

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



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

SUMMARY

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER
MORNING

58. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source..... SC77 Doc. 58

The Committee noted document SC77 Doc. 58.

59. Review of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes..... SC77 Doc. 59

The Committee noted document SC77 Doc. 59 and the comments made by the European Union, Japan, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Animal Welfare Institute.

33. Compliance matters

- 33.5 Application of Article XIII in China SC77 Doc. 33.5

- a) The Committee determined that the specimens of live Asian elephants imported by China from the Lao People's Democratic Republic did not meet the definition of 'bred in captivity' in accordance with the criteria set out in Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity* and noted with appreciation the voluntary suspension by China of trade in live Asian elephants since 2019.
- b) The Committee encouraged China to continue to cooperate with Lao People's Democratic Republic to support *in situ* conservation of Asian elephants.
- c) The Committee commended the Yunnan Provincial Forest Grassland Administration (FGA) for the compensation scheme for the losses caused by Asian elephants through an insurance company which can serve as an inspiring model to address human-wildlife conflict incidents in other parts of the world. The Committee also commended the Shanghai branch of the CITES Management Authority of China for its efficient organization of the CITES documentation, the training facilities and the outreach material produced. They should also serve as an inspiring model for the issuing, handling and recording of CITES permits and related information for other CITES offices in the world.

39. Enforcement

- 39.3 CITES Big Cats Task Force SC77 Doc. 39.3

The Committee:

- a) requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to invite perspectives on a possible resolution on all big cats and to prepare an analysis of the merits and drawbacks of

developing a resolution on all big cats, in consultation with the Animals Committee, and to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting; and

- b) encouraged all Parties affected by illegal trade in specimens of big cat species to make every effort to implement the strategies, measures and activities outlined in the CITES Big Cats Task Force outcome document, as a matter of priority.

41. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

41.1 Report of the Secretariat SC77 Doc. 41.1

The Committee:

- a) noted the information provided by Parties in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/091;
- b) encouraged all Parties to include seizure data related to Asian big cat species in their annual illegal trade reports and submit their reports in a timely manner; and
- c) requested the Secretariat to:
 - i) issue a Notification to the Parties inviting:
 - A. all range States of *Panthera pardus* within its Asian range to submit a report to the Secretariat on the conservation measures undertaken and poaching incidents detected; and
 - B. all Parties that made seizures of specimens of *Panthera pardus* to submit a report to the Secretariat on seizure data involving *Panthera pardus*;
 - ii) report on the information received to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee; and
 - iii) develop, where possible, country-specific recommendations in its report to the Standing Committee on this agenda item.

The Committee requested India to submit its additional recommendation as an in-session document for consideration later in the meeting.

41.2 Asian big cats in captivity SC77 Doc. 41.2

The Committee:

- a) urged all Parties in whose territories there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity to:
 - i) implement paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on the *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*; and
 - ii) strengthen compliance monitoring and enforcement of legislative provisions relating to facilities keeping tigers in captivity through the strict implementation of regulatory requirements ensuring that registers are accurately maintained; identification of individual tigers is a compulsory requirement (using microchips, DNA analysis and stripe identification images as appropriate); inspections are carried out regularly; that the disposal is done with the necessary controls and oversight, and any irregularities strictly penalized;
- b) further urged all Parties in whose territories there are facilities that breed large numbers of tigers and facilities housing large numbers of tigers to consider taking a more methodical approach regarding these facilities to improve their conservation and educational value, as well as to put an end to the activities of facilities that do not have conservation or educational value, fail to comply with regulations and pose a risk regarding parts and derivatives from these animals entering illegal trade. Such an approach could include:

