

CONVENCIÓN SOBRE EL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPECIES
AMENAZADAS DE FAUNA Y FLORA SILVESTRES



Septuagésima cuarta reunión del Comité Permanente
Lyon (Francia), 7 - 11 de marzo de 2022

Cuestiones de interpretación y aplicación

Cumplimiento y observancia general

GRANDES FELINOS ASIÁTICOS (FELIDAE SPP.):
INFORME DE LA SECRETARÍA

1. Este documento ha sido preparado por la Secretaría.
2. En el párrafo 2 a) de la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17), sobre *Conservación y comercio de tigres y otras especies de grandes felinos asiáticos incluidos en el Apéndice I*, la Conferencia de las Partes encarga a la Secretaría que:
 - a) *presente al Comité Permanente y a la Conferencia de las Partes un informe sobre la situación de los grandes felinos asiáticos en el medio silvestre, su conservación y los controles del comercio establecidos por las Partes, utilizando información facilitada por los Estados del área de distribución sobre las medidas adoptadas para cumplir esta Resolución y las Decisiones pertinentes conexas, así como cualquier otra información pertinente facilitada por los países afectados;*
3. En su 18ª reunión (CoP18, Ginebra, 2019), a Conferencia de las Partes adoptó las Decisiones 18.100 a 18.109 sobre *Comercio ilegal de grandes felinos asiáticos (Felidae spp.)*. En su 17ª reunión (CoP17, Johannesburgo, 2016), la Conferencia de las Partes adoptó la Decisión 17.226 sobre *Comercio ilegal de grandes felinos asiáticos (Felidae spp.)*, que sigue en vigor. En su 14ª reunión (CoP14, La Haya, 2007), la Conferencia de las Partes adoptó la Decisión 14.69 sobre *Especímenes criados en cautividad y en granjas*, que también sigue en vigor. Estas decisiones figuran en el Anexo 1 del presente documento.
4. Debido las dificultades planteadas por la pandemia de COVID-19, la 73ª reunión del Comité Permanente (SC73, en línea, mayo de 2021) se celebró con un orden del día reducido, que no incluía el comercio ilegal de grandes felinos asiáticos. No obstante, la Secretaría brindó al Comité Permanente, en noviembre de 2020, una actualización sobre la aplicación de las decisiones y la resolución antes mencionadas en el documento informativo [SC2020 Inf. 12](#).
5. Como se señala en el documento SC2020 Inf. 12, la Secretaría publicó la Notificación a las Partes [No. 2020/039](#), de fecha 29 de abril de 2020, en la que solicitaba a las Partes que informaran a la Secretaría acerca de la aplicación de las Decisiones 17.226, párrafos a) y b), 18.100 a 18.106 y la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18). Se recibieron respuestas de las Partes siguientes: Austria, Camboya, Eslovaquia, España, Estados Unidos de América, India, Países Bajos, Pakistán, Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte, República Checa y Tailandia. Estas respuestas se han recopilado en el Anexo 2 del presente documento, en el idioma y el formato en que se recibieron. La Secretaría expresa su agradecimiento a esas Partes por sus informes.
6. La Secretaría también recibió, en respuesta a la Notificación a las Partes [No. 2020/039](#), informes de dos organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG), la *Environment Investigation Agency* y *Voice 4 Lions*, en los que se sugería que continuaba el comercio ilegal de partes y derivados de tigres y leopardos. La Secretaría

agradece a esas ONG la información brindada y alienta a todas las ONG y otros interesados a que lleven cualquier información sobre sospechas de comercio ilegal de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos a la atención de las autoridades de aplicación de la ley correspondientes tan pronto la tengan disponible.

7. También se abordan asuntos relacionados con los grandes felinos asiáticos en los documentos SC74 Doc. 69 sobre *Grupo especial CITES sobre grandes felinos (Felidae spp)* y SC74 Doc. 74 sobre *León africano (Panthera leo)*.
8. La Secretaría presenta en los párrafos 9 a 37 a continuación un breve resumen de los principales aspectos señalados en los informes remitidos por las Partes:

Estado de conservación de los grandes felinos asiáticos

Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18)

