

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3 – 8 February 2025

PARTIES' RESPONSES TO NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES NO. 2024/086 ON
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ASIAN BIG CATS (FELIDAE SPP.)

1. This document has been submitted by Secretariat in relation to agenda item 43.1 on *Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)*.*

India

DECISIONS ON ASIAN BIG CATS

	Decisions	Response
14.69	Parties with intensive operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale shall implement measures to restrict the captive population to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers; tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives.	Not applicable to India

!Directed to Parties

18.100	Parties affected by illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, in particular Parties identified in document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, are encouraged to take into consideration the information in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, and pursue enforcement efforts to address this illegal trade, including through the initiation of joint investigations and operations aimed at halting the members of organized crime networks across the entire illegal trade chain.	Action in this regard, is being taken as per sovereign legislation namely the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Wherever, necessary trans boundary engagements have been undertaken with Nepal Bhutan and Bangladesh to keep a check on organized criminal networks.
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* 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.

18.101	Parties, in whose territory tourist markets exist that are contributing to illegal cross border trade involving Asian big cat specimens, are encouraged to strengthen law enforcement cooperation with their neighbouring Parties to target such illegal trade	Action in this regard, is being taken as per sovereign legislation namely the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Bilateral instruments with Tiger Range Countries making borders with India have safeguards in this context.
18.102 (Rev. CoP19)	Parties in whose territories there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity referred to in Decision 18.108 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph a) are invited to welcome a mission from the Secretariat, to visit these facilities.	In India, barring zoos, there is no facility to keep big cats in captivity.
18.103 (Rev. CoP19)	All Parties that make seizures of tiger skins are encouraged to take note of the information on tiger range States which have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins, as presented in paragraph 14 in document SC70 Doc. 42.1, and to share images in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on <i>Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species</i> , paragraph 11) within 90 days of such seizure.	India has a robust protocol for annual monitoring of tigers and leopards, which is tested every four years during the All India Tiger Estimation Exercise. The images gathered from the annual as well as quadrennial exercises are archived in a National Repository of Camera Trap Photographs of Tigers (NRCTPT). This database is used to compare photographs of seized skins recovered within the country and even outside its territorial jurisdiction.
18.105	Parties, in particular those mentioned in section 3.1.5 of Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, are encouraged to take serious consideration of the concerns regarding illegal trade in leopard parts and derivatives as outlined in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 and take measures to address these.	Reserve specific Tiger Conservation Plans and Protected Area specific wildlife management plans have a security plan for protection, monitoring and surveillance. In addition, action is taken as per sovereign legislation namely the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

18.106	Consumer States of specimens from tiger and other Asian big cat species are urged to take action to end demand for illegal tiger and other big cat parts and derivatives by working with relevant specialists such as consumer behaviour change, social marketing and communication experts to conduct targeted behaviour change initiatives ensuring initiatives are underpinned by sound evidence, are properly baselined, and have strong monitoring and evaluation built in, including appropriate metrics to assess efficacy; and adopting and implementing appropriate legislative and regulatory measures, to deter consumers from purchasing any illegal big cat products.	<p>There is no internal demand for tiger/ leopard body parts and their derivatives in the country, which is largely from outside India's border.</p> <p>Under the ongoing scheme of Project Tiger, outreach, sensitization and awareness programs are being assisted in order to reduce the demand for tiger and other big cat parts and derivatives.</p>
18.107 (Rev. CoP19)	Parties are invited to report to the Secretariat on implementation of Decisions 14.69, 19.109, 18.100, 18.101, 18.102 (Rev. CoP19), 18.103 (Rev. CoP19), 18.105 and 18.106 in time for the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties as per requirements in paragraph 2 a) of Resolution IConf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19).	Reported as above.
19.109	<p>Parties are encouraged to:</p> <p>a) inform the Secretariat of forensic research projects, including genetic and other methods, undertaken in their territory focusing on the development of techniques to support addressing illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, for this information to be made available to Parties;</p> <p>b) in accordance with their national regulations, share samples of Asian big cat specimens from living animals, seized animals or products that could contain DNA of Asian big cats with genetic research projects focusing on the development of techniques to address illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens; and c) take note that methods for the identification of tiger species and individual identification from different types of specimens of tiger parts and derivatives have been developed in the Czech Republic, and that analytical kits for use of these methods as well as testing of tiger samples, are available to Parties free of charge.</p>	<p>The National Tiger Conservation Authority in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India has published work on genetic research of tigers in India in peer-reviewed literature.</p> <p>This information is used for determining the source of any seized tiger body part or their derivatives.</p>



To:

Ivonne Higuero

CITES Secretariat

International Environment House

Chemin des Anemones

CH-1219 Chatelaine Geneva

Switzerland

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Subject: Information on Asian Big Cat (*Panthera pardus*)

Dear Madam,

Referring to the notification No. 2024/086 dated 6th August 2024 regarding Invitation to Submit Information on Asian Big Cats (*Felidae* spp.), we would like to provide information regarding *Panthera pardus*, which is an Indonesian species categorized as protected under the regulations of the Indonesian Minister of Environment and Forestry (P.106/2018). Based on wildlife trade data, as of 2023, there has been no illegal trade involving this species. As an *effort* to prevent illegal trade, Indonesia has conducted several activities as follows:

1. Monitors illegal trade for All Asian Big Cats including Javan leopard.
2. Improves tools to track and follow up illegal wildlife cases.
3. Enhances coordination and communication across countries especially with law enforcement agencies.
4. Initiates and intensifies smart patrol against illegal poaching on Javan leopard in vulnerable priority areas.
5. Maps vulnerability distribution of illegal wildlife trade.
6. Javan Wild Leopard Survey (JWLS) on Java Island to update the Javan leopard population.

We hope this can be of useful information. Thank you for your kind attention and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Director of Biodiversity Conservation of Species and Genetic

Email: macitesindonesia@gmail.com, subditkonvensi.kkh@gmail.com,
dit.kkh@gmail.com cc.:

1. Director General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation, MoEF;
2. Director of Secretariat of Scientific Authority for Biodiversity, NRIA.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

B. CONSERVATION

B.1	<p>Is your country a range State of the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If “No”, please proceed to Section D.</p>
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¹ Please use additional sheets for any question, if needed.

B.2	<p>Based on the best available information, did the wild population of Asian leopards (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country over the last 5 years:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Increase <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Stable <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Decrease <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Please indicate the source(s) of information your answer is based on:</p> <p>Rasphone, A., Kéry, M., Kamler, J. F., & Macdonald, D. W. (2019). Documenting the demise of tiger and leopard, and the status of other carnivores and prey, in Lao PDR’s most prized protected area: Nam Et-Phou Louey. <i>Global Ecology and Conservation</i>, 20, e00766.</p>	Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
B.3	<p>Is your country a signatory to any bilateral and/or multilateral agreements for co-management of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If ‘Yes’, please provide brief details, including the names of the agreements, and which other countries are involved:</p>				
B.4	<p>Do you have any cooperative management plans, conservation measures, or recovery plans, in place for shared populations of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If “Yes”, please provide a link or reference to a published plan:</p> <p>Although there was no specific recovery plan for Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>), Laos took a significant step forward with the implementation of its first National Tiger Action Plan (NTAP) 2010-2020. This plan was a milestone in conservation efforts, aimed at protecting and revitalizing the country's tiger population and other wildlife species including the Asian leopard. Recognizing the critical role tigers play in maintaining ecological balance, the Lao government is now in the process of developing its second National Tiger Recovery Action Plan (NTRAP) for 2025-2035.</p> <p>Tigers are not just a keystone species; they are an indicator of a healthy ecosystem. We believe that with effective ecosystem management, the recovery of tiger populations will create the conditions needed for the Asian leopard to repopulate as well. The success of the National Tiger Action Plan will have far-reaching effects on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the livelihoods of communities that depend on these environments. Furthermore, the plan serves as a framework for strengthening law enforcement against poaching and illegal wildlife trade including tiger and Asian leopard, enhancing habitat protection, and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, including local communities, NGOs, and other relevant partners.</p> <p>The upcoming 2025-2035 plan is a crucial opportunity to build on past achievements, address emerging challenges, and ensure the long-term survival of tigers, and Asian leopard in Laos.</p>				

B.5	<p>Do you experience any challenges regarding conservation of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes' please provide details:</p>
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C. POACHING

C.1	<p>Have there been any poaching incidents involving Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If "Yes", indicate number of poached Asian leopards in your country since 1 January 2019: _____</p> <p>Please also provide more details about the poaching incidents below: See attachment</p>
C.2	<p>Cause of death:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gunshot</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snare/ Trap</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poisoning</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (add details in Additional Notes below)</p> <p>Signs (evidence) of cause of death (please give details):</p> <p>On December 28, 2023, Luang Namtha provincial authorities confiscated a frozen Asian Leopard weighing 40 kg in Long District, Luang Namtha Province. The authority suspected this Asian Leopard was transferred from Neighboring country to Laos. However, the case is currently under investigation.</p>
C.3	<p>Was post-mortem conducted?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p> <p>The investigation and post-mortem revealed no visible signs of the cause of death. However, due to the leopard being frozen, authorities suspect it may have been killed by a snare or trap.</p>
C.4	<p>Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with a human-animal conflict incident?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p>
C.5	<p>Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with illegal domestic and/or international trade?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p> <p>The case is under investigation, as mentioned in C.2 above.</p>

C.6

Do you experience challenges related to the poaching of Asian leopard (*Panthera pardus*) in your country that you would like to highlight?

