

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

Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

CONSERVATION OF AND CONTROL OF TRADE IN TIBETAN ANTELOPE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 13th meeting (CoP13 Bangkok, October 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13) (Conservation of and control of trade in Tibetan antelope), in which it gives the following instructions.

DIRECTS:

- a) *the Secretariat, with the assistance of interested Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to provide funding and technical assistance to the range States of the Tibetan antelope in order to improve anti-poaching efforts, to carry out population censuses, to formulate a conservation strategy and to prevent trade in Tibetan antelope parts and derivatives; and*
 - b) *the Standing Committee to undertake a regular review of the enforcement measures taken by the Parties in eliminating the illicit trade in Tibetan antelope products on the basis of the Secretariat's report, and to report the results at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;*
3. In its previous work with regard to species-specific issues, the Standing Committee agreed that the most effective way in which to undertake reviews, as referred to in paragraph 2 b) above, would be to rely upon regional representatives, the Parties, the Secretariat or other relevant organizations to bring to its attention matters of concern. This appeared to be more productive than seeking specific reports from such as range and consumer States. The Secretariat has followed this approach for the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee and will continue to do so unless directed otherwise.

Related activities

4. The Secretariat intends to liaise with China, the principal range State of the Tibetan antelope, regarding paragraph a) above and may have more information to report during the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee.
5. The Secretariat, in documents SC50 Doc. 20 and CoP13 Doc. 31, described the work it had done in relation to providing technical assistance. In document SC50 Doc. 20, it identified a number of ways in which it believed donor support could be provided to China.
6. The Secretariat is aware that the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group members have conducted a number of national surveys with a view to detecting illicit sales of specimens of the Tibetan antelope, specifically 'Shahtoosh' shawls and the results will be announced at the Group's next meeting in May 2005.
7. The Secretariat intends that the illicit trade in Tibetan antelope specimens be discussed by the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force. As agreed at CoP13, a meeting of the task force is being convened

by the Secretariat in New Delhi, India, from 17 to 19 May 2005. The Secretariat will report to the Standing Committee on the outcome of those discussions.

8. The Tibetan antelope will also be on the agenda of an enforcement-related workshop for central and southern Asian Parties that is to be convened in Urumqi, China, later in 2005. Planning for this event is underway and at the time of writing dates for the workshop have yet to be finalized.
9. The Secretariat understands that the Government of India has recently formed a committee to examine issues relating to the processing of wool of the Tibetan antelope in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. It hopes to be able to provide more information on the activities of this committee during the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee.