

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

ILLEGAL TRADE IN TIBETAN ANTELOPE  
(*PANTHOLOPS HODGSONII*)

1. This document is submitted by the Standing Committee.\*

Background

2. Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope*, in paragraph 2.b), DIRECTS:
  - b) *the Standing Committee to undertake a regular review of the enforcement measures taken by the Parties in eliminating the illicit trade in Tibetan antelope products on the basis of the Secretariat's report, and to report the results at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.131 and 17.132 on *Illegal trade in Tibetan antelope* (*Pantholops hodgsonii*), as follows:

***Directed to Parties concerned by the illegal trade in specimens of Tibetan antelope***

17.131 *All Parties concerned by the illegal trade in specimens of Tibetan antelope are encouraged to draw upon the offer of support from the CITES Management Authority of Switzerland, in particular with regard to identification methods and exchange of information and knowledge about this topic.*

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

17.132 *The Standing Committee shall review the results and outcomes of the workshop conducted by INTERPOL and Switzerland in July 2016 and make recommendations to the countries concerned by this trade based on that information.*

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17)

4. As required in paragraph 2 b) of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17), the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017) reviewed the enforcement measures taken by Parties to eliminate illegal trade in Tibetan antelope products, based on the Secretariat's report contained in document [SC69 Doc. 59](#).
5. The Secretariat reported to the Committee that the CITES Management Authority of Switzerland in accordance with paragraph 3 c) of Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17), informed the Secretariat that it continued to detect illegal trade in shawls containing fibres of wool from Tibetan antelopes (shahtoosh),

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\* *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.*

similar to what the Standing Committee had reported at CoP17 in document [CoP17 Doc. 66](#). It was reported that Switzerland in the period from CoP17 up to 9 March 2017, made 22 seizures involving a total of 69 shawls containing fibres of Tibetan antelope wool. Border officials specifically trained to detect products containing fibres of wool from Tibetan antelopes made the majority of the seizures, following targeted inspections during the winter season and during controls. It was highlighted that Switzerland had been, amongst others, in contact with Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, since there had been an increase of travellers carrying shahtoosh shawls, in particular from these two countries. It was further reported that inspections of commercial vendors in Switzerland had resulted in four seizures involving a total of 32 shawls.

#### Implementation of Decision 17.131

6. At SC69, Switzerland informed the Committee that it had been in contact with several Parties regarding specific cases of illegal trade in shahtoosh and the development of enforcement strategies to combat such illegal trade.

#### Implementation of Decision 17.132

7. At SC69, the Committee established an in-session working group on Tibetan antelope, to review the results and outcomes of the workshop conducted by INTERPOL and Switzerland in July 2016, taking account the comments of the Secretariat in document SC69 Doc. 59.
8. As required by Decision 17.132, and based on the feedback provided to the Committee by the in-session working group, the Committee at SC69 adopted a number of recommendations directed to Parties affected by the illegal trade in parts and derivatives of the Tibetan antelope, as presented in document [SC69 Sum. 10 \(Rev.1\)](#), under agenda item 59.

#### Recommendations

9. In fulfilment of Decision 17.132, the Standing Committee recommends the Conference of the Parties to note this document.

### COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat notes that the status of the Tibetan antelope has been improving in recent years. A recent assessment for the Red List of Threatened Species™ of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) suggests that populations are increasing (100,000 to 150,000 individuals) and the conservation status of the species has improved from 'Endangered' in 2008 to 'Near Threatened' in 2016, and that this in part reflects significant effort by range and consumer States to address illegal killing of, and trade in, specimens derived from Tibetan antelopes.
- B. In light of this situation, the Secretariat does not believe that it should report on this matter to each meeting of the Standing Committee, although it will of course draw any issues of concern to the Committee, when appropriate, and any Party may raise the matter at any meeting of the Committee. Similarly, the Standing committee should not be obligated to report on this subject to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Based on this, the Secretariat prepared a draft revised version of paragraph 2 b) in Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP17) as follows: (text proposed to be deleted is crossed out, and proposed new text is underlined)  
  
*2 b) the Standing Committee to ~~undertake a regular review of~~ keep the enforcement measures taken by the Parties in eliminating the illicit trade in Tibetan antelope products under review on the basis of reports from the Secretariat's report, and to ~~report the results at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;~~ and*
- C. The Secretariat considers that Decisions 17.131 and 17.132 have been implemented and recommends that they be deleted.