China, in an effort to promote the international cooperation and joint action in conservation of tigers.
33. China took part in the Operation RAMP and Operation Tigre initiated by Interpol in many countries from August to September 2010 and the Operation GAPIN organized by WCO in Africa, Europe and Asia in the beginning of 2011. It detects hundreds wildlife cases and many wildlife offenders involved in smuggling of reptile, tiger bone, ivory and rhino horn have been punished.
34. China attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Working Meeting, the Wildlife Crime Investigation Course and the Reptile ID Course organized by ASEAN-WEN, and worked with CI and ASEAN-WEN to display hundreds of CITES posters designed in local languages at the ports along the Sino-Vietnam, Sino-Laos and Sino-Myanmar borders. Currently, it is evaluating the possibility to sign a MOU with the ASEAN-WEN.
35. China has strengthened its cooperation in wildlife conservation with India and Nepal. The wildlife delegations from India and Nepal were invited to China to sign the relevant minutes or MOU in 2010. For the purpose of implementing the minutes or MOU, an Indian delegation will visit Northeast China in April 2011 and a trilateral CITES enforcement seminar among China, India and Nepal will be held in Chengdu, China in late 2011. The wildlife, CITES, Customs and police officers from the central and local governments of those three countries as well as the experts from TRAFFIC, IFAW, WTI, WPSI and Wildlife Forensic Lab of State Forestry Administration will be invited to the seminar to improve their capability in ID of endangered species, exchange CITES enforcement experience and study the ways and measures to strengthen the wildlife enforcement cooperation among three countries, promote the legal wildlife trade, deter the illegal wildlife trade and cooperate in identification of the seized wildlife in this region.

36. China has strengthened its CITES enforcement dialogue with UK. A Chinese delegation constituted by the CITES, Customs, police, forestry and drug officers stayed in UK for 20 days and a UK police and Customs delegation visited China for 10 days.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding on this report.

Warmest wishes,

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