

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Geneva (Switzerland), 17 - 28 August 2019

Summary record of the fourteenth session for committee II

26 August 2019: 9h15 - 12h00

Chair: C. Hoover (United States of America)

Secretariat: I. Higuero  
I. Camarena  
B. Janse van Rensburg  
P. Jonsson  
D. Morgan

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell  
J. Robinson  
J. Vitale  
E. Vovk

**Species specific matters (cont.)**

71. Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

71.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 on the implementation of Resolutions and associated Decisions on Asian big cat species. It noted that progress had been made regarding the review of facilities as reported to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70), and identified 66 that may be of concern in several Parties. It had written to those Parties asking for information and willingness to accept a mission from the Secretariat to gain a better understanding of the operations and activities undertaken by such facilities. The Secretariat proposed deleting the existing Decisions, which it considered had been implemented, and replacing them by draft decisions 18.CC, 18.DD and 18.EE in Annex 1 of the document. It noted that the comprehensive review of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* had been reported to SC70, and detailed proposed amendments to the Resolution in Annex 2. The Secretariat also suggested that matters related to illegal trade in African, Asian and South American big cat species be addressed through the activities to be conducted by the Big Cat Task Force, if established.

and

71.2 Draft decisions on Asian big cats

India introduced document CoP18 Doc. 71.2 (Rev. 1), proposing draft decisions 18.AA to 18.JJ addressing the challenges faced by Parties affected by illegal trade in Asian big cat species. It noted that the draft decisions in Annex 1 and the proposed amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* in Annex 2 were based on the findings from the comprehensive review of the Resolution, taking into account the comments made by the Secretariat and other Parties.

Bhutan supported by Bangladesh, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Ethiopia, the European Union, Israel, Malaysia, Nepal, Niger, the Russian Federation and the United States of America supported the draft decisions in CoP18 Doc. 71.2 (Rev. 1). Niger also supported the proposal by the Secretariat in document CoP18 Doc. 71.1. The United States, echoed by the European Union, asked that Decision 17.226 be retained for the following intersessional period, as it had not yet been implemented. The European Union agreed with deletion of Decisions 17.224, 17.225 and 17.227 to 17.231 although it also considered that Decision 17.227 had not been fully implemented. The European Union, supported by Thailand, proposed a new draft decision 18.EE bis, citing information documents CoP18 Inf. 65 and CoP18 Inf. 66, It also proposed a minor amendment to paragraph 1 a) of the operative text in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) in Annex 2. The Plurinational State of Bolivia highlighted its concern regarding the evidence on the illegal trade in jaguars being linked to that of Asian big cats presented in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1.

Niger, echoed by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Israel, the European Union, Malaysia, and the Russian Federation, also supported the retention of Decision 14.69. The Russian Federation noted that it had offered to host the next Global Tiger Summit in 2022, and recalled the previous summit's goal of doubling the number of tigers in the wild by then.

Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed support from the international community in implementing Decision 17.225 but did not support the draft decisions proposed by India in document CoP18 Doc. 71.2 (Rev. 1). Viet Nam agreed with retention of Decision 14.69, though it and the Lao People's Democratic Republic asked for the term "breeding tigers on a commercial scale" to be clarified and for the Secretariat to provide a revision of the Decision to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. China and Thailand also supported the draft decisions proposed in document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 and the amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17). Regarding document CoP18 Doc. 71.2 (Rev. 1), China opposed the adoption of the draft decisions in Annex 1, underscoring the need to respect the sovereign rights of Parties and arguing that the proposed draft decisions were beyond the scope of CITES. Indonesia suggested an amendment to the draft decision proposed by the European Union.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF), speaking also on behalf of Born Free Foundation, Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA), Center for Biological Diversity, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency, Eurogroup for Animals, Flora and Fauna International (FFI), Four Paws, Humane Society International (HSI), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), International Primate Protection League (IPPL), Japan Tiger and Elephant Fund, Pro Wildlife, Robin des Bois, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Protection Society of India, World Animal Protection, World Conservation Society (WCS) and the Zoological Society of London, welcomed support from Parties recognising the need to end tiger farming, and urged immediate action against illegal trade. They supported the recommendation from the Secretariat to retain Decision 14.69, and supported the draft decisions and amendments to the Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) as proposed by India and the Secretariat.

