

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



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

ASIAN BIG CATS

Report of the SC65 Working Group on Asian Big Cats

The working group recommends that the Standing Committee adopt all of the recommendations (a-e) in SC65 Doc. 38. In addition, the working group recommends that the Standing Committee adopt the following additional recommendations outlined below and request that the Secretariat communicate relevant recommendations via a Notification to the Parties.

The Standing Committee:

Concerning legislative and regulatory measures

- f) encourages Parties to review all relevant national legislation to ensure that national measures restricting [internal and international] trade in Asian big cat parts and derivatives are comprehensive in that, recalling Decision 14.69, parts and derivatives obtained from specimens bred in captivity are included;
- g) recalling Decisions 14.66 (Rev. CoP15) and 14.69, as well as Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), requests all Parties where [internal] trade in Asian big cats and their parts and derivatives is permitted, to report to the 66th Meeting of the Standing Committee on what legal trade is allowed, the species and trade volume involved, and describe how such trade is monitored and enforced, and to inform about measures taken to prevent illegal exports;

Concerning national law enforcement

- h) encourages Parties to engage with e-commerce trading site companies to ensure that no online advertisements are made for illegal specimens of protected species;
- i) encourages Parties to take note of the recommendations of INTERPOL's 2014 assessment of enforcement responses to tiger crime;
- j) encourages Parties to share images of seized tiger skins with range States with photographic identification databases so as to assist in the identification of the origin of the illegal specimen;

Concerning demand reduction, education and awareness

- k) recalling Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), urges Parties to address the growing use of Asian big cats, including parts and derivatives as luxury items through targeted demand reduction strategies, including behavioural change interventions, and to strengthen demand reduction efforts;

Concerning the prevention of illegal trade in parts and derivatives from breeding facilities

- l) recalling Decision 14.69, urges Parties to develop and implement regulatory controls for Asian big cat breeding facilities to prevent illegal trade, including oversight of any international trade to ensure non-commercial purposes, and monitored destruction of the specimens that die in captivity;
- m) encourages Parties developing DNA registration, photographic identification, or other types of identification databases of captive Asian big cats to make this information available outside national borders for law enforcement purposes to assist forensic determination of the origin of seized specimens, and encourages the Secretariat and Parties with financial resources and technical expertise to assist, through in-country activities, Parties that have yet to establish national registries or identification databases for Asian big cats to do so;

Concerning the management of national and privately-held stocks of parts and derivatives

- n) requests all Parties with national or privately held stockpiles of captive-bred or confiscated Asian big cat body parts and derivatives to report to the Secretariat on the volume of these stockpiles, measures taken to guarantee the security of these stockpiles, and actions to destroy such stockpiles with the exception of those used for educational or scientific purposes;

Concerning inter-sessional work

- o) requests the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements to consider all reporting requirements for individual species and devise a template which would form the basis for consistent reporting across species;
- p) decides to establish an inter-sessional Working Group on Asian Big Cats to identify outstanding issues of concern, assess implementation of these recommendations, Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), and related Decisions, and to make recommendations for further action at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.