Yes .No

If 'Yes', please provide details:

D. ILLEGAL TRADE

D.1	<p>Have any seizures of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) specimens been made in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please submit details about the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) seizures in a separate file using the standard format for the CITES annual illegal trade report, see E-AITR-format-2023.xlsx (live.com). Please indicate that the seizure record refers to Asian leopard in column “Additional information”.</p> <p>For more information on how to fill in the standard format see Notification to the Parties No. 2023/132 Annex 2 Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report (November 2023).</p> <p>Data already provided in CITES annual illegal trade reports do not need to be included in the special report.</p>
D.2	<p>Do you experience any enforcement challenges in your country related to illegal trade and other illegal activities concerning Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If ‘Yes’ please provide details: Lack of funding for the enforcement agency</p> <p>There are several enforcement challenges in our country related to the illegal trade and other illicit activities involving the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>). One of the main issues is the lack of adequate funding support, which hinders the ability of enforcement agencies to conduct thorough investigations and implement effective anti-trafficking measures. Additionally, there are weaknesses in enforcing existing laws, often due to limited resources, insufficient training for law enforcement personnel, and a lack of coordination among relevant agencies. These challenges create significant barriers to effectively combating illegal activities involving the Asian leopard. However, under the new leadership of CITES Management Authority (MA) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LA), combined with increasing international support, there has been a marked improvement in the enforcement of existing laws. Enhanced collaboration and targeted capacity-building initiatives are beginning to address these longstanding issues, providing a stronger foundation for more effective action against illegal wildlife trade.</p>

Annex: Luang Namtha provincial authorities confiscated a frozen Asian Leopard weighing 40 kg in Long District, Luang Namtha Province.







Mexico

Buenas tardes,

Anteponiendo un cordial saludo, hago referencia a la Notificación a las Partes de la CITES No. 2024/086 "*Invitación a presentar información sobre los grandes felinos asiáticos (Felidae spp.)*", medio por la cual, la Secretaría de la CITES invita, entre otras, a que las Partes que realizan confiscaciones de especímenes de leopardo asiático (*Panthera pardus*), informen sobre éstas.

Al respecto, anexo me permito enviar el formato normalizado para el informe anual sobre comercio ilegal de la CITES con la información de México, la cual corresponde a un decomiso de *Panthera pardus*.

Saludos cordiales.

ATENTAMENTE

B. CONSERVATION

B.1	<p>Is your country a range State of the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If “No”, please proceed to Section D.</p>				
B.2	<p>Based on the best available information, did the wild population of Asian leopards (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country over the last 5 years:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 591 1485 640"> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 591 616 640">Increase <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="619 591 914 640">Stable <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="917 591 1212 640">Decrease <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1216 591 1485 640">Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Please indicate the source(s) of information your answer is based on: Asad M., Martoni F., Ross J. G., Waseem M., Abbas F. & Paterson A. M. 2019a. Assessing subspecies status of leopards (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) of northern Pakistan using mitochondrial DNA. PeerJ 7,e7243 https://peerj.com/articles/7243/</p>	Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>		
B.3	<p>Is your country a signatory to any bilateral and/or multilateral agreements for co-management of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If ‘Yes’, please provide brief details, including the names of the agreements, and which other countries are involved:</p>				
B.4	<p>Do you have any cooperative management plans, conservation measures, or recovery plans, in place for shared populations of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If “Yes”, please provide a link or reference to a published plan:</p>				
B.5	<p>Do you experience any challenges regarding conservation of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If ‘Yes’ please provide details: Due to habitat degradation in some areas, prey availability is adversely affected, leading to attacks on livestock and human beings. Consequently, Asian leopards are being killed in retaliation.</p>				

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C. POACHING

C.1	<p>Have there been any poaching incidents involving Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If "Yes", indicate number of poached Asian leopards in your country since 1 January 2019: five</p> <p>Please also provide more details about the poaching incidents below: All five incidents of poaching are associated with human-wildlife conflict.</p>
C.2	<p>Cause of death:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gunshot <input type="checkbox"/> Snare/Trap <input type="checkbox"/> Spear <input type="checkbox"/> Poisoning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (add details in Additional Notes below)</p> <p>Signs (evidence) of cause of death (please give details): Following are the reports citing the poaching of Asian leopards.</p> <p>https://gulfnews.com/amp/world/asia/pakistan/angry-villagers-in-pakistan-beat-leopard-to-death-for-attacking-livestock-1.85566329</p> <p>https://tribune.com.pk/story/2454165/villagers-kill-rare-white-leopard-in-kerthar-national-park?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3piOE7BkG5NFFcXa6ZxRuNwp9D7CES8azo_TmNHsowTG452sF0uJ5uvHg_aem_N8QtUH3aufpJ76QirBDGoA</p> <p>https://www.dawn.com/news/amp/1528346</p> <p>https://tribune.com.pk/story/2454303/leopard-hunted-down-in-bara?amp=1</p> <p>https://mmnews.tv/villagers-kill-rare-leopard-in-balochistans-dera-bugti/</p>
C.3	<p>Was post-mortem conducted?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details: Any wild animal which is found dead is sent for post-mortem and this is a conventional practice in Pakistan that all the wildlife departments follow to report the actual cause of death of the animal.</p>

<p>C.4</p>	<p>Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with a human-animal conflict incident?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p> <p>There are reports on electronic and print media with pictorial evidence of leopards' attacks on humans and livestock.</p>
<p>C.5</p>	<p>Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with illegal domestic and international trade?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p>
<p>C.6</p>	<p>Do you experience challenges related to the poaching of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> .No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes', please provide details:</p>

D. ILLEGAL TRADE

D.1	<p>Have any seizures of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) specimens been made in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please submit details about the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) seizures in a separate file using the standard format for the CITES annual illegal trade report, see E-AITR-format-2023.xlsx (live.com). Please indicate that the seizure record refers to Asian leopard in column "Additional information".</p> <p>For more information on how to fill in the standard format see Notification to the Parties No. 2023/132 Annex 2 Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report (November 2023).</p> <p><i>Data already provided in CITES annual illegal trade reports do not need to be included in the special report.</i></p> <p>Report attached in xlsx format.</p>
D.2	<p>Do you experience any enforcement challenges in your country related to illegal trade and other illegal activities concerning Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes' please provide details:</p>



Ref: Notification 2024/086

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INVITATION TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON ASIAN BIG CATS (FELIDAE SPP.)

I refer to Notification 2024/086 dated 06 August 2024 with regard to the above. Please find below feedback from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Decision 14.95

Although South Africa has intensive tiger breeding operations on a commercial scale, most of these tigers are exported as live animals to zoos, safari parks and exhibition facilities and the animals are thus imported for non-commercial purposes. Tigers are thus not specifically bred for trade in their parts and derivatives. During the last few years very few tiger products have been confiscated by authorities and the DFFE believes that first responders, including Customs and Police officials receive adequate training to be on the lookout for illegal wildlife products and to understand what is required in the event of a detection. Regular joint compliance and enforcement operations take place within the country and at ports to address the illegal trade in wildlife. When we receive information of alleged illegal trade in tigers or tiger parts and derivatives, we do investigate the cases but to date, have not had a major conviction for illegal trade in tigers or their products.

Decision 18.100

In terms of the CITES Illegal Trade reports from 2016 to 2022, the DFFE has very few seizures within South Africa of Asian big cat parts and derivatives. Whilst there might have been a few cases over the

INVITATION TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON ASIAN BIG CATS (FELIDAE SPP.)

years, it is not possible to conclude, based on the information available, that the demand for tigers has led to large scale illegal trade from South Africa.

Decision 18.101

As far as the DFFE knows there is no tourist markets that are contributing to illegal cross border trade involving Asian big cat specimens, but if we become aware of such markets, we will strengthen our law enforcement cooperation with neighbouring Parties to target such illegal trade.

Decision 18.102 (Rev. CoP19)

South Africa hosted a mission from the Secretariat in May 2023 to visit four identified facilities that keep and breed Asian big cats in captivity. We have received the report from the mission, and taken note of the CITES Secretariat's recommendation in SC77 Doc. 41.2 paragraph 92. f) i) to v). We are working towards meeting some of the recommendations.

Decision 18.103 (Rev. CoP19)

South Africa took note of the information on tiger range States which have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins, as presented in paragraph 14 in document SC70 Doc. 42.1, and will share images in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species, paragraph 1 l) within 90 days of a seizure of tiger skins.

Decision 18.105

South Africa took note of the information in section 3.1.5 of Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1.

Decision 18.106

South Africa is not a consumer State of specimens from tiger and other Asian big cat species as far as could be determined. There may be people living in South Africa that consume specimens from tiger, but we have not detected problems with this aspect in South Africa to date.

Decision 18.107 (Rev. CoP19)

South Africa responded to the invitation of this Decision by sending this letter to the Secretariat.

Decision 19.109

South Africa takes note of the Decision 19.109 and will:

- a) inform the Secretariat of forensic research projects, including genetic and other methods, if undertaken in South Africa;
- b) will share samples of Asian big cat specimens from living animals, seized animals or products that could contain DNA of Asian big cats with genetic research projects focusing on the development of techniques to address illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens if possible and if requested from other Parties; and

INVITATION TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON ASIAN BIG CATS (FELIDAE SPP.)

- c) take note that methods for the identification of tiger species and individual identification from different types of specimens of tiger parts and derivatives have been developed in the Czech Republic, and that analytical kits for use of these methods, as well as testing of tiger samples, are available to Parties free of charge.

Please advise if any further information or clarity is required.

Yours sincerely

Spain

Buenos días,

Desde la Autoridad Administrativa CITES España nos ponemos en contacto con ustedes en relación a la Notificación 2024/086 sobre Grandes felinos asiáticos.

