

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Species specific matters

Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

DRAFT DECISIONS ON ASIAN BIG CATS

1. This document has been submitted by India.*

Background

Implementation of Decisions 14.69, 17.229 and 17.227

2. At its 14th meeting (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 14.69 as follows:

Directed to the Parties, especially Appendix-I Asian big cat range States

14.69 *Parties with intensive operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale shall implement measures to restrict the captive population to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers; tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives.*

3. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.229 and 17.227 as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.229 *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:*

- a) *conduct a review of the number of facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity in the territories of Parties and the number of Asian big cats kept in these facilities;*
- b) *liaise with ICCWC and other partners, as appropriate, to review legal and illegal trade in Asian big cats from or through such facilities, identifying those which may be of concern; and*
- c) *undertake a mission to those Parties in whose territories there are facilities of concern with the purpose of gaining a better understanding of the operations and activities undertaken by them.*

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.227 *The Standing Committee shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decisions 17.226, 17.228, 17.229 and 17.230, and determine whether any further time-bound, country specific actions are necessary to ensure implementation of these Decisions.*

4. At the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat reported that keeping Decision 14.69 and 17.229 in mind, it had identified 66 facilities keeping tigers in captivity in 7 Parties which may be of concern either: a) on the basis that the number of tigers being kept at such facilities was questionable since it exceeded what would be necessary for conservation of the species; or b) on the basis of information that had come to the attention of the Secretariat in the course of its regular work that the facility might be involved in illegal trade. The Secretariat reported that it would be writing to the Seven Parties concerned to present them with the details of the facilities identified, and propose, where appropriate, to conduct a mission to visit the identified facilities to gain a better understanding of its operations and activities.¹
5. At the time of writing of this document, no further information is available on what progress has been made in implementing Decisions 14.69, 17.229, and 17.227. It is clear from Decision 17.227 that the Conference of the Parties intended for the Standing Committee to have sufficient information to determine whether any time-bound, country specific actions were required to implement the decisions. This is not the case at the time of writing of this proposal, and it has been more than 11 years since Decision 14.69 was adopted and it is yet to be implemented. Accordingly, the proponents have recommended the adoption of draft decisions directing Parties which have facilities of concern identified by the Secretariat in the course of its implementation of Decision 17.229 to take certain measures to implement Decision 14.69 and Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix I Asian big cat species*.

Implementation of Decisions 17.228 and 17.227

6. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.228 as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.228 *Subject to external funds, the Secretariat shall, in consultation with range and consumer States, and in cooperation with partner organizations in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and, as appropriate, other experts and organizations, continue the review of implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) and associated Decisions and prepare a report in consideration of legislative and regulatory measures; national law enforcement; demand reduction, education and awareness; prevention of illegal trade in parts and derivatives from facilities for keeping Asian big cats in captivity; and management of national and privately-held stocks of parts and derivatives.*

8. With the generous support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the review of implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) was conducted and presented to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (hereinafter referred to as the Review).² This Review follows on from another comprehensive review of implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) which was conducted in 2014 and presented to the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.³ The Review has provided the Parties with a wealth of knowledge on the illegal trade in Asian big cats and the gaps and barriers to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) including the following specific information:
 - a) That some Parties continue to allow some types of internal, and in the case of one Party, international trade in Asian big cat parts and derivatives which appear to meet the CITES definition of primarily

¹ Paragraphs 9-13 of SC70 Doc. 51.

² SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 4 along with the Executive Summary in Annex 3.