- i) identification of facilities keeping tigers of genetic and conservation value and engagement of these facilities in coordinated conservation breeding for such animals;
 - ii) identification of facilities keeping tigers in captivity that are suitably located to ensure public access and that meet husbandry and welfare conditions based on national and international guidelines, and implementation of support programmes where needed (for example providing guidance on development of educational materials, signs and posters), for these facilities to fully transform into facilities with educational value that are raising awareness benefitting conservation of tigers in the wild, including bringing the attention of the public to illegal trade and the need to combat it;
 - iii) implementing and enforcing measures to reduce the number of tigers in facilities that are not contributing to conservation of wild tigers or have limited educational value, by restricting breeding of tigers (e.g., by separating male and female tigers, sterilization or other disposal measures, including euthanasia) within these facilities, as well as restricting these facilities from acquiring any new animals;
 - iv) taking into consideration Decision 14.69 that directs Parties to restrict the captive population to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers and that tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives, prohibiting the establishment of new facilities keeping tigers in captivity with narrow exemptions where warranted;
 - v) assessing the need for rescue centres, sanctuaries, or other disposal measures, including euthanasia, etc. as may be required due to the phase-out of intensive tiger operations; and
 - vi) reviewing of management practices and controls to regulate activities of facilities keeping tigers in captivity to ensure that they are adequate to prevent tiger specimens from entering illegal trade from or through such facilities, including licensing of such facilities, accurate record keeping of individual tigers, regular inspections and well-regulated disposal of tigers that die in captivity.
- c) encouraged all Parties where a demand for tiger parts and derivatives exist to enhance their efforts in demand reduction activities related to illegal trade in Asian big cats in accordance with Resolution Conf. 17.4 (Rev. CoP19) on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* taking into consideration the *Guidance on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species*;
- d) also encouraged all governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies, and non-governmental organizations to urgently provide funds and other assistance to Parties with facilities that breed large numbers of tigers and those housing large numbers of tigers, to support the implementation of recommendation b) above;

in addition to the recommendations a), b) and c) addressed to all Parties,

- e) encouraged the Czech Republic to:
- i) continue to collaborate and coordinate with the State Veterinary Administration to strengthen procedures relating to the disposal process, including improved monitoring to ensure complete destruction of carcasses; and
 - ii) conduct an inspection of the facility that the Secretariat could not visit during its mission and provide a report on its findings to the Secretariat by 30 days before the document deadline of SC78 (i.e., 5 November 2024).
- f) encouraged South Africa to:
- i) standardize and strengthening legislative provisions relating to activities involving the keeping, breeding, international trade in and disposal of tigers;

- ii) standardize processes relating to registers to be kept by facilities, inspections of facilities and destruction of carcasses through the development of standard operating procedures or other similar mechanisms;
 - iii) develop educational materials and displays to enhance the public education and awareness-raising value associated with the display of tigers;
 - iv) initiate a process to address the legislative gap relating to the regulation of activities involving alien Appendix-I listed species (including tigers);
 - v) address compliance monitoring and enforcement of the existing permit conditions for all facilities with a specific focus on the facilities with long term non-compliances matters;
- g) urged Thailand and Viet Nam to:
- i) identify any specimens of tigers referable to the mainland Southeast Asian lineage (also known as *Panthera tigris corbetti*) and encourage facilities to engage in coordinated conservation breeding for these animals and other appropriate actions;
 - ii) strengthen measures to:
 - A. restrict the breeding of tigers in captive facilities and the importation of tiger to these facilities to levels supportive only to conserving tigers;
 - B. monitor individual tigers kept in facilities through the use of microchips, stripe pattern identification and DNA analysis, as appropriate;
 - C. prohibit the establishment of new facilities keeping tigers in captivity with narrow exemptions where warranted; and
 - D. restrict the parts and derivatives for which possession is authorized to prevent these specimens from entering illegal trade;
 - iii) develop educational materials and displays to enhance the public education and awareness-raising value associated with the display of tigers;
 - iv) enhance standard operating procedures for inspections and disposal of specimens (including destruction of carcasses after verification of individual that died and train officials to undertake inspections and monitor the disposal of carcasses, where needed).

The Committee agreed two additional general recommendations as follows:

- h) The Committee encouraged those Parties identified in document SC70 Doc. 51 in whose territories there are facilities which may be of concern keeping Asian big cats in captivity and who had not yet extended an invitation to the Secretariat to undertake a mission to do so and directed the Secretariat to report back to SC78.
- i) The Committee requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals Committee, to develop guidance to Parties on how to evaluate the conservation aspects of tiger captive-breeding facilities, subject to external funding.