

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



Fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

TIBETAN ANTELOPE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13) (*Conservation of and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope*), in which it directs 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. The Secretariat has received very little information from the Parties relating to this subject. It is aware however, through media reports, that India and Nepal have both engaged in actions against retailers of shawls made from Tibetan antelope wool. It is also aware that illegal trade in such wool continues and it has noted such sales in its missions to various countries.
4. The Secretariat acknowledges that many officials in the law enforcement community have little knowledge of the trade in Tibetan antelope wool or of how to identify the products traded. Consequently, it is delighted that the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group is examining this issue and intends to engage in capacity-building efforts.
5. The Secretariat understands that the Group, in association with the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, intends to convene a workshop on illegal trade in Tibetan antelope wool. Funds are being raised for this initiative and the amount raised will determine how many countries will be able to participate. The Secretariat has offered to provide technical expertise and hopes to participate in the event.
6. The Secretariat will provide further details of the Interpol initiative in due course. For the moment, it has no specific recommendations to make to the Standing Committee in relation to illicit trade in Tibetan antelope but questions whether the regular review requested by CoP13 is now warranted. It suggests that the Standing Committee consider whether the Resolution should not be amended at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to delete the requirement for a regular review. Instead, the Committee could rely upon the Secretariat to bring to its attention matters of note, as it does in relation to other species-specific issues.