³ SC65 Doc. 38 Annex 1.

commercial. This is despite the recommendation in paragraph 1b) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) urging Parties to voluntarily prohibit internal trade in such parts and derivatives;⁴

- b) That while possession of Asian big cat parts and derivatives is regulated by most Parties, one Party does not do so, and that enforcement action against consumers of such illegal parts and derivatives is limited;⁵
 - c) That some Parties do not protect non-native Asian big cat species⁶ and that many Parties have not incorporated the definition of “readily recognizable” from Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) into their laws;⁷
 - d) That the organized poaching of Asian big cats is continuing and possibly escalating, and that such poaching is largely driven by illegal trade;⁸
 - e) That reducing supply can be a major factor in reducing demand for Asian big cat parts and derivatives. The continued availability of big cat products through channels which appear to consumers to be legal – including tiger farms and unpoliced “wildlife trade tourism” markets in Lao PDR and Myanmar – is likely to counteract demand reduction messaging. The use of other big cats as substitutes for tiger not only poses a threat to these species but also continues to grow demand for tiger products;⁹
 - f) That leopards are the only large felid to have deteriorated significantly in conservation status in recent years and that the illegal trade in leopard parts and derivatives is of particular concern.¹⁰
 - g) That China, and to a lesser extent Vietnam appear to be the primary destinations for international illegal big cat trade, which appears to also be illegally supplied from captive internal sources. While considerable efforts have been made towards studying consumer motivations and consumer education, there have been few concrete strategies which combine efforts to reduce demand with efforts to reduce supply.¹¹
9. At its 70th meeting the Standing Committee established an in-session working group with a mandate to consider the Review and draft overarching decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.¹² However, due to some objections, the working group was not able to consider any substantive recommendations to take forward from the Review.¹³ Instead, the Standing Committee invited Parties to point out any inaccuracies in the Review, or submit any other relevant information to the Secretariat by November 16 2018. It directed the Secretariat to present an updated and revised report on the basis of such information and prepare draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.¹⁴
10. No further information is available at the time of writing of this document. As a result, the Standing Committee has again not been able to fulfil the mandate in Decision 17.227 and determine whether any time-bound, country specific actions are required to implement the decisions. Given the wealth of information contained in the Review and the considerable time and resources that have gone into producing it, the Proponents feel that it would be wasteful if no substantive recommendations on Asian big cats came about as a result of it. Accordingly, the Proponents have suggested some draft decisions for adoption by the Conference of the Parties on the basis of important information in the Review as it stands at the time of writing this proposal.

⁴ SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 4, page 48; SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 3.

⁵ SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 4, page 43; SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 3.

⁶ SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 4, page 42.

⁷ SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 4, page 40.

⁸ SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 4, page 116, 70-74; SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 3.

⁹ SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 3.

¹⁰ SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 4, pages 24-26.

¹¹ SC70 Doc. 51 Annex 4, pages 123, and 90-106.

¹² SC70 Sum. 5 (Rev. 1)(03/10/18).

¹³ SC70 Com.7

¹⁴ SC70 Sum. 12 (Rev. 1)(05/10/18).

Implementation of paragraph 1k) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17)

11. Paragraph 1k) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17), inserted at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2016, urges Parties making seizures of tiger skins to share images of seized tiger skins with the national focal points of tiger range States which have photographic identification databases for tigers. The Secretariat reported orally at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, and in writing at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee that India and Thailand had such databases along with the contact details of the national focal points.¹⁵ India has not received any images of seized tiger skins from Parties since the adoption of paragraph 1k). The information that may result from such exchange could be extremely valuable from an enforcement point of view as it has the potential to throw light on the illegal trade in tigers from the point of poaching onwards to the final destination. Accordingly the Proponents have proposed a draft decision directing Parties to share images of seized tiger skins with the national focal points of India and Thailand so as to implement paragraph 1k) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17).

