

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

Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Gigiri (Kenya), 10-20 April 2000

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

CONSERVATION OF AND CONTROL OF TRADE IN TIBETAN ANTELOPE

1. This document has been submitted by China.
2. The attached draft resolution was discussed by the participants attending the International Workshop on Conservation and Control of Trade in Tibetan Antelope, 12-14 October 1999, Xining, China. It was revised according to their comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat supports the attached draft resolution in principle but believes that it is somewhat repetitive and would benefit from re-wording. The Secretariat suggests that a working group be established during the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to address this issue. It further suggests that Resolution Conf. 9.13 (Rev.) (Conservation of and trade in tigers) may provide a basis for such re-wording.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Conservation of and control of trade in Tibetan antelope

AWARE that the Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) is listed in Appendix I, and that all commercial international trade in shahtoosh has been prohibited by the Convention since 1979;

NOTING that the wild population of Tibetan antelope has been the target of large-scale poaching since the late 1980s, that its population has been shrinking drastically, and that the survival of the species is under serious threat;

RECOGNIZING the forceful measures taken by the Government of China to crack down on poaching of Tibetan antelope and smuggling of shahtoosh, the fine wool of the animal, and all products made from it, and recognizing the remarkable efforts made to establish nature reserves in the range of Tibetan antelope; yet, owing to the special geographic and climatic conditions in the range of Tibetan antelope, and the rampant illegal poaching by well organized and armed poaching groups, it is difficult to achieve the expected result of complete protection;

CONSCIOUS that the fundamental reason behind large-scale poaching is the high profit from processing and selling shahtoosh products (mainly shawls), and that an effective ban and crackdown on processing of and trade in shahtoosh is the key to control of large-scale poaching and rehabilitation of the wild population of the species;

FURTHER NOTING that all shahtoosh products that exist in consumer States were obtained through smuggling;

ALSO CONSCIOUS that an effective crackdown and ban on processing of and trade in shahtoosh products requires more political commitment and aspiration of the processing and consumer States, as well as their financial and technical co-operation;

REALIZING that strengthened technical co-operation and financial assistance between the range States and consumer States will facilitate more effective protection of the Tibetan antelope;

COMMENDING the conservation and enforcement measures implemented by the Government of China to protect this species, such as the Special Action Against Poaching and Smuggling of Tibetan Antelope, and the establishment of nature reserves;

ALSO COMMENDING the enforcement and judicial measures taken by some consumer countries, such as France, Italy and the United Kingdom, to halt smuggling and selling of shahtoosh;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

STRONGLY URGES:

- a) countries with shahtoosh-processing activities to provide effective protection of Tibetan antelope through their state and local laws and regulations, to strictly prohibit the acquisition of Tibetan antelope specimens, to immediately adopt effective law enforcement measures to stop processing activities, and to carry out effective monitoring of the production activities of the processors;
- b) all Parties and non-Parties where shahtoosh products are held to adopt appropriate control measures on their stock and privately owned shahtoosh products to avoid them re-entering into trade; and
- c) all present and potential consumer States to list the Tibetan antelope as a priority species, implement strict law enforcement measures, investigate the existing and potential markets for shahtoosh, and severely punish selling and smuggling activities. Meanwhile, extensive education and publicity measures should be adopted to enhance public awareness of the critical plight of the Tibetan

antelope, and the connection between shahtoosh and the Tibetan antelope, so that the possession of shahtoosh will no longer be regarded as fashionable by consumers;

REQUESTS:

- a) capable governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide emergency funds and other types of assistance to help the range States to fight against poaching, ban processing of and trade in shahtoosh, and restore the wild population of the Tibetan antelope;
- b) countries on the transit routes of shahtoosh products to strengthen effective control of illegal transportation of shahtoosh over the borders, and to strengthen co-operation on exchange of information, technology and experience with regard to publicity and education, resource monitoring and habitat conservation; and
- c) all range States and consumer States to assign at least one person to facilitate information exchange, and, where appropriate, make full use of existing law enforcement networks, for example, the ICPO-Interpol network on wildlife crime, so as to implement a more effective crackdown on shahtoosh processing and trade;

SUGGESTS that:

- a) Tibetan antelope range States utilize domestic and external funding assistance to implement more effective anti-poaching actions, and carry out population studies simultaneously to formulate management plans;
- b) countries with relevant experience and technical capabilities provide other countries with law enforcement techniques and information on relevant cases, to help them enhance their technical capacity to identify shahtoosh and its products, and provide a forensic science service when possible; and
- c) the CITES Secretariat provide the Parties with appropriate technical advice and relevant information when possible, to assist their efforts to improve legislation; and

DIRECTS the Standing Committee to consider the Tibetan antelope as a priority species by including illegal trade in Tibetan antelope parts and derivatives in the agendas of its 44th and 45th meetings, and to conduct an investigation into shahtoosh processing and illegal trade in the processing and consuming countries, and to report progress at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, so as to promote the strengthening of legislative and enforcement means to eradicate processing of and trade in shahtoosh.