9. **Camboya:** debido a que se carece de investigaciones científicas, Camboya no se encuentra en condiciones de confirmar el estado de las especies de grandes felinos asiáticos silvestres en el país. Sin embargo, en su informe, el país menciona un estudio sobre el leopardo y observa que el examen de los datos de cámaras trampa y otros estudios realizados en el medio silvestre durante los últimos 20 años sugieren que el leopardo se encuentra ahora presente en solo el 8,0% de su área de distribución histórica en Camboya. Recientemente, se habían detectado leopardos en cuatro áreas protegidas de Camboya. En el Bosque Protegido Mondulkiri, el área protegida más grande y con el mayor grado de biodiversidad del país, se informa que la densidad de leopardos ha disminuido alrededor de un 70%, con una densidad estimada de 3,6 leopardos/100 km² en 2009 y una densidad estimada de 1,0 leopardo/100 km² en 2014.
10. El **Pakistán** informó acerca del estado de conservación de los leopardos (*Panthera pardus*) y los leopardos de las nieves (*Panthera uncia*) que se encuentran en el medio silvestre dentro de su territorio. La población estimada de leopardos es de entre 150 y 250 ejemplares, mientras que la población estimada de leopardos de las nieves es de entre 200 y 420 ejemplares. Ambas especies están clasificadas como En Peligro Crítico en el Pakistán. De conformidad con el *Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystems Protection Program* (GSLEP por sus siglas en inglés, Programa mundial para la recuperación del leopardo de las nieves y sus ecosistemas), se ha puesto en marcha un Programa del Pakistán para la protección del leopardo de las nieves y sus ecosistemas, que se ejecutará a lo largo de un período de cinco años (de 2018 a 2023).
11. **Tailandia** informó acerca de medidas exitosas adoptadas para fortalecer la protección de su población de tigres, por ejemplo mediante un mayor uso del sistema de patrullas SMART y el establecimiento de nuevos sitios de conservación. Se informa que, en el Santuario de Vida Silvestre Huai Kha Khaeng, la población de tigres ha aumentado un 66% desde 2010, de 41 ejemplares a aproximadamente 60-65 ejemplares. Se estima que el tamaño total de la población de tigres silvestres de Tailandia asciende a unos 150 a 200 ejemplares.
12. **Viet Nam:** según un estudio que se llevó a cabo en 2012, la población de tigres de Viet Nam sufrió una importante disminución y se ha estimado que el número de tigres en el medio silvestre asciende a menos de 20 ejemplares. En Viet Nam, se carece de estudios de campo completos para los tigres y otras especies de grandes felinos incluidas en el Apéndice I. En 2014, Viet Nam aprobó un programa nacional para la conservación del tigre para el período de 2014 a 2022 centrado en el establecimiento y la creación de áreas prioritarias destinadas a recuperar su población de tigres, así como sus presas y sus hábitats. No se incluyeron en el informe datos sobre los resultados de este programa.

Prácticas de gestión y controles relativos a los establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad

Aplicación de la Decisión 17.226

13. **Austria** informó que el mantenimiento de grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad se limita a zoológicos aprobados e instituciones científicas registradas, que son controlados periódicamente por la autoridad competente.
14. **Camboya** informó que cuenta con dos establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad: cuatro tigres están alojados en una institución gubernamental gestionada por la Administración Forestal y dos tigres están alojados en un establecimiento privado. Camboya no ha elaborado aún prácticas nacionales de gestión y controles para regular el mantenimiento de grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad.