Recommendations

12. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the suite of draft decisions set out in Annex I to this document.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. Parties have recognized the concerns about trade in Asian big cat specimens through the adoption of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*, and associated Decisions; and the Secretariat is committed to assist Parties in complying with these provisions. However, the Secretariat considers that the focus should be on reinforcing implementation of the existing provisions. The Secretariat notes that some of the proposed draft decisions in Annex 1 of the present document overlap with what is proposed in Annexes 1 and 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 on *Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)*. It also notes that some of the proposed draft decisions duplicate provisions in the Convention and recommendations in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17), as well as Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Compliance and enforcement*. In light of this and for the specific reasons set out below, the Secretariat does not recommend the adoption of the draft decisions in Annex 1.
- B. As described in document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, the Secretariat is implementing Decisions adopted at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties regarding facilities that may be of concern keeping Asian big cats in captivity. In this regard, the Secretariat, in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, proposes draft decisions 18.CC, 18.DD and 18.EE. In draft decision 18.DD in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, it is proposed that the Standing Committee shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of draft decision 18.EE and determine whether any further measures are needed to ensure implementation of the Convention, as well as Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) and Decision 14.69. In the light of this ongoing work, the Secretariat suggests that draft decision 18.AA proposed in Annex 1 to the present document is premature, and much of its content seems to go beyond the scope of the Convention and what can be imposed on sovereign States. The Secretariat therefore does not recommend the adoption of draft decision 18.AA in Annex 1 to the present document.
- C. Regarding proposed draft decision 18.BB, the Secretariat notes that international trade is regulated by the Convention. Further, regarding domestic trade, the Secretariat considers that the proposed draft decision 18.BB goes beyond Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) which urges Parties to voluntarily prohibit internal trade. The Secretariat therefore does not recommend the adoption of proposed draft decision 18.BB in Annex 1 to the present document. Regarding voluntarily prohibiting internal trade in tiger and other Asian big cat species, the Secretariat, in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, proposes that the current paragraph 1 sub-paragraph b) in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) should be aligned with other resolutions that address domestic markets that are contributing to poaching or illegal trade, such as Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens*. In this regard, the Secretariat proposes that the text of the current paragraph 1 sub-paragraph b) in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) be replaced with a new sub-paragraph g) in paragraph 3 of the Resolution, which recommends all Parties in whose jurisdiction there is a legal domestic market for specimens of tiger and other Asian big cat species that is contributing to poaching

¹⁵ Paragraph 14 of SC70 Doc. 42.1.

or illegal trade, take all necessary legislative, regulatory and enforcement measures to close their domestic markets for commercial trade in tiger and other Asian big cat specimens.

- D. Regarding the proposed draft decision 18.CC, the Secretariat notes that Article VIII of the Convention already states that Parties shall take appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention, including to penalize trade in, and possession of, illegally traded specimens. Paragraph 1 (a) of Article XIV recognizes that the provisions of the Convention do not affect the right of Parties to adopt stricter domestic measures regarding the conditions for trade, taking, possession or transport of specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III, or the complete prohibition thereof. Resolutions Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) and Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) provides further recommendations regarding enforcement actions. Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 includes a proposal to revise paragraph 1 sub-paragraphs a) and b) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17). The Secretariat therefore does not recommend the adoption of draft decision 18.CC in Annex 1 to the present document.
- E. Regarding the proposed draft decision 18.DD, the Secretariat refers to Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 and the proposed new text under the second “RECALLING” in the preamble of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) regarding “readily recognizable part or derivative” and the proposed revised text of paragraph 1 a) of the Resolution regarding including of the text “non-native Asian big cat species”. Further, the Secretariat considers that the report required by Parties under Article VIII, paragraph 7) b) of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on *National reports* is suitable for Parties to report on measures taken to implement the Convention and recommendations in Resolutions and therefore any additional species-specific special reporting is not recommended.
- F. The Secretariat does not recommend the adoption of the proposed draft decision 18.EE in Annex 1 to the present document since draft decisions 18.AA and 18.BB in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, paragraph 1 c) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) and paragraphs 2 and 3 of Resolution 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) already cover what is intended by draft decision 18.EE. Matters related to illegal trade in Asian big cat species could be addressed further through the activities to be conducted by the Big Cat Task Force, if established, as proposed in document CoP18 Doc 76.1.
- G. The objectives of draft decision 18.FF can be achieved through the implementation of draft decision 18.BB in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 and paragraph 1 c) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) and is therefore not recommended for adoption.
- H. The Secretariat notes that India has not received any images of seized tiger skins from Parties since the adoption of paragraph 1 k) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) and encourages Parties making seizures of tiger skins within their territories, when possible, to make use of available photographic identification databases for tigers, to identify the origin of illegal specimens as indicated in paragraph 1 k) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17). Therefore, the Secretariat does not recommend adopting the proposed draft decision 18.GG in Annex 1 to the present document.
- I. Regarding draft decision 18.HH, the Secretariat notes that the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018), agreed a recommendation as presented in the summary record of that meeting (see SC70 SR), requesting Parties to take note of the concerns regarding illegal trade in leopard parts and derivatives as outlined in Annex 4 to document SC70 Doc. 51, as well as any future updated and revised iteration of it, and any additional information, and to take this into account when developing work programmes and undertaking law enforcement operations. It should be noted that the Committee decided to not name any specific Parties in its recommendation. The Secretariat considers that draft decision 18.AA in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, paragraph 1 c) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) and the recommendation related to illegal trade in leopards agreed by the Standing Committee at SC70, already respond to the issue raised in draft decision 18.HH in Annex 1 to the present document and therefore does not recommend its adoption.
- J. The Secretariat considers that the intention of draft decision 18.II is addressed by paragraph 5 in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) as well as by the proposed new text under the last “RECALLING” in the preamble of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. Cop17), as outlined in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1. The Secretariat therefore does not recommend the adoption of the proposed draft decision.
- K. In the light of the comments above, the Secretariat does not recommend the adoption of draft decisions 18.JJ, 18.KK and 18.LL in Annex 1 to the present document. The Secretariat reminds Parties of the reporting requirements directed to the Secretariat in paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. Cop17) and highlights the proposed draft decisions 18.DD and 18.EE in Annex 1 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1.