Cabe mencionar que los datos aportados en el archivo Excel separado pertenecen a todas las incautaciones realizadas entre 2019 y 2023 para especímenes de *Panthera pardus*. Sin embargo, no tenemos datos sobre la población a la que pertenecen. Solo el espécimen resaltado en amarillo es el único del que tenemos constancia que pertenece a la población asiática.

No duden en ponerse en contacto con nosotros para resolver cualquier duda.

Reciban un cordial saludo,

Notificación a las Partes No. 2024/086
Anexo 2

B. CONSERVACIÓN

B.1	¿Es su país un Estado del área de distribución del leopardo asiático (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> En caso negativo, pase a la Sección D.				
B.2	Basándose en la mejor información disponible, la población de leopardos asiáticos silvestres (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) en su país durante los últimos años: <table border="1"><tr><td>Aumentó <input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Se mantuvo estable <input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Disminuyó <input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Se desconoce <input type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table> Indique las fuentes de información en que ha basado su respuesta:	Aumentó <input type="checkbox"/>	Se mantuvo estable <input type="checkbox"/>	Disminuyó <input type="checkbox"/>	Se desconoce <input type="checkbox"/>
Aumentó <input type="checkbox"/>	Se mantuvo estable <input type="checkbox"/>	Disminuyó <input type="checkbox"/>	Se desconoce <input type="checkbox"/>		
B.3	¿Es su país signatario de algún acuerdo bilateral y/o multilateral para la cogestión de leopardos asiáticos (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> En caso afirmativo, suministre detalles, inclusive los nombres de los acuerdos, y qué otros países participan:				

<p>B.4</p>	<p>¿Tiene planes de gestión cooperativa, medidas de conservación o planes de recuperación para poblaciones compartidas de leopardos asiáticos (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)?</p> <p>Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>En caso afirmativo, proporcione un enlace o referencia a un plan publicado:</p>
<p>B.5</p>	<p>¿Ha experimentado algún desafío en relación con la conservación del leopardo asiático (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) en su país que le gustaría destacar?</p> <p>Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>En caso afirmativo, suministre detalles:</p>

C. CAZA FURTIVA

<p>C.1</p>	<p>¿Ha habido algún incidente de caza furtiva de leopardo asiático (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) en su país desde el 1 de enero de 2019?</p> <p>Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>En caso "Afirmativo", indique el número de leopardos asiáticos cazados furtivamente en su país desde el 1 de enero de 2019: _____</p> <p>Sírvase indicar más detalles sobre los incidentes de caza furtiva siguientes:</p>
<p>C.2</p>	<p>Causa de la muerte:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disparos</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lazos/Trampas</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lanzas</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Envenenamientos</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Otra (añada detalles en las Notas adicionales más abajo)</p> <p>Signos (evidencias) de la causa de la muerte (proporcione detalles):</p>

C.3	<p>¿Se realizó una autopsia?</p> <p>Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>En caso afirmativo, suministre detalles:</p>
C.4	<p>¿Hay pruebas de que la caza furtiva estaba asociada con un incidente de conflicto entre hombres y animales?</p> <p>Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>En caso afirmativo, suministre detalles:</p>
C.5	<p>¿Hay pruebas de que la caza furtiva estaba asociada con el comercio nacional y/o internacional ilegal?</p> <p>Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>En caso afirmativo, suministre detalles:</p>
C.6	<p>¿Ha experimentado desafíos relacionados con la caza furtiva de leopardos asiáticos (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) en su país que le gustaría destacar?</p> <p>Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>En caso afirmativo, suministre detalles:</p>

D. COMERCIO ILEGAL

D.1	<p>¿Ha realizado su país decomisos de especímenes de leopardos asiáticos (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) desde el 1 de enero de 2019?</p> <p>Sí <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>En caso afirmativo, sírvase suministrar detalles sobre los decomisos de leopardo asiático (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) en un archivo separado utilizando el formato normalizado para el informe anual CITES sobre comercio ilegal, véase E-AITR-format-2023.xlsx (live.com). Sírvase indicar que los registros de decomisos se refieren al leopardo asiático en la columna "Información adicional".</p> <p>Para mayor información sobre como rellenar el formato normalizado véase la Notificación a las Partes No. 2023/132 Anexo 2 Las Directrices para la preparación y presentación del informe anual CITES sobre el comercio ilegal (Noviembre de 2023).</p> <p><i>No es necesario incluir en el informe especial los datos ya proporcionados en los informes anuales CITES sobre comercio ilegal.</i></p> <p>Los datos aportados en el archivo separado pertenecen a todas las incautaciones realizadas entre 2019 y 2023 para especímenes de <i>Panthera pardus</i>. Sin embargo, no tenemos datos sobre la población a la que pertenecen. Solo el espécimen resaltado en amarillo es el único que tenemos constancia que pertenece a la población asiática.</p>
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D.2

¿Ha experimentado algún desafío de observancia en su país en relación con el comercio ilegal y otras actividades ilegales sobre el leopardo asiático (*Panthera pardus*) que le gustaría destacar?

Sí No **X**

En caso afirmativo, suministre detalles:

Thailand

Thailand's response to Notification 2024/086 - Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

In Notification No. 2024/086, the CITES Secretariat requests Parties to report on their implementation of Decisions in related to Asian Big cats (Felidae) as applicable, and invites Parties to report on conservation measures, poaching incidents, and illegal trade regarding *Panthera pardus* within its Asian range.

1. Measures to restrict the captive population of tigers

Legal measures

As a protected animal under the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act (WARPA), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is prohibited to be bred for trade either in live specimens, or their parts and derivatives. Captive tigers kept for zoo purposes are regulated under WARPA's legal measures related to zoo operations. The draft of the Ministerial Regulation concerning the application and issuance of permits for the establishment and operation of zoos has passed the public hearing process and was approved in principle by the Cabinet on April 2, 2024. The draft is currently under consideration by the Office of the Council of State before proceeding with the signing by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment. This Ministerial Regulation will be enforced along with a subordinate regulation, issued by Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, outlining details comprehensive standards for zoo management, encompassing aspects such as keeping and exhibiting areas, animal care, welfare, safety, public education. Management of the captive tiger population in each zoo facility will be regulated through requirements specified in relation to the zoo standard and zoo management plan. Zoo facilities shall adhere to the requirements outlined in the DNP regulation. Violations may result in the suspension or revocation of the zoo operation permit. The expected timeline for the effectiveness of these two regulations is by the end of 2024.

Enforcement efforts

Thailand continues its efforts to address the illegal trade of tigers and other big cats. The recent confiscation of tigers occurred in July 2024. DNP officers and Polices conducted a purchase plan and led to arrest two Thai suspects with 2 tiger cubs and approx. 100 kg of raw ivory in Surin province. The process of genetic analysis is underway, comparing the genetics of the examined tigers with those of captive tigers in targeted facilities. Legal actions will follow based on the results of the analysis.

At the policy level, affiliated agencies have been instructed to conduct thorough inspections of zoos keeping tigers. Should any non-compliance with permit conditions be identified, stringent measures must be taken to control the tiger population. In cases involving illegal tiger trade, authorities are to exercise their full powers, including the suspension or revocation of permits, as well as the immediate enforcement of relevant legal provisions.

While the legal provision is in process of development. DNP exercises administrative measures to tightening of control of zoo facilities keeping tigers. In August 2024, DNP has notified zoo facilities in regard to management plan for rearing, breeding, and restricting the population of tigers in zoo facilities. This is to reiterate that the facility keeping tigers in control its tiger population number by keeping different sexes of animals apart and developing a management plan for rearing, breeding, and restricting the population of tigers, aligned with the facility's capacity. The details of the plan include

- Tiger individual information i.e. subspecies, number, sex, age, id marking.
- Tiger reproduction and population management i.e. parental stock, breeding

records, purposes and husbandry methods for the reproduction, utilization of the offspring, plan for management of aged tigers.

- The plan will cover a five-year period or a shorter period to align with the validity of the permit.

DNP is also working on the development of an online database of captive tigers. The database contains necessary data such as tiger photographs, microchip numbers, parental information, and genetic data, which will support monitoring and enforcement efforts. The database has been piloted and is in the process of adjustment to better suit its intended uses.

Reports of tiger births and deaths are mandatory for all zoo facilities. Officers were instructed to include the compilation of essential information during inspections, such as marking, photographing, and collecting genetic samples from newborn tigers and deceased specimens. Collected samples of captive tigers been regularly transferred from regional offices to the Wildlife Forensic Laboratory for further genetic analyses as needed.

International collaborations

Thailand is strengthening law enforcement cooperation with Lao PDR and Malaysia through development of bilateral Memorandum of Understandings. Bilateral meetings with the respective neighbouring countries were held in Thailand in 2023. The scope of the MoUs may not be specific to the illegal trade of Asian Big Cats; however, they could lead to effective collaboration under the broader coverage of the MoUs. Lao PDR officials plan to visit Thailand at the end of 2024 to discuss the details of the MoU. Thailand and Malaysia are in the final stages of drafting the agreement before seeking the necessary approvals.

Thailand maintains photographic identification databases for tigers, gathered from longterm monitoring of wild populations in key habitats, as well as from facilities keeping captive tigers. We are prepared to collaborate with relevant Parties the identification of tigers from photographs of tiger skins seized in other countries.

2. Public educations

Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation organizes the annual World Tiger Day event around July 29th. World Tiger Day 2024 was held in the Future Park shopping mall in Phatum Thani Province with theme “Go Goal Tigers” during July 25-27, 2024. This event was organized, in collaboration with development organization partners, and Future Park and Spell Shopping Mall, to raise awareness and foster understanding of tiger conservation and relevant legislation. It features a tiger-themed exhibition, a music performance, and one of the main highlights is a tiger conservation knowledge quiz and trivia games with prizes, which have proven to be highly popular among participants.