15. En su informe, la **República Checa** mencionó la información que proporcionó en los documentos informativos [SC70 Inf. 24](#) y [SC 70 Inf. 23](#), presentados a la 70ª reunión del Comité Permanente (SC70, Sochi, octubre de 2018). Según el informe, hay 177 tigres vivos en cautividad registrados en la República Checa, y se ha producido una disminución en el número anual de nuevos registros de tigres en cautividad (33 en 2018 y 16 en 2019).
16. **India:** en su territorio, se mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad únicamente en parques zoológicos establecidos conforme a la Ley de protección de la fauna y flora silvestres de 1972. El bienestar de los animales y las normas de mantenimiento de los zoológicos son supervisadas y evaluadas periódicamente por la autoridad central de parques zoológicos del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Bosques y Cambio Climático.
17. **Países Bajos:** la posesión de grandes felinos vivos está prohibida en los Países Bajos, y únicamente los zoológicos y centros de rescate especiales registrados pueden obtener permiso para albergarlos. Se requiere un certificado de la Unión Europea (UE) para transferir un espécimen de una especie incluida en el Apéndice I a un lugar diferente o dentro de la UE. Los zoológicos están obligados a cumplir la legislación del país al respecto, que establece que un animal puede ser transferido a otro zoológico si se lo albergará en establecimientos similares y se lo cuidará de manera similar. Los establecimientos que albergan especímenes son inspeccionados periódicamente por las autoridades gubernamentales y la mayor parte de los zoológicos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad en los Países Bajos son miembros de la Asociación Europea de Zoos y Acuarios que intercambia animales únicamente dentro de sus programas de cría.
18. **Pakistán:** el Pakistán aplica la CITES por conducto de la Ley de control del comercio de fauna y flora silvestres de 2012 y el Reglamento del Pakistán para el control del comercio de fauna y flora silvestres de 2018. La ley prevé penas de prisión de un año como mínimo y dos años como máximo, o una multa de entre 500.000 rupias pakistaníes (aproximadamente 3.000 dólares de EE.UU.) y 1 millón de rupias pakistaníes (aproximadamente 6.000 dólares de EE.UU.). En su informe, el Pakistán incluyó un documento completo sobre la publicación [Guidelines for the Acquisition and Management of Felids \(Cat Species\) in Captivity](#) [Directrices para la adquisición y la gestión de félidos (especies de felinos) en cautividad]. Estas directrices fueron aprobadas por el Ministerio de Medio Ambiente del Pakistán en junio de 2011 e incluyen detalles relativos a la adquisición y la gestión de félidos en cautividad, lo que incluye la disposición de los grandes felinos asiáticos que mueren en cautividad a fin de evitar que sus partes y derivados ingresen en el comercio ilegal. Los departamentos provinciales responsables de la fauna y flora silvestres garantizan que se hayan establecido prácticas de gestión en los zoológicos/establecimientos tanto gubernamentales como privados que mantienen grandes felinos en cautividad.
19. **Eslovaquia:** la legislación de Eslovaquia relativa a la CITES fue enmendada el 1 de enero de 2019 e incluye disposiciones para evitar que los especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos que mueren en cautividad ingresen en el comercio ilegal. Bajo la supervisión de la Autoridad estatal de conservación de la naturaleza de la República Eslovaca, los especímenes muertos de grandes felinos asiáticos deben ser entregados a una persona con licencia para su destrucción o a un taxidermista matriculado. Se han establecido obligaciones administrativas para albergar animales vivos, tales como el requisito de mantener registros en una tarjeta separada para cada especie. El titular está obligado a notificar a la Autoridad Administrativa CITES cualquier cambio de datos en la tarjeta de la especie. La finalidad de esta disposición es contar con información sobre el mantenimiento, la cría, el manejo y el comercio de grandes felinos asiáticos en Eslovaquia. En 2018, Eslovaquia realizó un inventario de los establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad; en esa oportunidad, las autoridades de inspección regionales llevaron a cabo inspecciones de un conjunto de diez establecimientos, entre los que se incluía un circo de la República Checa. Se determinó que se habían cometido delitos administrativos en dos casos, pero no se notificó ninguna infracción de la legislación relativa a la CITES. En lo que respecta al procesamiento de solicitudes de comercio de especies de Felidae dentro de la UE, Eslovaquia informó que aplica un enfoque estricto en torno a los procedimientos de expedición de permisos.
20. **España:** en el país, hay 27 establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad para fines no comerciales, y algunos de estos establecimientos están incluidos en programas de conservación europeos. Se informa que se han establecido medidas de control, como por ejemplo relativas a la identificación y el marcado de cada espécimen, así como al registro de los animales que nacen o mueren en cautividad. Se llevan a cabo inspecciones presenciales para verificar el cumplimiento de la legislación relativa a la CITES.