Directed to Parties

- 18.AA** Parties affected by illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, in particular Parties identified in document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, are encouraged to take into consideration the information in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, and pursue enforcement efforts to address this illegal trade, including through the initiation of joint investigations and operations aimed at halting the members of organized crime networks across the entire illegal trade chain.
- 18.BB** Parties especially those mentioned in relation to hotspots for wildlife trade tourism in section 4.2 of page 5 of Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 in whose territory tourist markets exist that are contributing to illegal cross border trade involving Asian big cat specimens are encouraged to strengthen law enforcement cooperation with their neighbouring Parties to target such illegal trade.
- 18.CC** Parties in whose territories there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity referred to in Decision [18.II a)] are invited to welcome a mission from the Secretariat, to visit these facilities.
- 18.DD** Parties identified through implementation of Decision 18.II as having facilities of concern are urged to take measures to implement Decision 14.69
- 18.EE** All Parties that have made seizures of tiger skins since the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties are encouraged to share images in accordance with Resolution Conf 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*, paragraph 1.k) by 31 December 2019 and all Parties are encouraged to share images of any skins seized hereafter within 90 days of such seizure.
- 18.FF** Parties, in particular those mentioned in section 3.1.5 of Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc 71.1, are encouraged to take serious consideration of the concerns regarding illegal trade in leopard parts and derivatives as outlined in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 and take measures to address these.
- 18.GG** Consumer States of specimens from tiger and other Asian big cat species, are urged to take action to end demand for illegal tiger and other big cat parts and derivatives by working with relevant specialists such as consumer behaviour change, social marketing and communication experts to conduct targeted behaviour change initiatives ensuring initiatives are underpinned by sound evidence, are properly baselined, and have strong monitoring and evaluation built in, including appropriate metrics to assess efficacy; and adopting and implementing appropriate legislative and regulatory measures, to deter consumers from purchasing any illegal big cat products.
- 18.HH** Parties are invited to report to the Secretariat on implementation of Decisions 18.AA to 18.GG in time for the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties as per requirements in paragraph 2a) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17).

