

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORAIntersessional work of the Standing Committee
2020-2021ILLEGAL TRADE IN ASIAN BIG CATS (FELIDAE SPP.):
UPDATE ON PROGRESS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In paragraph 2 a) of [Resolution Conf. 12.5 \(Rev. CoP18\)](#) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*, the Conference of the Parties instructs the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties on the status of Asian big cats in the wild, their conservation, and trade controls put in place by Parties, using information provided by the range States on measures taken to comply with this Resolution and related relevant Decisions, and any relevant additional information provided by Parties.
3. At its 14th meeting (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted [Decision 14.69](#) on *Captive-bred and ranched specimens*, which remains in effect. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted [Decision 17.226](#) on *Illegal trade in Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)*, which also remains in effect. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted [Decisions 18.100 to 18.109](#) on *Illegal trade in Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)*.
4. The Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/039](#) of 29 April 2020, calling on Parties to report to the Secretariat on the progress they have made with regard to the implementation of Decisions 17.226 paragraphs a) and b), 18.100 to 18.106 and Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18). Responses were received from eleven Parties and two non-governmental organizations.
5. Concerning **Decision 17.226**, the Parties that responded stated to be generally satisfied that their national management practices relating to facilities that keep Asian big cats in captivity were sufficient to prevent Asian big cat specimens from entering illegal trade from or through such facilities. It is noted, however, that Cambodia reported that its national management practices and controls require further development. Several Parties provided detailed information on their national management practices and controls for facilities that keep Asian big cats in captivity, including on the provisions implemented to prevent specimens from Asian big cats that die in captivity from entering illegal trade. Several Parties also submitted lists of facilities within their territories keeping Asian big cats in captivity.
6. Regarding the implementation of **Decisions 18.100, 18.101 and 18.105**, several Parties provided updates on activities related to enforcement efforts to address illegal trade in specimens of Asian big cats. These include *inter alia*:
 - a) the establishment of specialized multi-agency wildlife law enforcement units and strengthening of law enforcement cooperation;
 - b) conducting and/or planning of training and capacity-building activities for law enforcement personnel regarding CITES implementation and enforcement, and identification of big cats species;
 - c) the use of tools to combat illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, such as the *CITES Guide for law enforcement agencies to combat illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens*; and

- d) details on seizures, investigations and cooperation with other Parties to enforce national laws and the Convention with respect to Asian big cats.
7. Regarding the implementation of **Decision 18.103** and Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18), paragraph 1 I), Viet Nam reported that it submitted images of tiger skins seized in 2017 and 2018 to the CITES Management Authority of India.
 8. Regarding the implementation of **Decision 18.104**, the Czech Republic reported that several member States of the European Union provided tiger DNA specimen samples collected from various sources (zoos, private breeders and seized specimens) for use in the genetic research project TigrisID. The Czech Republic also submitted a report on progress with the implementation of the TigrisID project.
 9. Regarding the implementation of **Decision 18.106**, Viet Nam reported that in 2019, the Management Authority worked with non-governmental organizations on research initiatives, including a tiger specimens consumer survey.
 10. Concerning the implementation of **Decision 18.102**, the Czech Republic, Thailand, the United States of America and Viet Nam, in their responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2020/039, indicated that they are ready to welcome the missions from the Secretariat as anticipated by **Decision 18.108**. China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and South Africa did not reply to the Notification. The Secretariat has secured external funding for undertaking missions to three of the seven Parties to be visited. However, due to the COVID-19 measures that are in place, these missions cannot currently be undertaken.
 11. The Secretariat will report in more details on the information provided by Parties in response to Notification No. 2020/039 in the document it will prepare for consideration by the Committee.