

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

ASIAN BIG CATS

This document has been prepared by the working group on Asian big cats in relation to agenda item 44 and submitted at the request of the Standing Committee in its second session.

1. The working group recommends that the Standing Committee adopt the following recommendations:
 - a) Encourage Parties that have started DNA registration, photographic identification, and other types of identification databases of captive Asian big cats to share the available information with relevant countries, upon request, for law enforcement purposes 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.
 - b) Encourages Parties to fully support the establishment of the Southeast Asia regional DNA database of protected species and the continuing work of this forensics group and to similarly support the development of complementary DNA databases for other regions.
 - c) Where appropriate, encourage Parties to adopt an effective approach to prevent online advertising and trading of illegal products of Asian big cats through websites, social media and other Internet services, working closely with the relevant private sector companies and nongovernmental organizations.
 - d) Encourage Parties, working closely with involved communities and/or key groups, to conduct and/or support systematic and comprehensive research on demand for illegal products of Asian big cats and/or factors driving poaching of their wild populations, for deeper understanding and recognition of their actual status, impacts and nature of the illegal activities and key consumers, upon which pertinent actions could be recommended.
 - e) Request that the Secretariat provide a report on progress made in implementation of these recommendations at the 69th and 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.
 - f) A draft Decision be submitted to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as follows:

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

17.xx Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to Parties requesting additional capacity and resources to effectively implement Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. Cop16). Parties are also encouraged to implement the relevant recommendations attempting to address the issue of resources from relevant international forums and tools, including but not limited to the Zero Poaching Symposium outcomes and Zero Poaching toolkit and the

relevant GTI/GTF processes addressing resources that are needed to combat poaching, trafficking and illegal trade.

- g) Draft Decisions be submitted to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx Subject to external funds, the Secretariat shall:

- a) in consultation with range and consumer States, and in cooperation with partner organizations in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) and, as appropriate, other experts and organizations, continue the review of implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16) and associated decisions and prepare a report providing its findings and recommendations for the 69th and 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, in consideration of:
 - i) legislative and regulatory measures;
 - ii) national law enforcement;
 - iii) demand reduction, education and awareness;
 - iv) prevention of illegal trade in parts and derivatives from Asian big cat captive facilities; and
 - v) management of national and privately-held stocks of parts and derivatives
- b) report to the 69th and 70th meeting of the Standing Committee on progress with regard to the implementation of this Decision and, on the basis of the report, formulate recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.xx The Standing Committee shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decision 17.xx at its 69th and 70th meetings and determine whether any further time-bound, country specific actions are necessary to ensure implementation of Decision 17.xx.

- h) Draft Decisions should be submitted to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) conduct a review of the number of Asian big cat captive facilities in the territories of Parties and the number of Asian big cats kept in these facilities;
- b) liaise with ICCWC and other partners, as appropriate, to review legal and illegal trade in Asian big cats from or through such facilities, identifying those which may be of concern; and
- c) undertake a mission to those Parties with facilities of concern with the purpose of gaining a better understanding of the operations and activities undertaken by them.

Directed to the Parties

17.xx All Parties identified as being of concern in Decision 17.xx to welcome a mission from the Secretariat to visit such facilities.

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx The Secretariat shall report on the implementation of the Decisions 17.xx to the Standing Committee, with recommendations as necessary.

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.xx The Standing Committee shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decision 17.xx at its 69th and 70th meeting and determine whether any further time-bound, country specific actions are necessary to ensure implementation of Decision 17.xx.

- i) Draft Decisions should be submitted to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as follows:

Directed to all Parties with Asian big cat captive facilities

17.xx All Parties with Asian big cat captive facilities are requested to:

- a) review national management practices and controls that are in place for Asian big cat captive facilities, to ensure that these management practices and controls are adequate to prevent Asian big cat specimens from entering illegal trade from or through such facilities;
- b) ensure strict application of all management practices and controls implemented to regulate the activities of Asian big cat captive facilities, including with regard to the disposal of specimens from Asian big cats that die in captivity; and
- c) report to the Secretariat on progress with regard to the implementation of this Decision.

Directed to the Secretariat

17. xx The Secretariat shall report at the 69th and 70th meeting of the Standing Committee on progress with regard to the implementation of Decision 17. xx.

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.xx The Standing Committee shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decision 17.xx at its 69th and 70th meeting and determine whether any further specific time-bound actions are necessary to ensure implementation of Decision 17.xx.

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) work with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) partner organizations, in particular INTERPOL, to further build upon the work already conducted through initiatives such as Operation PAWS II, by supporting key Parties affected by trafficking in Asian big cat specimens, to initiate, plan and carry out joint intelligence-driven national and transnational investigations, to disrupt and dismantle the criminal groups involved in trafficking in Asian big cat specimens; and
- b) report at the 69th and 70th meetings of the Standing Committee on progress with regard to the implementation of this Decision.

2. The working group was unable to reach consensus on SC66 Doc.44.1 paragraph 36, with the exception of the draft Decision in paragraph 1h above, for the reasons outlined in the working group's report.