Directed to the Secretariat

- 18.II** The Secretariat shall:
- a) subject to external funding, undertake a mission to those Parties identified in document SC70 Doc. 51 and in whose territories there are facilities which may be of concern keeping Asian big cats in captivity, with the purpose of gaining a better understanding of the operations and activities undertaken by these facilities; and
 - b) report to the Standing Committee at its 73rd and 74th meetings on implementation of Decisions 18.HH to 18.II paragraph a), and progress with regard to the missions concerned and formulate recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.JJ** The Standing Committee at its 73rd and 74th meetings shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decisions 18.AA to 18.II and determine whether any further time-bound, country specific measures are needed to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, of Decision 14.69 and of paragraph 1 g) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17).

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) ON CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN TIGERS AND OTHER APPENDIX-I ASIAN BIG CAT SPECIES TO BE CONSIDERED AT COP18

Proposed new language is presented in underline and deleted language is presented in ~~strikeout font~~

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 11.5, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), relating to *Conservation of and trade in tigers*;

NOTING that wild populations of tigers and other Asian big cat species (snow leopard, *Uncia uncia*, clouded leopard, *Neofelis nebulosa*, all subspecies of leopard *Panthera pardus* within its Asian range, and Asiatic lion, *Panthera leopersica*) are threatened by the combined effects of poaching and habitat loss caused by disturbance, fragmentation and destruction;

AWARE that all tigers and other Asian big cat species are included in Appendix I, and that commercial international trade in Asian big cat species and their parts and derivatives has been prohibited by the Convention since 1975 (with the exception of the Asiatic lion and the Amur tiger *Panthera tigris altaica*, which were included in 1977 and 1987, respectively);

CONSCIOUS that three subspecies of tiger, *Panthera tigris*, have become extinct within the last 50 years and

NOTING with concern that, despite inclusion of Asian big cat species in Appendix I, illegal trade in specimens of nearly all these species has escalated and further threatens their long-term survival in the wild;

CONCERNED that the use of medicines and products containing parts and derivatives from the tiger and other Asian big cat species continues in many countries around the world and that the bones of some of these species may be used in traditional medicine systems as a substitute for tiger bone;

CONCERNED further that, despite some improvements, trade in skins from the tiger and other Asian big cat species continues to fuel poaching that could lead to extinction in the wild;

NOTING that the Standing Committee has called upon all Parties and non-Parties to the Convention to take such measures as are required to halt the illegal trade in tigers and tiger parts and derivatives;

COMMENDING the positive actions taken by some range and consumer States to address the illegal trade in tiger specimens and to facilitate cooperation with other Parties, but NOTING that measures are required to address illegal trade in specimens of all Appendix-I Asian big cat species;

CONSCIOUS that the driving forces behind the illegal killing of tigers and other Asian big cats and the illegal trade in specimens thereof vary from region to region and may include financial gain from the sale of live specimens, parts and derivatives, protection of people living in Asian big cat habitats and protection against or response to the predation of livestock;

RECOGNIZING that strengthened technical cooperation between range and non-range States and financial support, would contribute to more effective conservation of tigers and other Asian big cat species;

ACKNOWLEDGING that increased political commitment, financial resources and expertise in some range and consumer States will significantly improve control of the illegal killing of Asian big cat species, trade in their parts and derivatives and protection of their habitats;

ACKNOWLEDGING the progress made through the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force, and the results of the second CITES Enforcement Experts Group meeting in 2009, and NOTING that the causes of conservation problems could be relevant to other Asian big cat species and that the solutions to reduce illegal trade in tiger specimens could be applied to benefit these species;

ACKNOWLEDGING further the actions and reports of members of the Global Snow Leopard Network and Ecosystem Protection Programme and of the Global Tiger Forum in reviewing the threats to the long-term survival of the species in the wild and the recommended measures to address those threats;

WELCOMING the establishment of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC);

AWARE of the important role of ICCWC in bringing coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the subregional and regional networks that, on a daily basis, act in defence of natural resources;

ENCOURAGING all stakeholders to take note of the final report of the ICCWC Seminar on Tiger Crime for Heads of Police and Customs, held on 14 February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand;

CONCERNED that the failure to provide regular detailed reports on progress in implementing measures aimed at conserving tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cats has prevented adequate assessment of the effectiveness of the measures taken; ~~and~~