21. **Tailandia:** en el país, hay en total 23 zoológicos públicos que tienen menos de 49 tigres y nueve zoológicos públicos que tienen más de 49 tigres. Además, dos de los diez establecimientos que se había indicado que eran motivo de preocupación (documento [SC70 Doc. 51](#)) habían cerrado y otro tenía previsto cerrar. En 2020, había en total 718 tigres en cautividad en posesión de ocho establecimientos que se había señalado que eran motivo de preocupación. Según la Ley de reservas y protección de animales silvestres B.E. 2535 (1992) de Tailandia, la cría de tigres con fines comerciales está prohibida. La Ley de reservas y protección de animales silvestres B.E. 2562 (2019), que entró en vigor en noviembre de 2019, incluye normas adicionales para el establecimiento y la gestión de los zoológicos públicos que deben cumplirse. Tailandia está adoptando medidas para gestionar y regular el número de tigres que se encuentran en zoológicos públicos. Se deben separar los machos y las hembras para prevenir las reproducciones no reguladas y se han establecido medidas para los zoológicos a fin de regular el número de cachorros recién nacidos.
22. **Viet Nam:** en total, hay en el país 20 establecimientos en los que se mantienen 360 ejemplares de tigres y grandes felinos, y 36 tigres decomisados están albergados en un centro de rescate del Departamento de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural de Hanoi. Se han establecido prácticas de gestión para los establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad y la Autoridad Administrativa CITES de Viet Nam y otros organismos pertinentes realizan periódicamente visitas de seguimiento. Las autoridades locales tienen instrucciones de inspeccionar los establecimientos que mantienen tigres y grandes felinos al menos dos veces por año. Se informa que la mayoría de los establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos son de propiedad privada y han de ser controlados por el departamento local de protección forestal. Todos los establecimientos que mantienen tigres son inspeccionados periódicamente por el departamento provincial de protección forestal, y la Autoridad Administrativa CITES de Viet Nam colabora con estas autoridades a fin de controlar estrictamente el origen de los tigres que se encuentran en esos establecimientos. Además, se han otorgados códigos o certificados de gestión para fines no comerciales a ocho establecimientos, de conformidad con el Decreto No. 06/2019/ND-CP. Se informa que todos los tigres que se mantienen en estos establecimientos provienen de fuentes tales como importaciones y especímenes intercambiados entre zoológicos. En 2012, en colaboración con el Instituto de Ecología y Recursos Biológicos, la Autoridad Administrativa CITES del país recogió y analizó muestras de ADN de todos los establecimientos que mantienen tigres en Viet Nam.

Medidas de observancia y actividades destinadas a abordar el comercio ilegal de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos

Aplicación de las Decisiones 18.100, 18.101 y 18.105

23. En lo que respecta a la aplicación de las Decisiones 18.100, 18.101 y 18.105, varias Partes proporcionaron información sobre las medidas aplicadas y las actividades ejecutadas para abordar el comercio ilegal de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos.
24. **República Checa:** en 2019, se decomisaron y confiscaron dos especímenes vivos de tigres blancos porque no estaban marcados con microfichas. Ese mismo año, se confiscó un esqueleto de tigre (sin el cráneo) y un cráneo de tigre separado y se decomisó un cuerpo de tigre disecado que carecía de pruebas de origen legal.
25. **Camboya:** Camboya estableció una dependencia conjunta especializada en delitos contra la vida silvestre que comprende personal de múltiples organismos de la administración forestal, el Departamento General de Policía Militar y la Administración de Pesca. La dependencia coopera periódicamente con la autoridad aduanera de Camboya.
26. **India:** la India estableció una Oficina Especial de Control de los Delitos contra la Vida Silvestre (WCBB, por sus siglas en inglés) para abordar los delitos contra la vida silvestre y un Depósito nacional de fotografías de cámaras trampa de tigres (NRCTPT, por sus siglas en inglés) para establecer el origen de las pieles de tigre decomisadas. A fin de abordar el comercio ilegal de grandes felinos asiáticos, la India ha reforzado la cooperación con fines de observancia de la ley con Partes vecinas (como Bangladesh, Bhután, China y Myanmar, Nepal y la Federación de Rusia). En lo que respecta a la aplicación de la Decisión 18.105, la India ha iniciado un proceso para llevar a cabo estimaciones de las poblaciones de leopardos y establecer protocolos formales para la genética de conservación de los leopardos.
27. **Pakistán:** el personal de los departamentos provinciales y territoriales responsables de la fauna y flora silvestres aplica las leyes provinciales al respecto para abordar la caza furtiva y el comercio ilegal de especies silvestres, incluidas entre ellas los grandes felinos asiáticos. En los puntos de entrada y salida, la aduana del Pakistán, en colaboración con el Ministerio de Cambio Climático y los departamentos provinciales y territoriales responsables de la fauna y la flora silvestres, vela por la aplicación de la CITES.

El Pakistán presentó a la Secretaría, de conformidad con la [Notificación a las Partes No. 2018/014](#), de fecha 30 de enero de 2018, una solicitud relativa a la *Guía de bolsillo para el terreno para combatir el comercio ilegal de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos para organismos de aplicación de la ley*. La Autoridad Administrativa CITES recibió posteriormente 140 copias impresas de esta guía, que se distribuyeron entre los organismos de aplicación de la ley pertinentes. El Pakistán es miembro de la Red de Observancia de la Vida Silvestre en Asia Meridional (SAWEN), destinada a la cooperación en materia de observancia a nivel regional.

