

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



Fifty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Doha (Qatar), 12 march 2010

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

ASIAN BIG CATS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Reporting

2. At its 58th meeting (Geneva, July 2009), the Standing Committee discussed the subject of Asian big cats, especially tigers, and noted that there had been a poor rate of compliance with Decisions 14.65 and 14.69. These Decisions, and a request by the Standing Committee, call upon tiger range States, and other relevant Parties, to submit reports to the Standing Committee in relation to the implementation of Resolution 12.5 (*Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*) and the call by the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties for a restriction in the captive breeding of tigers.
3. The Committee instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties, repeating the call for the submission of reports and establishing a deadline for such submissions. Notification to the Parties No. 2009/029 was issued to this effect on 22 July 2009 and a deadline of 20 October 2009 was established.
4. Tiger range State reports have been received from [China](#), [India](#), [Malaysia](#), [Thailand](#) and [Viet Nam](#) and these have been published on the CITES website in the language in which they were received (English) as documents CoP15 Inf.6, CoP15 Inf. 5, CoP15 Inf. 9, CoP15 Inf. 4 and CoP15 Inf. 7 respectively. No other tiger range States have submitted reports.

Law enforcement intelligence training

5. From 30 November to 4 December 2009, the CITES Secretariat and INTERPOL conducted a law-enforcement intelligence training course for officials from tiger range States in Jakarta, Indonesia. Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Viet Nam were all represented. A representative of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network's Program Coordination Unit also attended. Although Myanmar nominated a police officer to attend, he was unable to obtain the necessary travel approval. Bhutan's delegate was unable to participate because of visa difficulties. The CITES Secretariat issued an invitation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which has advised the Secretariat that tigers are still present in the wild in its territory, to nominate a participant but no response was received.
6. The Secretariat is very grateful to the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and to the European Commission for providing funds to enable the training to be provided. It is also grateful to the Government of Indonesia for supplying support before and during the training. Lastly, it expresses its appreciation to the General Secretariat of INTERPOL, which provided two officers to conduct the training at no cost.

The Global Tiger Initiative

7. From 27 to 30 October 2009, the Government of Nepal hosted the Kathmandu Global Tiger Workshop. The CITES Secretariat was a co-organizer of the workshop. The workshop was intended to address the desire of the Parties, expressed at their 14th meeting in Decision 14.70, that a conservation strategy workshop be convened. The organization and funding of the workshop were also supported by partners in the Global Tiger Initiative.
8. Tiger range States, potential donor countries, and a wide range of conservation and other relevant organizations participated in this event. During a number of sessions addressing a variety of themes related to tiger conservation, participants had opportunities to identify current best conservation practices, priority actions to save the remaining populations of tigers in the wild, and constraints to progress. The CITES Secretariat led on issues relating to enforcement. A number of specific recommendations were agreed upon in the workshop's final plenary session and a copy of these has been provided in document [CoP15 Inf. 8 \(Rev. 1\)](#) (English only).
9. The next step in the Global Tiger Initiative process will be a ministerial meeting, hosted by the Government of Thailand, which will take place in late January 2010. The CITES Secretariat will participate in the event and an oral report on the outcomes of the Ministers' deliberations will be provided at the present meeting and at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15). The Government of the Russian Federation has offered to host a summit, as part of the Initiative, in Vladivostok in September 2010, at which it is hoped Heads-of-State will participate.

Final remarks

10. The Secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of the Committee documents [CoP15 Doc. 43.1](#) and [CoP15 43.2](#).

The first is the Secretariat's report for CoP15 on the subject of Asian big cats. The second is a document, submitted by Sweden, in which a number of amendments to Resolution 12.5 are proposed. Several of the amendments reflect the discussions that took place on this subject during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee. The Committee may wish to consider these proposals at the present meeting and the Secretariat imagines the Conference of the Parties would welcome the Standing Committee's views on the proposed amendments. It recognizes, however, that the time available to the Committee to discuss this subject during its one-day meeting will be very limited.

11. In mid-November 2009, the Secretariat initiated a collaboration between CITES, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, The World Bank and the World Customs Organization on the subject of wildlife law enforcement. Although this relates to wildlife law enforcement in general, it is likely to have potential benefits for combating illegal trade in Asian big cats. Initial outcomes of the collaboration are likely to be presented at the ministerial meeting in Thailand and an oral report will be provided at the present meeting and at CoP15. For the moment, the Secretariat has no specific recommendations to make to the Standing Committee on the subject of Asian big cats.