

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

Forty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 22-25 April 2003

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

ASIAN BIG CATS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties (CoP12) adopted Decision 12.30:

Each range State Party should consider ways in which local communities might be encouraged to play a part in, and benefit from, the conservation of Asian big cats and their habitats, for example through eco-tourism. Each range State should prepare a report on its approach to this matter for the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee, so that concepts and initiatives can be shared among relevant Parties.

3. At the time of writing (17 February 2003) the Secretariat had not received any such reports. It has written to the Management Authorities of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam, reminding them of this Decision and will report orally on any reports that are received before the Standing Committee meeting.
4. At CoP12 the Conference also adopted Decision 12.31:

The Standing Committee shall continue to review the progress in range and consumer States that were earlier subject to CITES Technical and Political Tiger Missions to ensure that recommendations made by the Missions continue to be implemented.

5. The most recent recommendations relate to the CITES Technical Tiger Mission that was conducted in Thailand from 26 to 30 August 2002 at the instruction of the Standing Committee. The Technical Team's report was presented to the Conference of the Parties in document CoP12 Doc. 33 Annex and the report and the Team's recommendations were adopted. The Secretariat has written to the Management Authority of Thailand requesting a report on its progress in implementing the recommendations. If a report is received before the Standing Committee meeting, the Secretariat will supply a summary orally.
6. One of the Technical Team's recommendations (Recommendation 6) following its mission to Thailand was that the Secretariat should consider contacting the headquarters of the main international hotel chains and alerting them to the fact that violations of national and international law may be taking place on their premises and encourage them to play a more active and responsible role in wildlife conservation. This related to the Team's concern after seeing many specimens of Appendix-I species on sale in shops situated in hotels in Bangkok

and their acknowledgment that this is not uncommon elsewhere in the world. In January 2003, the Secretariat wrote to 15 of the major international hotel chains as suggested.

Recommendation

7. The Secretariat believes it is unlikely that there will be much information from Parties for the Standing Committee to review at its 49th meeting. Consequently, the Secretariat recommends that this item also be placed on the agenda of the 50th meeting, to provide Parties with more time to respond. In the meantime, it suggests that regional representatives encourage the relevant Parties (listed in paragraph 3 above) to submit to the Secretariat the reports required in Decision 12.30.