28. **Viet Nam:** durante el período 2018-2019, se realizaron en el país 37 decomisos relacionados con el tráfico ilícito, el transporte y el almacenamiento de especímenes de tigres y otras especies de felinos (*Caracal caracal*, *Catopuma temminckii*, *Prionailurus bengalensis*), y 19 de estos casos se relacionaban con especímenes de tigre. La mayoría de los decomisos fueron realizados por la policía. El comercio ilegal de especímenes de tigre se produjo en las provincias que limitan con la República Democrática Popular Lao, como Nghe An, y en el noreste de Viet Nam, como en Ha Noi y Quang Ninh. La mayoría de los especímenes de tigre decomisados eran cuerpos de tigre congelados, y también se decomisaron pieles de tigre. Las autoridades vietnamitas colaboraron con organizaciones no gubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales de conservación para llevar a cabo inspecciones y campañas de vigilancia en puntos álgidos de comercio de especies silvestres y, como resultado de estas operaciones, se detuvo y llevó a juicio a varios de los principales individuos involucrados en el comercio ilegal de tigres. Viet Nam informó además acerca de actividades de capacitación y fomento de la capacidad relacionadas con la aplicación de la CITES y la identificación de las especies silvestres que frecuentemente se encuentran en el comercio ilegal. Esto incluyó fomento de la capacidad para alrededor de 1.000 funcionarios provinciales de protección forestal, de las aduanas y de la policía ambiental, así como guardias de fronteras y otras autoridades. En lo que respecta a la colaboración con países vecinos, Viet Nam destacó actividades tales como diálogos anuales con la República Democrática Popular Lao acerca de los controles del comercio de especies silvestres en las provincias fronterizas y reuniones bilaterales con China relativas al fortalecimiento de la cooperación en relación con la aplicación de la CITES. Viet Nam es miembro del grupo de trabajo sobre la CITES y la aplicación de las leyes sobre vida silvestre de la Asociación de Naciones de Asia Sudoriental (ASEAN) e intercambia información periódicamente con los países de esa Asociación.
29. **Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte:** el país ha aportado asistencia financiera y técnica a través de fondos para el [Consorcio Internacional para Combatir los Delitos contra la Vida Silvestre](#) (ICCWC) y el [Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund](#), lo que debería permitir a los Estados del área de distribución cumplir con la aplicación de las decisiones relativas al comercio ilegal de grandes felinos asiáticos y la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18). En 2020, la Ronda 6 del *Challenge Fund* del Reino Unido se adjudicó a un proyecto dirigido por *Fauna and Flora International*, denominado “*Enabling and promoting communities to tackle illegal wildlife trade (including tiger) in Southern Myanmar*” [Apoyar y promover a las comunidades para hacer frente al comercio ilegal de especies silvestres (incluido el tigre) en el sur de Myanmar]. El proyecto prestará apoyo a seis comunidades locales del sur de Tanintharyi, en la frontera entre Myanmar y Tailandia, a fin de que participen activamente para hacer frente a las amenazas que suponen la caza furtiva y el comercio ilegal para los tigres y otras especies clave. Asimismo, apoyará el desarrollo de medios de subsistencia sostenibles y la mejora de la gestión de los recursos.
30. Los **Estados Unidos de América** informaron datos de decomisos de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos para el período de diciembre de 2016 a junio de 2020. Durante ese período, se decomisaron en total 127 envíos que contenían especímenes de tigre (*Panthera tigris*) y leopardo (*Panthera pardus*). La mayor parte de los especímenes decomisados provenían de Asia, y los envíos eran transportados por pasajeros o bien se habían enviado mediante el correo internacional. Estos envíos constaban de productos médicos (esto es, bolas medicinales o píldoras) y otros productos, tales como garras, dientes, huesos, pequeños trozos de piel y pezuñas.

Aplicación de la Decisión 18.103

31. En lo que respecta a la Decisión 18.103, únicamente **Viet Nam** informó que había enviado imágenes de pieles de tigre decomisadas en 2017 y 2018 a la Autoridad Administrativa CITES de la India.