3. Illegal trade in leopard parts and derivatives

Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is protected under WARPA as a protected animal. WARPA2019 has escalated the penalties for violations. The maximum imprisonment term has increased from 4 to 10 years and elevated the maximum fine from 40,000 Baht (approximately USD 1,150) to 1,000,000 Baht (approximately USD 29,000) for illegal poaching, import, export, and domestic trade of any protected species.

A preliminary study of the genetics of captive leopards in Thailand suggests that the majority of the captive population consists of the Indochinese subspecies, while a smaller portion is of the Indian subspecies. Detailed genetic analysis and development of a

leopard genetic database, similar to that of tigers, will be instrumental in managing populations for both in situ and ex situ conservation efforts, as well as to support law enforcement. Financial support from organizations to facilitate this initiative would be greatly appreciated.

The questionnaire of the leopard has been completed and attached along with the report.

Notification No. 2024/086
Annex 2

B. CONSERVATION

B.1	<p>Is your country a range State of the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If "No", please proceed to Section D.</p>				
B.2	<p>Based on the best available information, did the wild population of Asian leopards (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country over the last 5 years:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Increase <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Stable <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Decrease <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Please indicate the source(s) of information your answer is based on:</p> <p>There is no assessment of the national leopard population in Thailand. The national status of the leopard is classified as Endangered (EN).</p> <p>Two key habitats of the leopards are the Western Forest Complex (WFC) and the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex. Density of the leopards in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of the Western Forest Complex, was estimated as 6 individuals/100 km² (Simcharoen</p>	Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

¹ Please use additional sheets for any question, if needed.

	<p>et al, 2008). An informal discussion with a researcher working on the long-term monitoring of tigers in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary and Tung Yai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary suggested that at least 100 leopard individuals have been captured by camera traps in these two WFC sites.</p> <p>The recent study in the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex confirmed that a key leopard population in the core area of KKFC has remained stable at 2.8-3.8 leopards/100 km² over the last two decades (Pliosungnoen, 2023). Rostro-Garcia et al (2016) estimated 400-800 Leopards roam in Tenasserim mountain along the Thailand-Myanmar border.</p> <p>References</p> <p>Pliosungnoen, Manoon. "SPATIAL ECOLOGY AND DENSITY OF THE INDOCHINESE LEOPARD (<i>Panthera pardus delacouri</i>) AND ITS PREY IN KAENG KRACHAN FOREST COMPLEX, THAILAND." PhD diss., State University of New York, 2023.</p> <p>Rostro-Garcia, Susana, J. F. Kamler, Eric Ash, G. R. Clements, Luke Gibson, A. J. Lynam, Ross McEwing, Hla Naing, and Steve Paglia. "Endangered leopards: range collapse of the Indochinese leopard (<i>Panthera pardus delacouri</i>) in Southeast Asia." <i>Biological Conservation</i> 201 (2016): 293-300.</p> <p>Simcharoen, Saksit, Adam CD Barlow, Achara Simcharoen, and James LD Smith. "Home range size and daytime habitat selection of leopards in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand." <i>Biological Conservation</i> 141, no. 9 (2008): 2242-2250.</p>
<p>B.3</p>	<p>Is your country a signatory to any bilateral and/or multilateral agreements for co-management of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)?</p> <p>Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes', please provide brief details, including the names of the agreements, and which other countries are involved: -</p>
<p>B.4</p>	<p>Do you have any cooperative management plans, conservation measures, or recovery plans, in place for shared populations of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)?</p> <p>Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If "Yes", please provide a link or reference to a published plan: -</p>
<p>B.5</p>	<p>Do you experience any challenges regarding conservation of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes' please provide details: -</p>

C. POACHING

C.1	Have there been any poaching incidents involving Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country since 1 January 2019? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If "Yes", indicate number of poached Asian leopards in your country since 1 January 2019: Please also provide more details about the poaching incidents below:
C.2	Cause of death: <input type="checkbox"/> Gunshot <input type="checkbox"/> Snare/Trap <input type="checkbox"/> Spear <input type="checkbox"/> Poisoning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (add details in Additional Notes below) Signs (evidence) of cause of death (please give details): -
C.3	Was post-mortem conducted? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please give details:
C.4	Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with a human-animal conflict incident? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please give details:
C.5	Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with illegal domestic and/or international trade? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please give details:
C.6	Do you experience challenges related to the poaching of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> .No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If 'Yes', please provide details:

D. ILLEGAL TRADE

D.1	<p>Have any seizures of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) specimens been made in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please submit details about the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) seizures in a separate file using the standard format for the CITES annual illegal trade report, see E-AITR-format-2023.xlsx (live.com). Please indicate that the seizure record refers to Asian leopard in column "Additional information".</p> <p>For more information on how to fill in the standard format see Notification to the Parties No. 2023/132 Annex 2 Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report (November 2023).</p> <p>Data already provided in CITES annual illegal trade reports do not need to be included in the special report.</p> <p>Two cases of domestic trade and possession of the leopard completed and submitted in digital file.</p>
D.2	<p>Do you experience any enforcement challenges in your country related to illegal trade and other illegal activities concerning Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes' please provide details:</p>

U.S. Response to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/086 Invitation to submit information on Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

August 30, 2024

Measures and activities taken by the United States to implement Decisions 14.69, 19.109, 18.100, 18.101, 18.102 (Rev. CoP19), 18.103 (Rev. CoP19), 18.105, 18.106 & 18.107 (Rev. CoP19) to 18.109 (Rev. CoP19) on *Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)*

Decision 14.69

Directed to Parties, especially Appendix-I Asian big cat range States

Parties with intensive operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale shall implement measures to restrict the captive population to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers; tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives.

The Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA) was enacted on December 20, 2022, to end the private ownership of big cats as pets and prohibit exhibitors from allowing public contact with big cats, including cubs. It placed new restrictions on the commerce, breeding, possession, and use of certain big cat species. Additional information on the BCPSA can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/what-you-need-know-about-big-cat-public-safety-act>.

Decision 18.100

Directed to Parties

Parties affected by illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, in particular Parties identified in document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, are encouraged to take into consideration the information in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, and pursue enforcement efforts to address this illegal trade, including through the initiation of joint investigations and operations aimed at halting the members of organized crime networks across the entire illegal trade chain.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), and other relevant U.S. Government agencies routinely undertake joint investigations, both internally and with external partners, aimed at halting the activities of organized criminal networks involved in the poaching of and illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens.

Decision 18.101

Directed to Parties

Parties, in whose territory tourist markets exist that are contributing to illegal cross border trade involving Asian big cat specimens, are encouraged to strengthen law enforcement cooperation with their neighbouring Parties to target such illegal trade.

Tourist markets for Asian big cat specimens do not exist in the United States.

Decision 18.102 (Rev. CoP19)

Directed to Parties

Parties in whose territories there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity referred to in Decision 18.108 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph a) are invited to welcome a mission from the Secretariat, to visit these facilities.

The United States welcomed the Secretariat in March 2024 for a mission to visit U.S. facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity.

Decision 18.103 (Rev. CoP19)

Directed to Parties

All Parties that make seizures of tiger skins are encouraged to take note of the information on tiger range States which have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins, as presented in paragraph 14 in document SC70 Doc. 42.1, and to share images in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species, paragraph 1 l) within 90 days of such seizure.

The United States has noted the information on tiger range States that have photographic identification databases for tigers. While we do not currently share photographs of tiger skins (or skins of other Asian big cats) with range States, we would be open to sharing them in the future, as appropriate and consistent with regulation and policy.

Decision 18.105

Directed to Parties

Parties, in particular those mentioned in section 3.1.5 of Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, are encouraged to take serious consideration of the concerns regarding illegal trade in leopard parts and derivatives as outlined in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 and take measures to address these.

The United States has not identified any unique or particular concerns regarding trade in leopard parts and derivatives.

Decision 18.106

Directed to Parties

Consumer States of specimens from tiger and other Asian big cat species are urged to take action to end demand for illegal tiger and other big cat parts and derivatives by working with relevant specialists such as consumer behaviour change, social marketing and communication experts to conduct targeted behaviour change initiatives ensuring initiatives are underpinned by sound evidence, are properly baselined, and have strong monitoring and evaluation built in, including appropriate metrics to assess efficacy; and adopting and implementing appropriate legislative and regulatory measures, to deter consumers from purchasing any illegal big cat products.

The United States is not a significant consumer State of specimens of tigers and other Asian big cats. Nevertheless, the United States has strong legislative and regulatory measures in place to halt illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens. Furthermore, federal agencies and non-governmental partners undertake routine monitoring and evaluation of domestic trade in Asian big cats and develop appropriate enforcement and behavior change interventions.

Decision 19.109

Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to:

a) inform the Secretariat of forensic research projects, including genetic and other methods, undertaken in their territory focusing on the development of techniques to support addressing illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, for this information to be made available to Parties;

The mission of the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (NFWFL), under the OLE, is to support the enforcement of wildlife laws through the development of objective science and its application to the analysis of evidence in wildlife crime investigations. The NFWFL uses these tools

to further support efforts to address illegal trade in imported Asian big cat specimens as well as captive Asian big cat populations in the United States.

Forensic capability and research:

Scope: Cause of Death

Pathology: The NFWFL's Pathology Unit has experience in disease diagnostics and forensics of wild and exotic species, including evaluation for abuse, neglect, and cruelty to captive animals. Animal remains undergo a full post-mortem examination to look for pathologic changes or evidence that would help to reconstruct the circumstances surrounding an animal's death. In-house pathology analysis includes necropsy, X-ray and CT scans, microscopic exams, and alternate light source examination. Criminalists, morphologists, geneticists, microbiologists, or toxicologists may provide ancillary information to further elucidate a cause of death. The pathology unit has provided this service for cases of U.S.-based wild and captive big cats, diagnosing gunshot, blunt force trauma, poisoning, and predation.

