

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

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

CONSERVATION OF AND CONTROL OF TRADE IN TIBETAN ANTELOPE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on its own behalf and also on behalf of the Standing Committee.

Background

2. Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP12) (Conservation of and control of trade in Tibetan antelope) directs the Secretariat to report at the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee on implementation of this Resolution. The Standing Committee is directed to review the Secretariat's report and report at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13).
3. At its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 12.40:

Subject to available funding, the Secretariat shall undertake an enforcement-needs assessment mission to China to provide technical assistance regarding anti-poaching issues and combating the smuggling of wool, and organize a workshop in China to provide training for enforcement personnel involved in anti-poaching and anti-smuggling of Tibetan antelope wool in 2003.

Work by the Secretariat and the Standing Committee

4. The Secretariat has undertaken the work requested in Decision 12.40. A detailed report of its mission, including recommendations, was provided to the relevant authorities not only in China but also in Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan. A report was provided at the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee, in document SC50 Doc. 20. In particular, the Secretariat drew attention in paragraph 9 of that document to a number of issues with regard to in which it believes China could benefit from donor support. The Standing Committee noted the document and agreed that it should form the basis of the Committee's report for CoP13.
5. The Committee noted that China had responded in detail to the recommendations made by the Secretariat and requested the other Parties that had received copies of the report to do likewise. The Secretariat will report orally at CoP13 on the responses received.
6. The Committee also noted the Secretariat's report that the processing of and trade in the wool of Tibetan antelope apparently continues in the state of Jammu and Kashmir in India. The Secretariat had referred to this in its document for the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12 Doc. 37) and had, at that time, recommended an amendment to the Resolution to address this matter. It withdrew the recommendation after learning that new legislation had been introduced in Jammu and Kashmir that was expected to halt the processing and trade. However, it appears that the legislation is not being enforced. The Secretariat advised the Committee that it would re-submit a similar recommendation at CoP13.

Recommendations

7. The Secretariat recommends the deletion of paragraphs b) and c) from the DIRECTS section of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP12), since they are no longer relevant.
8. It also recommends that the following wording be inserted at the end of paragraph a) under URGES, “and, in particular, that the State of Jammu and Kashmir in India halts the processing of such wool and the manufacture of shahtoosh products”.
9. The Secretariat suggests that by adopting this wording the Conference of the Parties may thus support the Government of India in its efforts to achieve this end.