

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

TIBETAN ANTELOPE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat and serves as the report of the Standing Committee to the Conference of the Parties.
2. As required in Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Conservation of and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope*, paragraph b), under 'DIRECTS', the Standing Committee reviewed at its 61st and 62nd meetings (Geneva, August 2011 and July 2012 respectively) enforcement measures taken by Parties to eliminate illegal trade in Tibetan antelope products (see documents SC61 Doc. 43 and SC62 Doc. 45).
3. For several years, the poaching of Tibetan antelopes and illegal trade in parts and derivatives thereof were matters of serious concern that required significant enforcement efforts from all Parties and non-Parties, especially consumer and range States.
4. Whilst poaching of Tibetan antelopes continues to occur in western China, it is considerably reduced from the serious levels of the late 1990s and early 2000s, and anti-poaching efforts in China have enabled population numbers to increase.
5. In 2003, the Secretariat had the opportunity to visit anti-poaching patrols on the Tibetan Plateau. It noted that this work is conducted at extreme altitudes, often in excess of 5,000 metres, and in some of the harshest conditions under which wildlife law enforcement operations are conducted anywhere in the world. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to express its admiration for the personnel of the Forest Security Bureau of China's State Forestry Administration, whose efforts have led to the significant recovery of a species that was under the threat of extinction for many years.
6. Similarly, products made from the wool of the Tibetan antelope (shahtoosh) can still be found in trade, but seizure rates significantly declined as a result of international efforts. Nevertheless, sales of shahtoosh shawls have long been conducted in a secretive manner and it would be imprudent to believe that such trade has been eliminated.
7. Should serious and urgent matters related to the Tibetan antelope come to the attention of the Secretariat, it will therefore report them to the Standing Committee. However, since the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Doha, 2010), very limited information related to poaching of and trade in Tibetan antelopes has been reported to the Secretariat, and the conservation of Tibetan antelope can be regarded as a CITES success.
8. At its 62nd meeting, the Standing Committee endorsed a recommendation that its reporting requirement be deleted from the text of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13).

Recommendation

9. The Standing Committee and the Secretariat recommend the deletion of paragraph b), under 'DIRECTS', of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13).