RECOGNIZING also that long-term solutions to the protection, conservation and management of tigers and other Asian big cat species and their habitats requires the adoption of bold and innovative actions based on a sound base of information;

RECALLING the interpretation of the term “readily recognizable part or derivative” as provided for in Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives*; and

RECALLING also that Resolution Conf. 17.4 on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* urges Parties where there is a significant market for illegally traded wildlife products to develop strategies to reduce the demand for illegal products of wild animals and plants through demand reduction campaigns and to enhance, as appropriate, policy, legislation and law enforcement in this regard, and EMPHASIZING the importance for Parties to develop such plans for Asian big cats.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. URGES:

- a) all Parties and non-Parties, especially range and consumer States of Asian big cat species, to adopt comprehensive legislation or, where applicable, review existing legislation to ensure that there are provisions for deterrent penalties and that it addresses both illegal trade in and/or possession of illegally traded specimens of native and non-native Asian big cat species as well as products labelled as, or claiming to contain specimens of native and non-native Asian big cat species;
- ~~b) all Parties to apply strict and enforcement controls and to be vigilant in addressing illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens and any associated illegal trade in specimens of other big cat species which clearly define the administrative responsibilities of the various government agencies responsible for regulating trade within and outside of protected areas and in outlets for parts and derivatives, such as in wildlife markets and shops, etc., as a matter of urgency;~~
- ~~b) all Parties seeking to improve their legislation prohibiting international commercial trade in specimens of tiger and other Asian big cat species, and products labelled as, or claiming to contain, their parts and derivatives, to adopt such legislation, to include penalties adequate to deter illegal trade and to consider introducing national measures to facilitate implementation of CITES, such as voluntarily prohibiting internal trade in such parts, derivatives and products, as provided for in Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16);~~
- c) all Parties in whose jurisdiction there is a legal domestic market for specimens of tiger and other Asian big cats species that is contributing to poaching or illegal trade, take all necessary legislative, regulatory and enforcement measures to close their domestic markets for commercial trade in tiger and other Asian big cat specimens;
- ~~d) all Parties, especially range and consumer States, to introduce innovative enforcement methods, for example anti-money laundering approaches, forensic analytical techniques, intelligence-led enforcement and working with internet and transportation companies, and, as a matter of priority, strengthen enforcement efforts in key border regions, and develop or improve implementation of regional enforcement networks;~~

- ~~d~~e) all range States and other relevant Parties to implement systems for the recording of information relating to illegal trade in Asian big cats and to share this information as appropriate to ensure coordinated investigations and enforcement;
- ~~e~~f) all range States shall seek to ensure enforcement units and personnel receive relevant and effective support in anti-poaching operations; the gathering and use of intelligence; targeting offenders; wildlife crime investigative techniques; collecting evidence; inter-agency liaison and cooperation; and preparing cases for prosecution;
- ~~f~~g) Parties to contribute financial and technical assistance to enable range States to comply with the implementation of this Resolution and enhance capacity building, improvement of conservation measures and sustainable livelihoods, so as to contribute towards the conservation of Asian big cats;
- ~~g~~h) those Parties and non-Parties ~~on~~ whose territories there are facilities keeping tigers and other Asian big cat species are bred in captivity to ensure that adequate management practices and controls are in place and strictly implemented, including for the disposal of Asian big cats that die in captivity, to prevent parts and derivatives from entering illegal trade from or through such facilities;
- ~~h~~i) those Parties and non-Parties on whose territories there exist stocks of parts and derivatives of tiger and other Asian big cat species (such as tiger bone stocks), but not including pre-Convention specimens, to consolidate and ensure adequate control of such stocks, and where possible destroy the same, with the exception of those used for educational and scientific purposes;
- ~~i~~j) range and non-range States of the tiger and other Asian big cat species to support and participate in international conservation programmes, such as the Global Tiger Forum and the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme Network, ~~the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force and the Global Tiger Initiative Council~~; and.
- ~~j~~k) all range and consumer States that are not party to CITES to accede to the Convention at the earliest possible date in order to improve control of international trade in parts and derivatives of tiger and other Asian big cat species; and
- ~~k~~l) all Parties that make seizures of tiger skins within their territories, when possible, to share images of the seized tiger skins with the national focal points or agencies in tiger range States, which have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins, so as to identify the origin of illegal specimens. The images should be taken from above with the skin spread. In the case of whole tiger carcasses seized with the skin intact, images should be taken of both sides of the carcass.

2. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to:

- a) report to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties on the status of Asian big cats in the wild, their conservation, and trade controls in place in Parties, using information provided by the range States on measures taken to comply with this Resolution and related relevant Decisions and any relevant additional information provided by relevant countries; and
- b) work with ICCWC partners to promote increased awareness amongst the law enforcement community of the serious nature and impact of illegal trade in Asian big cat species, and to improve cooperation and a multidisciplinary approach in the detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes related to these species;

3. RECOMMENDS that:

- a) the range States of the tiger and other Asian big cat species ensure that anti-poaching teams and enforcement units are established and effectively resourced to counter the illegal killing of and trade in Asian big cat species, and that intelligence is shared between relevant enforcement agencies to counter illegal killing and trade;
- b) range States of the tiger and other Asian big cat species carry out appropriate education and awareness campaigns directed at urban and rural communities and other targeted groups, on the ecological and cultural significance and the significance for ecotourism of Asian big cats, their prey and habitats;

- c) all range and consumer States take measures to increase awareness of wildlife crime and illicit wildlife trade among their enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities;
- d) the enforcement agencies in range and consumer States of the tiger and other Asian big cat species establish cooperative bilateral and multilateral arrangements, especially for the management of shared wildlife species and protected habitats with common boundaries, in order to achieve more effective control of illegal international trade in specimens of Asian big cat species;
- e) Parties and non-Parties convene regional workshops on law enforcement needs associated with illegal cross-border movement of specimens of Asian big cat species, including the extent of the trade, smuggling routes, methods and final consumer markets for live specimens and parts and derivatives, with technical assistance from the CITES Secretariat and, where available, financial support from interested governments and organizations; and
- f) the range States of Asian big cats species conduct, where appropriate, studies to examine the motivation behind the illegal killing of these species and to recommend appropriate measures to address such motivation;

4. REQUESTS:

- a) countries and organizations with the relevant expertise to encourage and support range and consumer States, as a matter of urgency, in the development of practical identification manuals to aid the detection and accurate identification of parts and derivatives of Asian big cats; and
- b) that, since biological and distribution data are essential for the implementation of the Convention, donor nations assist in funding the infrastructure and the provision of expertise to develop computer databases and mapping as well as any other necessary conservation management techniques;

5. RECOMMENDS that the consumer States of specimens from the tiger and other Asian big cat species:

- a) work with traditional medicine communities and industries to develop and implement strategies for gradually reducing and eventually eliminating the use of Asian big cat parts and derivatives;
- b) where necessary and appropriate, remove references to parts and derivatives of Appendix-I Asian big cats from the official pharmacopoeia and include acceptable substitute products that do not endanger other wild species, and introduce programmes to educate the industry and user groups in order to eliminate the use of substances derived from Appendix-I Asian big cats and promote the adoption of appropriate alternatives; and
- c) carry out appropriate education and awareness campaigns to eliminate illegal trade in and use of Asian big cat skins as trophies, ornaments and items of clothing or for the production of other materials;

6. CALLS UPON all governments and intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies, and non-governmental organizations to provide, as a matter of urgency, funds and other assistance to stop illegal trade in specimens of Asian big cat species, and to ensure the long-term survival of the Asian big cat species in the wild; and

7. REPEALS Resolution Conf. 11.5 (Gigiri, 2000) – *Conservation of and trade in tigers*.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The authors of this document propose the following tentative budget and source of funding.

This proposal does not contain any additional budgetary or workload implications for the Secretariat apart from its regular reporting requirements under paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev CoP17).