Species360 offered further support in developing more comprehensive criteria for assessing tiger-breeding facilities. China added that the term "wildlife trade tourism" in draft decision 18.BB of CoP18 Doc. 71.2 (Rev. 1) was not a suitable definition for wildlife tourism markets, as it was originally defined in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1.

It was agreed to retain Decision 14.69 and Decision 17.226, and to delete Decisions 17.224, 17.225, and 17.227 to 17.231, as these had been implemented. The proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* contained in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.2 (Rev. 1) with the amendment from the European Union to delete the word "both" from the third line in paragraph 1 a) were also accepted. It was accepted to adopt the draft decisions proposed by India in Annex 1 of document CoP18 Doc. 71.2 (Rev. 1), with the exception of draft decision 18.DD. and the revision of draft decision 18.BB to return to the language in the original draft decision proposed by the Secretariat in Annex 1 of document CoP18 Doc. 71.1. It was accepted to adopt the new draft decision proposed by the European Union, with an addition from Indonesia, as follows:

**18.EE bis.** Parties are encouraged, in accordance with their national regulations, to share samples of tiger specimens from living animals, seized animals or products that could contain tiger DNA with the Czech Republic national focal point for use in the genetic research project TigrisID which is focusing on the development of novel techniques to facilitate tackling illegal trade in tiger specimens.

The Chair addressed the clarification sought by Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the definition of the term "breeding tigers on a commercial scale", noting that this would be examined during the missions of the Secretariat to the Parties with facilities of potential concern.

## 77. Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)

### 77.1 Jaguar trade

Mexico introduced document CoP18 Doc. 77.1 (Rev. 1) that incorporated elements of document CoP18 Doc. 77.2 which had been withdrawn. The document included draft decisions regarding the commission of a study on illegal trade in jaguar (*Panthera onca*) specimens and the development of strategies to combat trafficking.

Argentina, Belize, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, India, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uruguay supported the draft decisions in Annex 1 to the present document. Jaguar range States highlighted that the jaguar represented a flagship species for the region, and that these measures would help them to combat illegal trade. The International Fund for Animal Welfare, speaking also on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency, Eurogroup for Animals, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Animal Protection, and World Wildlife Fund, also voiced their support for the draft decisions.

The United States of America supported the draft decisions with the following amendment to decision 18.AA paragraph a) subparagraph i):

- i) map illegal trade in the jaguar throughout its range, including poaching, trade pathways and networks, and main markets that are driving this trade, and how it is connected to other wildlife trafficking activities in the region;

China, supported by Creative Conservation Solutions, proposed a further amendment to decision 18.AA; this was considered by Mexico and Peru to fall outside the remit of the Convention.

The draft decisions presented in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 77.1 (Rev. 1), as amended by the United States of America, were agreed.

### 77.2 Illegal trade in jaguar

The Chair stated that document CoP18 Doc. 77.2 had been withdrawn.

## 89. Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*)

The Secretary-General introduced document CoP18 Doc. 89 (Rev. 1) prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with agreements resulting from the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee and amended as Rev. 1 by the Secretariat during CoP18. The Secretary-General made reference to progress made in the implementation of Decisions 17.145 to 17.151, inviting the Parties to consider and adopt the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 of the present document and to delete the existing Decisions.

Mexico detailed its activities implementing Decisions 17.145 to 17.151; in general, it supported the draft decisions but requested that the time frame outlined in decision 18.BB paragraph a) subparagraph iii) be amended from monthly to semi-annually and also that decision 18.DD be amended not to consider the negative scenario of a potential "in satisfaction" with the progress in the implementation of decisions 18.AA and 18.BB; but to leave it open for the Standing Committee to submit recommendations based on progress in the implementation of those decisions.

Seychelles supported the draft decisions in Annex 1.

The United States of America supported some of the draft decisions but offered additional edits to strengthen and clarify the recommendations directed to Mexico.

The European Union (EU) supported the draft decisions by the Secretariat and some of the amendments suggested by the United States. The EU disagreed with the deletion of references to the proposed study as

suggested by the United States and offered additional edits. China supported the draft decisions by the Secretariat but suggested the establishment of a small drafting group to clarify amendments.

The Chair proposed that Mexico, the United States, and other interested Parties discuss the proposed amendments in the fringes of the meeting and report back to the Committee. China, the European Union, Israel and Liberia expressed interest in participating in these discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 12h00.