Scope: Species identification

Morphology: The NFWFL's Morphology Unit uses classic techniques of comparative anatomy to identify animal remains as a rapid and cost-effective method to compare known reference items to unknown evidence items, make a taxonomic identification based on observed physical characteristics, as well as determine minimum number of individuals, and when possible, sex. Analysts examine photographs of live animals and wildlife products as provisional species identifications for probable cause, in addition to casework and independent research projects. Morphological features are used to distinguish real versus fake items and identify a specimen to species – using unique spot or stripe patterns, and size, shape, and other diagnostic features of skulls, claws, or teeth. A 3D reference library of Asian big cat parts is being developed to use for casework as well as research and training.

Individual identification: In response to requests in casework and pursuant to the BCPSA, the NFWFL's Morphology Unit is exploring the potential to establish a photographic database of seized skins and captive tigers in the United States, developing a forensic protocol for Asian big cat individual identification using spot and stripe patterns of the coat, building on methods of individual identification that has been used in field biology and by other Parties, and pathways and analytical tools to systematically and securely analyze and share images for law enforcement purposes.

Proteomics: In collaboration with the State of California, the NFWFL is exploring the use of proteomics to identify felid and other tanned fur. Due to tanning processes, DNA can be degraded and thus the lab is seeking other rapid methods for species identification.

Robinson N. 2012. The individualization of leopards via pattern analysis of the spots forming their dorsal rosette rings. Master's Thesis. California State University, Fresno, California.

Sabo BA, Yates BC. 1996. Distinguishing the claws of mammals and birds. Identification Notes for Wildlife Enforcement M-96-3. National Fish & Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, Ashland, Oregon, USA.

Sims ME. 2012. Cranial morphology of five felids: *Acinonyx jubatus*, *Panthera onca*, *Panthera pardus*, *Puma concolor*, *Uncia uncia*. Russian Journal of Theriology 11(2):157-170.

Sims ME, Yates BC. 2001. Bear and Cat Claws. Identification Notes for Wildlife Enforcement M-01-1. National Fish & Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, Ashland, Oregon, USA.

Yates B. 1996. Types of mammalian teeth. Identification Note for Wildlife Enforcement M-96-2. National Fish & Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, Ashland, Oregon, USA.

Yates B. 1996. Fangs! Identification Note for Wildlife Enforcement M-96-5. National Fish & Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, Ashland, Oregon, USA.

Genetics: Fragmentary or modified remains are analyzed by the NFWFL's Genetics Unit. The Genetics Unit also works with native and non-native species, extracting DNA for species identification, sexing, and hybridization for casework. The Genetics Unit uses mitochondrial DNA sequencing for species identification (in addition to real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction for tiger bone wine), XY chromosomes for sex determination, and microsatellite markers (nuclear short-tandem repeats) in determining hybridization, currently developed for Asian tigers and Asiatic lions.

In response to requests in casework, current international collaborations with similar projects (e.g., jaguars), and pursuant to the BCPSA, the NFWFL's Genetics Unit is interested in working with national and international researchers and laboratories to support the development and validation of robust genetic panels (SNPs or STRs) in a forensic context to support casework related to questions on origin of specimens, individualization, pedigree analysis, minimum number of individuals, and geographic provenance.

Henger CS, Straughan DJ, Xu CCY, Nightingale B, Kretser HE, Burnham-Curtis M, McAloose D, Seimon TA. 2023. A new multiplex qPCR assay to detect and differentiate big cat species in the illegal wildlife trade. *Scientific Reports* 13:9796.

Scope: Elemental and materials analysis

Chemistry: The NFWFL's Criminalistics and Chemistry Unit specializes in trace evidence such as hair, tool marks, forged documents, such as altered hunting or import-export permits, as well as elemental and materials analysis. The NFWFL's Chemistry Unit supports elemental analysis of traditional Chinese medicinal products, to measure organic compounds in products to determine if products are real or fake.

b) in accordance with their national regulations, share samples of Asian big cat specimens from living animals, seized animals or products that could contain DNA of Asian big cats with genetic research projects focusing on the development of techniques to address illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens; and

The NFWFL houses an on-site reference sample collection (morphological and genetic) of specimens and samples used for ongoing casework. The NFWFL is willing, consistent with national regulations, to share data generated by both research and casework (once adjudicated). The laboratory is keen to collaborate with the global community to support evolving forensic techniques and methods to address illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens. As part of our mission, the NFWFL promotes collections, methods, and analysis that can advance the wildlife forensic discipline in a standardized and verifiable way to stand up in a court of law.

c) take note that methods for the identification of tiger species and individual identification from different types of specimens of tiger parts and derivatives have been developed in the Czech Republic, and that analytical kits for use of these methods, as well as testing of tiger samples, are available to Parties free of charge.

The NFWFL is interested in collaborating with national and international partners, including colleagues in the Czech Republic and big cat working groups, to discuss collaborative methods for identification of tiger species and individual identification from different types of specimens of tiger parts and derivatives. As part of the lab's mandate, in-house analysis of morphological and genetic specimens using accredited protocols is necessary for the lab's casework, but the lab seeks to collaborate with external partners to build on species and individual identification techniques and sharing analytical kits

and techniques, to advance the role of wildlife forensics in addressing illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens.

Notification No. 2024/086
Annex 2

B. CONSERVATION

<p>B.1</p>	<p>Is your country a range State of the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If “No”, please proceed to Section D.</p>				
<p>B.2</p>	<p>Based on the best available information, did the wild population of Asian leopards (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country over the last 5 years:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="319 663 1492 712"> <tr> <td data-bbox="319 663 617 712">Increase <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="617 663 916 712">Stable <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="916 663 1214 712">Decrease <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1214 663 1492 712">Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Please indicate the source(s) of information your answer is based on:</p>	Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>B.3</p>	<p>Is your country a signatory to any bilateral and/or multilateral agreements for co-management of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If ‘Yes’, please provide brief details, including the names of the agreements, and which other countries are involved:</p>				
<p>B.4</p>	<p>Do you have any cooperative management plans, conservation measures, or recovery plans, in place for shared populations of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If “Yes”, please provide a link or reference to a published plan:</p>				
<p>B.5</p>	<p>Do you experience any challenges regarding conservation of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If ‘Yes’ please provide details:</p>				

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A. POACHING

C.1	<p>Have there been any poaching incidents involving Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If "Yes", indicate number of poached Asian leopards in your country since 1 January 2019: _____</p> <p>Please also provide more details about the poaching incidents below:</p>
C.2	<p>Cause of death:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gunshot</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Snare/Trap</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poisoning</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (add details in Additional Notes below)</p> <p>Signs (evidence) of cause of death (please give details):</p>
C.3	<p>Was post-mortem conducted?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p>
C.4	<p>Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with a human-animal conflict incident?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p>
C.5	<p>Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with illegal domestic and/or international trade?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p>

C.6	<p>Do you experience challenges related to the poaching of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> .No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes', please provide details:</p>
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D. ILLEGAL TRADE

D.1	<p>Have any seizures of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) specimens been made in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please submit details about the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) seizures in a separate file using the standard format for the CITES annual illegal trade report, see E-AITR-format-2023.xlsx (live.com). Please indicate that the seizure record refers to Asian leopard in column "Additional information".</p> <p>For more information on how to fill in the standard format see Notification to the Parties No. 2023/132 Annex 2 Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report (November 2023).</p> <p><i>Data already provided in CITES annual illegal trade reports do not need to be included in the special report.</i></p>
D.2	<p>Do you experience any enforcement challenges in your country related to illegal trade and other illegal activities concerning Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes' please provide details:</p>



REPORT

Conservation, Trade controls of Asian Big Cats (*Felidae* spp.) Viet Nam

September 2024

I. CITES REQUIREMENTS

- Resolution 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) on Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species;
- Decisions on Asian Big Cats (*Felidae* spp.): 14.69, 18.100, 18.101-18.103, 18.105-18.107, 19.109;
- The 77th Standing Committee's recommendation by Document SC77 Doc. 41.2 on Asian big cats in captivity;
- Notification No. 2024/086 of the CITES Secretariat on Invitation to submit information on Asian big cats (*Felidae* spp.)

II. DOMESTIC LEGISLATION

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and Asian big cat species listed in CITES Appendix I - Commercial use is prohibited. As listed under the List of Endangered precious and rare species prioritized for protection, Viet Nam does not allow the captive breeding of tigers for commercial purposes.

- According to Decree No. 06/2019/ND-CP dated 22/01/2019 and Decree No. 84/2021/ND-CP dated 22/09/2021, all species of big cats naturally distributed in the country such as *Panthera tigris corbetti*, *Neofelis nebulosa*, *Panthera pardus* and *Catopuma temminckii* are listed in Group I-B - List of endangered, precious and rare forest plants and animals, to which the regulations to strictly prohibit the exploitation and use for commercial purposes are applied.

- According to the the Law of Investment 2020, tigers and other wild animals of Group I and CITES Appendix I are prohibited from investment and trade in specimens from the wild.

- Any breaches of the laws on violation of regulations on management, protection of animals listed in Group I and CITES Appendix I, particularly tigers shall be subject to the penalty as of Article 244, Penal Code 2015 (amended in 2017). The penalty is up to 15 years in prison, and a maximum fine of VND 15 billion depending on the severity of the acts.

- Decision No. 539/QĐ-TTg dated 16 April 2014 by the Prime Minister on approving the national tiger conservation program period 2014 – 2022, which determine the priorities on conservation area for tigers; monitoring of tigers and their preys in the



wild; management, monitoring of captive breeding activities; fostering the prevention, combat in violation of related laws; communication and awareness raising; diversification of financial mechanism in tiger conservation; and promotion of transboundary cooperation.

