

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Panthera tigris altaica from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Swiss Confederation.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Mammalia  
12. Order: Carnivora  
13. Family: Felidae  
14. Subspecies: Panthera tigris altaica  
15. Common Names: English: Siberian tiger,  
Manchurian tiger,  
Amur tiger  
French: tigre de Sibérie  
Spanish: Tigre de Siberia  
16. Code Numbers: 112.007.002.005

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution:

China: The tiger range in North East China is broken into three isolated areas: a) Jiangxi, Fujian and Zhejiang Provinces; b) boundaries of Hunan and Guizhou Provinces, South East parts of Sichuan, western parts of Jianqxi and Hubai, northern parts of Guangdong and Guangxi Provinces; c) northern parts of Hubei and southern parts of Henan and Shaanxi Provinces.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Current range unknown, in the 1960's thought to be restricted to southern slopes of the Changpai Mountains.

USSR: The total area is about 1,000 km. long and 600 km. broad S and C Sikhote-Alin, Khabarovsk and Amursky regions.

22. Population:

China: Decreasing. Estimates in 1974-1976: about 150 specimens (Ma, 1979). Recent estimates 1986: 20-30 (Tabangjie, 1986), around 50 (Lu Houji, 1986).

Democratic People's Republic of Korea: No recent information. The 1978 IUCN Red Data Book sheet refers to "several tens" in China and Korea.

Republic of Korea; Extinct.

USSR: Seemingly increasing in recent years. Estimates in 1974-1976; about 150 (Matjushkin, et al.); in 1980; over 200 (Zhivotchenko); in 1984; 350 (Sokolov).

Captive population: The International Tiger Studbook reports a total of 677 pure-bred Siberian tigers kept in captivity and registered in 1985. Of these, 646 have been bred in captivity.

There is an international tiger propagation programme headed by the Keeper of the International Tiger Studbook, Professor Seifert from Leipzig Zoo.

23. Habitat: Mixed broad-leaved deciduous and coniferous forests with dense undergrowth on hills and mountains and along rivers. Deteriorating in China due to timber cutting and clearing for agricultural development. Within the USSR range four Nature Reserves have been established, the largest being the Sikhote-Alin Reserve with an area of 3,400 sq.km. and a permanent tiger population of six to eight individuals. Also in China one reserve of 330 sq.km. has been established.

### 3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: In China, tiger organs and blood are used in traditional medicine, the greatest demand being for the skeleton. In the USSR, limited taking of juvenile tigers for zoo purposes is allowed under special permit (Heptner and Sludskij, 1980). In 1985, Soviet zoos held a total of 26 Siberian tigers which had been taken from the wild.
32. Legal International Trade: There is a considerable trade in live specimens for zoo and circus purposes; however, most of these animals are captive bred. In 1985, there were no wild taken Siberian tigers in North America and only five in Europe (outside of USSR) which were all located at Leipzig Zoo.
33. Illegal Trade: There is a lucrative black market for tiger bones and other parts and derivatives which are used in traditional Chinese medicine.

### 4. Protection Status

Totally protected by law in all countries of origin. Included in the USSR Red Data Book. In China, where bounties were paid for the killing of tigers until 1977, poaching continues despite total legal protection. Therefore, plans have been made with the Government to launch a vigorous campaign to save the tiger (Lu Houji, 1986).

CITES history: Included in Appendix II at the Washington Conference, 1973.

### 5. Information on Similar Species

All other living or possibly extinct tiger subspecies are included in CITES Appendix I: P. t. amoyensis, P. t. corbetti, P. t. sondaica (p.e.), P. t. sumatrae, P. t. tigris, P. t. virgata (p.e.). The subspecies P. t. balica is already extinct.

The various subspecies are distinguishable by body size, colour, development of mane and whiskers.

It should be noted that some of the subspecies included in Appendix I have much bigger wild populations than P. t. altaica.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

See under 7.

7. Additional Remarks

When at the 1986 meeting of the Technical Committee matters related to the Ten Year Review and the Significant Trade in Appendix II Species Project were discussed, it was pointed out that the tiger needed some consideration because it did not seem logical that the Siberian tiger, with a comparatively small wild population, is listed in Appendix II only, while all other tiger subspecies enjoy stricter protection under Appendix I. The Chairman of the Ten Year Review Central Committee was requested to contact the Management Authority of USSR which was not represented at Lausanne, and to ask whether they would agree that the Siberian tiger be transferred to Appendix I, and, if yes, whether the USSR would be in a position to prepare a proposal for consideration by the Parties at the Ottawa meeting. A letter has been sent to the USSR Management Authority on 16 October 1986, which remained without answer until the end of January 1987. After consultation with the Secretariat, subsequently, the present proposal was prepared.

8. References

- Heptner, V.G. & Sludskij, A.A., 1980. Die Säugetiere der Sowjetunion. Band III; Raubtiere (Feloidea). Jena.
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- Ma Yiqing, 1979. Manchurian Tiger in China. Wildl. Cons. and Mgmt. (Trail Publ.) Harbin, p.22-26.
- Matjushkin, E.N., V.I. Zhivotchenko, & E.N. Smirnov, 1977. The Amur Tiger in the USSR. Monograph.
- Seifert, S. & P. Müller, 1985. International Tiger Studbook. Leipzig.
- Tabangjie, 1986. Report to the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group on the Status of Chinese Tigers (extract received from P. Jackson).
- Thornback, J., 1978. Tiger. In: IUCN Red Data Book, Vol. I; Mammalia. Morges.
- Zhivotchenko, V., 1980. Der Amurtiger (Panthera tigris altaica) bei sich daheim (mimeo).