III. STATUS OF TIGER IN THE WILD (*Panthera tigris*)

According to the Viet Nam CITES Scientific Authority (Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources), the tiger's current distribution area belongs to six protected areas, named as Muong Nhe Nature Reserve, Pu Mat National Park, Vu Quang National Park, Song Thanh Nature Reserve, Chu Mom Ray National Park, and Yok Don National Park. Tiger population has been significantly reduced, with the number of individuals is currently estimated under 30 heads, living in few small groups, and under the pressure of hunting and habitat loss.

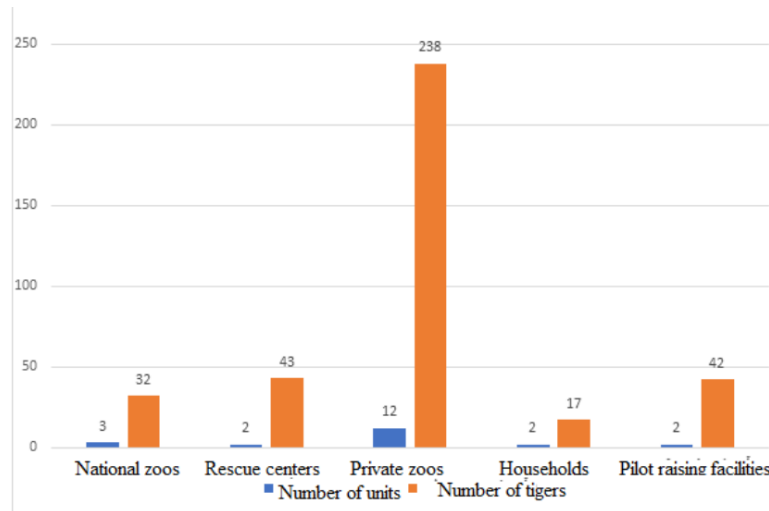
Presently, Viet Nam does not have an updated database of tiger and other Asian big cat species due to the lack of comprehensive field survey in recent years. Decision No. 539/QĐ-TTg dated by the Prime Minister on approving the national tiger conservation program period 2014 – 2022 describes the establishment of priority areas to recover tiger and their prey population in the wild and their natural habitat. As the program ended in 2022, a new program for the next period on tiger conservation is under the way to be developed.

IV. MANAGEMENT OF FACILITIES KEEPING TIGERS (*Panthera tigris*) AND ASIAN BIG CATS

4.1. General information

Currently, Viet Nam has a total of 21 tigers and big cats facilities with 372 individuals, including 17 operations registered as zoos, display facilities and rescue centers (*Panthera pardus*, *Panthera onca*) for non-commercial purposes as conservation, education and display. The other 04 facilities remain as households, pilot raising facilities with no commercial activity recorded. Domestic laws do not allow the captive raising of tigers for commercial purposes.

The population of tigers in national and private zoos holds the largest number, equivalent to 73%, while rescue centers keeps around 12%. The rest of the population of captive tigers are kept at households and pilot raising facilities.



Facilities keeping tigers in Vietnam in 2023

4.2. Origin of tigers

Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) currently being kept in the facilities are with the following origin:

- Legally imported from Europe and South Africa with legitimate CITES permits;
- Transferred from other legal raising facilities;
- The tiger individuals kept in 04 pilot raising facilities and households are animals as evidence of cases related to violation of related laws, on which the Prime Minister has allowed pilot farming since 2008;
- Raising purpose: non-commercial (biodiversity conservation, display, and rescue);
- Particularly, the Soc Son Wildlife Rescue Center which is under the management of Ha Noi Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, is mandated to receive and rescue wildlife animals. At the present, the Center is keeping and raising 36 tiger individuals from seizure executed by enforcement agencies, later transferred the Center.

4.3. Management, monitoring and control measures of tiger facilities

- In accordance with the laws of Viet Nam, focus on Law on Forestry and Law on Biodiversity:
 - + The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment advise competent authorities to promulgate legal



regulations, mechanisms and policies to protect and conserve wild animals including tigers, check and supervise tiger raising, inspect conditions of for veterinary care and disease prevention.

+ People's Committees at levels direct local authorities to check, supervise, implement the law on protecting and conserving wild animals. The Forest Protection Sub-department chairs inspecting and supervising raising activities, enforces the law and handles law violations according to the law.

+ Environmental police and market management agencies from central to local also participate in fighting, preventing and solving violations of the law related to tiger management and protection.

- In accordance with the Directive No. 29/CT-TTg dated 23/7/2020 by the Prime Minister: tiger management and control are among the issues that directed to relevant Ministries, judicial bodies and local government to implement solutions to manage and control wild animals. The Directive requests the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in cooperation with other ministries, local government to strengthen the inspection, monitoring in wild animals captive breeding in general. The Directive also states the need to establish database on captive breeding and ranching for commercial purposes to enhance monitoring efficiency.

- Most of tiger facilities are privately owned (57% among the number of facilities and 64% among number of tigers kept across the country). Therefore, changes in the number of tiger individuals are closely controlled by local authorities, in particular the local Forest Protection Department. All tiger facilities are managed and inspected periodically by the local Forest Protection Department, recorded by inspection reports and Animal log book).

- The Viet Nam CITES Management Authority has coordinated with the competent authorities to strictly control the origin of tigers at keeping facilities. To date, there has been 10 facilities granted codes or certificate to raise tigers for non-commercial purposes (exhibition, education, conservation). The origin of the tigers is (i) imported and (ii) exchanged between zoos in accordance with the regulations.

- In 2021, Vietnam issued the National Standard "*Enclosures for tiger, lion, sun bear and black bear*", which stipulates the necessary conditions for tiger raising facilities to support for management agencies in the inspection and supervision of tiger and wild animals raising activities. However, in some facilities, the farm condition is limited due to limited area capability, which may concern the safety conditions for people and other animals.

4.4. Marking, Identification and Database



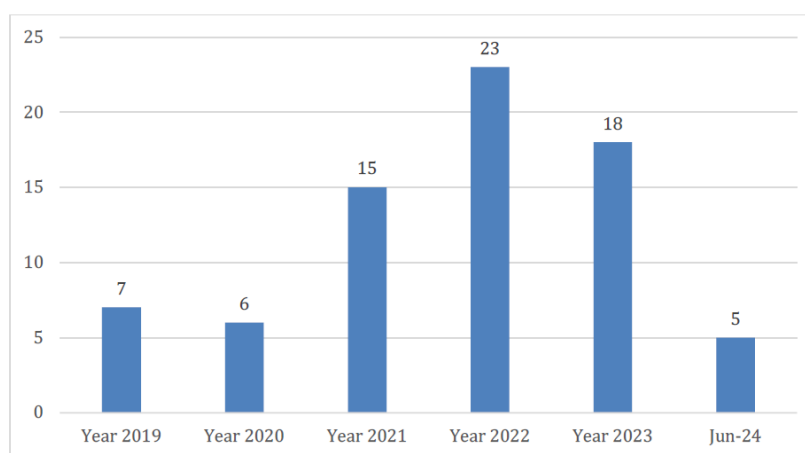
In 2022, with the support of WWF, the forest protection agencies, in coordination with the Viet Nam CITES MA, had collected ADN samples of the tigers raised at Dray Sap tourism area for 07 tigers as evidence of the arrest in Nghe An in 2021.

In 2023 and 2024, with the support of WWF, the forest protection agencies, in coordination with the Viet Nam CITES MA, the ADN samples and stripe pattern photos had been collected at most of the tiger raising facilities over the country, with the aim to create a database to support management and monitoring of the animals. In addition, a number of the facilities have applied stricter measure to control the imported tigers by using microchips.

V. LEGAL ENFORCEMENT

5.1. Inter-ministerial coordination in illegal trade control

In the period 2019-2024, the Viet Nam authorities investigated and arrested 101 cases of illegal trafficking, transportation and storage of tiger specimens and big cats (details as Annex 1). Among which, there were 82 cases of illegal trading, transporting and illegal keeping of tiger specimens (accounting for 81.15% of the total number of arrests). In particular, trading and transportation activities often occur in provinces bordering Laos such as Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh. Besides, trading and transporting tiger specimens (skin) were also discovered in Hanoi and other Northern provinces.



Seizures of big cats in Viet Nam period of 2019-2024

Viet Nam enforcement authorities had collaborated with non-governmental organizations and international organizations such as WCS, TRAFFIC, ENV, and WJC to carry out inspection and surveillance campaigns at wildlife trade hotspots. Several main targets in the tiger trade and transport line had been arrested as result. All cases of



trafficking, possession of tigers and big cats are arrested and prosecuted by the authorities.

5.2. Prosecution and Legal Proceedings

In the period 2020-2023, the judiciary authorities have executed the trial of 27 cases of illegal trade, transportation, possession, and captivity of tigers. A number of typical cases include:

(i) Collected 07 tigers illegally transferred from Nghe An to Hanoi in July 2019. In May 2020, Hanoi People's Court sentenced 03 individuals of illegal trade in tigers to 16 years in prison.

(ii) Collected 07 tigers illegally transferred from Ha Tinh to Nghe An in August 2021. In March 2022, Nghe An People's Court sentenced 2 individuals to 9 years in prison.

(iii) Arrested 02 individuals for illegally raising 17 tigers in Nghe An in August 2021. In March 2022, Nghe An People's Court sentenced 1 individual to 07 years in prison and another one 3.5 years in prison.

(iv) Arrested 01 individual for keeping a tiger (200 kg) in Thai Nguyen in January 2022. Competent agencies are investigating to solve the case in accordance with the law.

(v) Arrested 03 individuals for illegally transferring a tiger of 200kg in Lai Chau in March 2022. The competent agencies are investigating to solve the case in accordance with the law.

(vi) Arrested 03 individuals for trading and keeping a frozen tiger and tiger skin in Thanh Hoa in May 2022. In December 2022, People's Court of Thuong Xuan District, Thanh Hoa province sentenced 5 individuals to 9 years in prison.

(vii) The court in Nghe An sentenced an individual to 02-year imprisonment for illegal trade 01 tiger in July 2023.





02 suspects were sentenced to 09 years in prison for illegal transporting 7 tiger cubs



03 suspects transported 01 tiger from Nghe An to Lai Chau in 2022

5.3. Training, Education and Awareness Raising

- In the period 2019-2024, the Viet Nam CITES Management Authority coordinated with scientific and enforcement agencies to organize training and capacity building for 1,500 provincial forest protection, customs and environment police, border



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 CƠ QUAN THẨM QUYỀN QUẢN LÝ CITES VIỆT NAM
 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 VIET NAM CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



guards, market management officer for CITES implementation and identification of wildlife species frequently traded, including tigers. Based on these activities, CITES enforcement agencies have made great efforts in inspecting, controlling, detecting and preventing the illegal trade, transportation and storage of tiger specimens. In particular,

the dissemination of the provisions of Article 244, the Criminal Code 2015 (amended in 2017), Decree No. 06/2019/ND-CP, Decree No. 84/2021/ND-CP and other provisions of the law on wildlife protection encourage the people to raise awareness on the protection and conservation of tiger and endangered, precious and rare wild animals.

- Training materials development:

To present, the Viet Nam CITES Management Authority has collaborated with interministerial agencies and scientific organization to develop various documents to be used as training materials for enforcement agencies as forest rangers, environmental police, customs, market surveillance, border guard force, and judicial agencies.

+ In collaboration with CITES Scientific Authority, compiled documents guiding the implementation of Decree No. 06/2019/ND-CP for forest rangers;

+ In collaboration with Department of Legislation and Scientific Management, Supreme People's Court, worked to compile the "*Intensive training materials on the provisions of the Criminal Code on violations of regulations on protection of endangered, precious and rare wild animals*".

+ In collaboration with scientific organizations to develop the Guideline "*Process of expertise, collection, storage, preservation and transportation of specimens from illegal trade, transportation and stockpiling of endangered, precious and rare wildlife*".

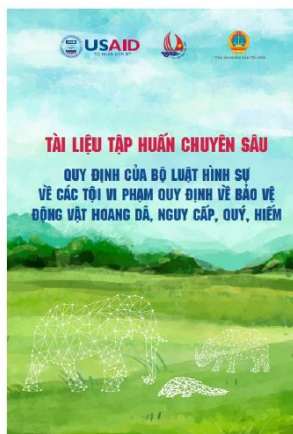
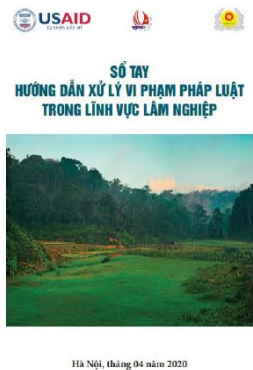
+ In 2019, in collaboration with the Department of Anti-Smuggling Investigation, General Department of Customs, has developed the *Handbook of Customs control of wildlife and wildlife products*.

+ On 27 December 2024, the Vietnam E-commerce and Digital Economy Agency (iDEA, Ministry of Industry and Trade) has requested social networking platforms, sales platforms, and e-commerce platforms to review and remove advertisements of selling wild animals and wildlife hunting equipment.



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VIET NAM CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY





Training materials for enforcement agencies

CITES

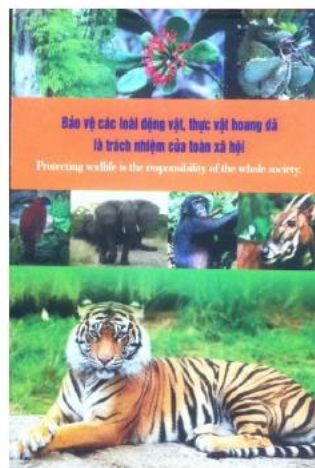
Cộng đồng và nhân loại quốc tế các loài động vật, thực vật hoang dã nguy cấp là tập thể đa phương nhân bản về các loài động vật, thực vật hoang dã nguy cấp. Công ước được ký năm 1973 và chính thức có hiệu lực vào năm 1975. Mục tiêu của Công ước nhằm bảo đảm rằng hoạt động buôn bán quốc tế không đe dọa sự sống của các loài động vật, thực vật hoang dã nguy cấp. CITES sử dụng khung pháp lý chung áp dụng cho toàn bộ 181 quốc gia thành viên nhằm quản lý hoạt động buôn bán trên 37 nghìn loài động vật, thực vật hoang dã.

Chính phủ Việt Nam ký kết tham gia CITES và tự nguyện tuân theo chính hiệp định 322 của Công ước vào năm 1994. Cơ quan Quản lý CITES Việt Nam là cơ quan đại diện cho Chính phủ Việt Nam thực hiện nghĩa vụ và quyền tự nguyện thành viên đối với CITES, có trụ sở đặt tại Tầng 4/Lâm nghiệp, Bộ Nông nghiệp và Phát triển nông thôn.

Chiều cao quan khoa học CITES Việt Nam có nhiệm vụ tư vấn cho Cơ quan quản lý CITES về tình trạng bảo tồn các loài động vật, thực vật hoang dã nguy cấp. Khả năng nuôi trồng, nhân tạo nhằm đảm bảo hoạt động buôn bán quốc tế các loài được bảo vệ.

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Fax: +84 24 7734072
Email: vietnam@cites.org

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CÁCH MẠNG CÔNG NGHIỆP 4.0

Rà soát, gỡ bỏ các thông tin rao bán động vật hoang dã và các sản phẩm động vật hoang dã trái phép
21/03/2024

Động vật hoang dã là tài nguyên thiên nhiên vô cùng quý giá, góp phần quan trọng trong việc tạo nên sự cân bằng sinh thái, bảo đảm môi trường sống trong lành cho con người. Hiện nay, tình trạng buôn bán trái phép động vật hoang dã vẫn diễn ra ở nhiều nơi gây bức xúc trong nhân dân, ảnh hưởng nghiêm trọng đến môi trường sinh thái, làm gia tăng áp lực lên công tác bảo vệ thiên nhiên.

Thời gian vừa qua, cơ quan kiểm lâm và các địa phương đã thực hiện nhiều biện pháp quyết liệt nhằm ngăn chặn tình trạng bày bán động vật hoang dã. Tuy nhiên, vẫn còn tồn tại một số đối tượng tận dụng lợi thế của việc trao đổi thông tin để đăng trên không gian mạng để lập nhóm, xây dựng mạng cộng đồng, sử dụng các nền tảng mạng xã hội, các nền tảng số để thực hiện hành vi quảng cáo, rao bán, tìm kiếm đối tác mua bán, trao đổi các sản phẩm của động vật hoang dã như sừng tê giác, v.v.

TÌM TỨC:
Tin hoạt động
Tin trong nước
Tin quốc tế
Cảnh báo
Bản tin TMDT & KTS
Bảo vệ nền tảng tư tưởng của Đảng

Training and awareness raising materials for management agencies and community



BỘ NÔNG NGHIỆP VÀ PHÁT TRIỂN NÔNG THÔN
CƠ QUAN THẨM QUYỀN QUẢN LÝ CITES VIỆT NAM
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
VIET NAM CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



5.4. International cooperation in trade control

- Viet Nam is a member of the Global Tiger Forum and the Global Tiger Initiative Council. Vietnam joined the Joint Declaration (Saint Petersburgs 2010, Vladivostock 2022) on tiger conservation, in which it commits to develop a national tiger conservation

action plan for the period 2022 and 2034, with the request to cooperate with ASEAN countries to implement the Southeast Asia Tiger Recovery Action Plan and cross-border tiger conservation cooperation.

- Management authorities, enforcement agencies and conservation organizations in the country have been actively implementing many campaigns to reduce the demand for wild animals including tigers, such as CITES Management Authority in cooperation with HSI, the Ministry of Education and Training's combination of tiger conservation program within high school curriculum.

- Viet Nam and Laos annually organize bilateral dialogues on wildlife trade control in border areas between the two countries, in which discussions on tiger trade has been implemented.

- Viet Nam and China cooperates periodically in strengthening cooperation in CITES implementation.

- Viet Nam implement the exchange of information in a regular manner with ASEAN countries within the framework of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and wildlife enforcement, updating and sharing information on seizures and proposing national and ASEAN regional control measures.

- Viet Nam has submitted periodical and relevant reports to the CITES Secretariat, the Standing Committee, Animal Committee on the seizure of CITES wildlife, including tigers in 2019, 2020, 2021; report to the CITES Secretariat and India CITES MA on tiger skin image seizures in 2017-2018.

- Photos of tiger and big cat specimens from seizures in Viet Nam in 2019-2024 (details as Annex 2 to this report) has been sent to CITES Secretariat.

VI. PLAN FOR INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT

- To propose the Prime Minister on an instruction to comprehensively assess tiger facilities and their operation, strengthen management and control, and prohibit tiger facilities for commercial purposes.

- To propose the Prime Minister to direct local government agencies to control the tiger captive keeping conditions, strengthen the management, inspection and supervise raising activities of big cats' facilities, and to ensure the maintenance of the number of populations to the conservation level. Disposal measures of carcasses and specimens should also be standardized.



BỘ NÔNG NGHIỆP VÀ PHÁT TRIỂN NÔNG THÔN
CƠ QUAN THẨM QUYỀN QUẢN LÝ CITES VIỆT NAM
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
VIET NAM CITES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



- To establish the database of tigers in keeping facilities in Viet Nam by collection of ADN samples, stripe pattern photos, microchips implant.

- To strengthen interdisciplinary coordination among law enforcement authorities on trade control on tigers and wildlife in key areas and provinces sharing the borders with neighboring countries./.

B. CONSERVATION

<p>B.1</p>	<p>Is your country a range State of the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If “No”, please proceed to Section D.</p>				
<p>B.2</p>	<p>Based on the best available information, did the wild population of Asian leopards (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country over the last 5 years:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 607 1506 667"> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 607 619 667">Increase <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="619 607 917 667">Stable <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="917 607 1216 667">Decrease <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1216 607 1506 667">Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Please indicate the source(s) of information your answer is based on: The recent survey of IEBR, Asian leopards were previously recorded as having a wide distribution from the north to the south. The population size is estimated to have declined by over 80% over the past 30 years, with an estimated population of less than 250 individuals.</p>	Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>B.3</p>	<p>Is your country a signatory to any bilateral and/or multilateral agreements for co-management of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If ‘Yes’, please provide brief details, including the names of the agreements, and which other countries are involved: Agreement of cooperation mechanism, information exchange on forest protection management and cross-border biodiversity conservation between Vietnam and Cambodia, focus Yok Don National Park (Viet Nam) and Serepok Wildlife Sanctuary, Monduliri National Park (Cambodia).</p>				
<p>B.4</p>	<p>Do you have any cooperative management plans, conservation measures, or recovery plans, in place for shared populations of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If “Yes”, please provide a link or reference to a published plan: Viet Nam cooperated with WWF-Vietnam to develop a Program for Conservation of Endangered, Precious and Rare Species of Vietnam in Special-use Forests (including tiger and Asian leopard). Develop Program to conserve endangered, precious, and rare wildlife species prioritized for protection until 2030, with a vision to 2050 (including tiger and Asian leopard).</p>				

B.5	<p>Do you experience any challenges regarding conservation of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes' please provide details:</p> <p>Populations are declining due to habitat loss.</p> <p>Resources for conservation of big cats, including Asian leopards, are limited.</p> <p>Specimen of Asian leopards have been hunted and trafficked for medicinal and decorative purposes, as evidenced by a number of seizures by Vietnamese enforcement agencies over the past five years.</p>
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C. POACHING

C.1	<p>Have there been any poaching incidents involving Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If "Yes", indicate number of poached Asian leopards in your country since 1 January 2019: _____</p> <p>Please also provide more details about the poaching incidents below:</p>
C.2	<p>Cause of death:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gunshot</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Snare/Trap</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poisoning</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (add details in Additional Notes below)</p> <p>Signs (evidence) of cause of death (please give details):</p>
C.3	<p>Was post-mortem conducted?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p>
C.4	<p>Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with a human-animal conflict incident?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p>

<p>C.5</p>	<p>Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with illegal domestic and/or international trade?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p> <p>There are 03 case of illegal trade in Asian leopard since 2019.</p>
<p>C.6</p>	<p>Do you experience challenges related to the poaching of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes', please provide details:</p>

D. ILLEGAL TRADE

<p>D.1</p>	<p>Have any seizures of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) specimens been made in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please submit details about the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) seizures in a separate file using the standard format for the CITES annual illegal trade report, see E-AITR-format-2023.xlsx (live.com). Please indicate that the seizure record refers to Asian leopard in column "Additional information".</p> <p>For more information on how to fill in the standard format see Notification to the Parties No. 2023/132 Annex 2 Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report (November 2023).</p> <p><i>Data already provided in CITES annual illegal trade reports do not need to be included in the special report.</i></p>
<p>D.2</p>	<p>Do you experience any enforcement challenges in your country related to illegal trade and other illegal activities concerning Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes' please provide details:</p> <p>The suspects use many methods to trade and transport illegally such as using social networks, changing license plates, changing routes, hiding goods in truck trunks...</p> <p>Species identification skills of enforcement officers are limited.</p> <p>Demand for big cat specimens is increasing not only in Vietnam.</p>

Annex 2 – Bigcats seizures in duration of 2019-2024



Tiger skin seized in September 2020



Tiger skull seized in June 2020



Live tiger seized in Dien Chau district, Nghe An province (September 2020)



Frozen tigers seized in January 2020



Frozen tigers seized in January 2020



Full bone seized in June 2021



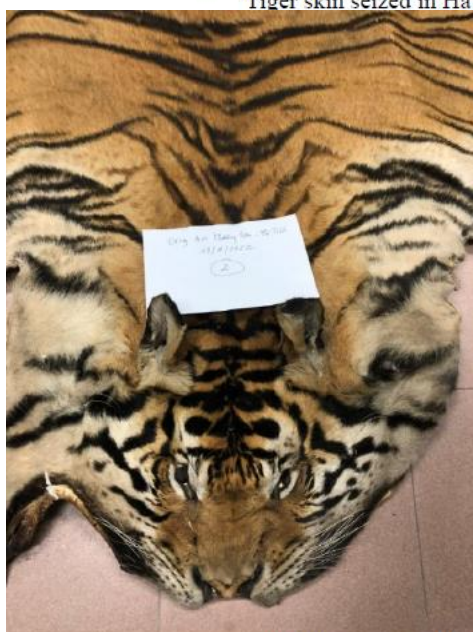
Skull seized in June 2021



Tiger seized in Ha Tinh province (January 2021)



Tiger skin seized in Ha Tinh province (January 2021)



Full skin seized in Ha Tinh province (January 2022)



Tiger specimen seized in April 2022



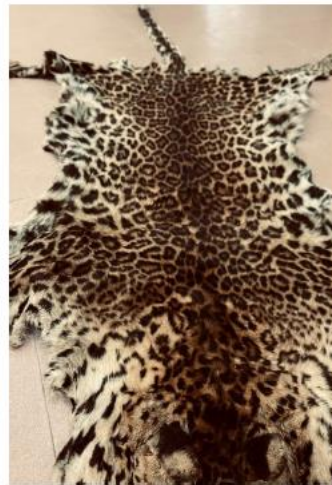
Tiger skull seized in May 2022



Skull seized in October 2022



Tiger cub seized in November 2022



Leopard skin seized in November 2022



Tiger head seized in January 2023



Full skin seized in January 2023



Full skin seized in January 2023



Skull seized in January 2023



Tiger seized in February 2023



Live tiger seized in August 2023



Tiger seized in September 2023



Tiger seized in October 2023



Specimen seized in January 2024



Specimen seized in July 2024

B. CONSERVATION

<p>B.1</p>	<p>Is your country a range State of the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If “No”, please proceed to Section D.</p>				
<p>B.2</p>	<p>Based on the best available information, did the wild population of Asian leopards (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country over the last 5 years:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="319 667 1481 712"> <tr> <td data-bbox="319 667 619 712">Increase <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="627 667 914 712">Stable <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="922 667 1212 712">Decrease <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="1220 667 1481 712">Unknown <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Please indicate the source(s) of information your answer is based on: Conditions have become bad in Yemen due to the war and there is laxity in implementing laws. Some cases of killing and hunting have been recorded in recent years.</p>	Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Increase <input type="checkbox"/>	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Decrease <input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>B.3</p>	<p>Is your country a signatory to any bilateral and/or multilateral agreements for co-management of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If ‘Yes’, please provide brief details, including the names of the agreements, and which other countries are involved:</p>				
<p>B.4</p>	<p>Do you have any cooperative management plans, conservation measures, or recovery plans, in place for shared populations of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If “Yes”, please provide a link or reference to a published plan:</p>				
<p>B.5</p>	<p>Do you experience any challenges regarding conservation of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If ‘Yes’ please provide details: The challenges are the lack of financial and technical support to protect Arabian leopard and establish natural reserves.</p>				

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C. POACHING

C.1	<p>Have there been any poaching incidents involving Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If "Yes", indicate number of poached Asian leopards in your country since 1 January 2019: ___ approxmatly 9_____</p> <p>Please also provide more details about the poaching incidents below:</p>
C.2	<p>Cause of death:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> xGunshot</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> xSnare/Trap</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Poisoning</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (add details in Additional Notes below)</p> <p>Signs (evidence) of cause of death (please give details):</p>
C.3	<p>Was post-mortem conducted?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p>
C.4	<p>Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with a human-animal conflict incident?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p>
C.5	<p>Is there evidence that the poaching was associated with illegal domestic and/or international trade?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p> <p>There is a record of attempts to smuggle some Arabian leopard outside Yemen for sale.</p>

C.6	<p>Do you experience challenges related to the poaching of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) in your country that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> .No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes', please provide details:</p> <p>Challenges include the lack of financial support to develop local legislation and rangers teams when reserves are established.</p>
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D. ILLEGAL TRADE

D.1	<p>Have any seizures of Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) specimens been made in your country since 1 January 2019?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please submit details about the Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) seizures in a separate file using the standard format for the CITES annual illegal trade report, see E-AITR-format-2023.xlsx (live.com). Please indicate that the seizure record refers to Asian leopard in column "Additional information".</p> <p>For more information on how to fill in the standard format see Notification to the Parties No. 2023/132 Annex 2 Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report (November 2023).</p> <p><i>Data already provided in CITES annual illegal trade reports do not need to be included in the special report.</i></p>
D.2	<p>Do you experience any enforcement challenges in your country related to illegal trade and other illegal activities concerning Asian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) that you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If 'Yes' please provide details:</p> <p>There are challenges in enforcing laws related to international trade. These challenges include the lack of continuous training programs for port employees and security agencies.</p>