Aplicación de la Decisión 18.104

32. La **República Checa** informó que el proyecto de investigación genética denominado [TigrisID](#), financiado por su Ministerio del Interior y que tenía la finalidad de desarrollar herramientas de diagnóstico basadas en el ADN fiables para productos medicinales elaborados, continuaría hasta finales de 2022. Varios Estados miembros de la UE proporcionaron muestras de ADN de tigres de varias fuentes (zoológicos, criadores privados y especímenes decomisados) que se utilizarían en el proyecto TigrisID. En el Anexo 2 del presente

documento se incluye un informe de progresos sobre el proyecto TigrisID enviado por la República Checa en respuesta a la Notificación 2020/039. Según ese informe de progresos, hasta el 7 de febrero de 2020, se había aislado el ADN de 424 tigres individuales. Los procedimientos aplicados para identificar tigres (*Panthera tigris*) en muestras con grandes daños debido a la temperatura no habían dado, hasta ahora, resultados positivos. La República Checa tal vez desee presentar una actualización oral a las Partes en la presente reunión acerca de la situación del proyecto TigrisID, así como plantear la necesidad de que se compartan más muestras con la República Checa de conformidad con la Decisión 18.104.

33. **India:** la India está finalizando la preparación de un conjunto de manuales básicos que se utilizarán como norma mínima para determinar si las muestras corresponden a tigres en casos de delitos contra la vida silvestre.
34. **Eslovaquia:** en 2019, se compartieron muestras tomadas de 65 tigres vivos y dos muestras de especímenes muertos con la Inspección Ambiental Checa para que fueran utilizadas en el proyecto de investigación genética TigrisID.

Reducción de la demanda de especímenes ilegales de tigres y otros grandes felinos asiáticos

Aplicación de la Decisión 18.106

35. La **India** informó que, en el marco del proyecto *Tiger* en curso, se estaban llevando a cabo actividades de sensibilización que incluían aspectos de los delitos contra la vida silvestre.
36. **Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte:** en 2020, se adjudicó la Ronda 6 del *Challenge Fund* financiado por el Reino Unido a un proyecto dirigido por TRAFFIC denominado "*Social marketing to reduce demand for tiger products in Viet Nam*" (Mercadotecnia social para reducir la demanda de productos de tigre en Viet Nam). Este proyecto se basará en perspectivas sobre comportamientos y los recientes resultados positivos logrados en relación con la reducción de la demanda de cuerno de rinoceronte a fin de ejecutar una campaña de mercadotecnia social culturalmente apropiada y cuidadosamente enfocada con miras a detener el consumo de productos de tigre entre los principales grupos de usuarios.
37. **Viet Nam:** en 2019, la Autoridad Administrativa de Viet Nam colaboró con organizaciones no gubernamentales en iniciativas de investigación, tales como una encuesta de consumidores sobre especímenes de tigre. En el informe de Viet Nam no se incluyó, sin embargo, información sobre los resultados de la encuesta.

Aplicación de las Decisiones 18.102 y 18.108

38. Debido a las medidas relacionadas con la COVID-19 que limitaron las reuniones y los viajes, la Secretaría no pudo llevar a cabo en 2020 y 2021 las misiones previstas en el párrafo a) de la Decisión 18.108. La Secretaría consiguió fondos limitados para llevar a cabo algunas de estas misiones; sin embargo, lamentablemente, debido al tiempo transcurrido y a los requisitos de los donantes, esos fondos ya no están disponibles. Por lo tanto, la Secretaría aún necesita conseguir los fondos externos necesarios para poder llevar a cabo estas misiones y alienta a las Partes que puedan aportar fondos a que apoyen esta labor. La Secretaría se esforzará por llevar a cabo las misiones tan pronto como lo permitan los recursos disponibles y las actuales limitaciones relacionadas con la pandemia de COVID-19.
39. La Secretaría observa que, en sus respuestas a la Notificación a las Partes No. 2020/039, los Estados Unidos de América, la República Checa, Tailandia y Viet Nam indicaron que están dispuestos a acoger una misión de la Secretaría de acuerdo con lo previsto en el párrafo a) de la Decisión 18.108.

Conclusión

40. Aunque se han recibido informes de un número limitado de Partes, los informes presentados demuestran que algunas Partes han establecido medidas y prácticas adecuadas que se podrían aprovechar como mejores prácticas para otras Partes en aquellos casos en que no se han establecido aún. En lo que respecta a las prácticas de gestión y los controles relativos a los establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad, varias Partes indicaron que supervisan e inspeccionan periódicamente esos establecimientos y que han establecido medidas y controles estrictos.

41. Resulta alentador notar las actividades que se han llevado a cabo para hacer frente al comercio ilegal de tigres y otros especímenes de grandes felinos. Por ejemplo, los informes de los medios de comunicación y ONG¹ indican que la policía decomisó en Viet Nam, en agosto de 2021, 24 tigres vivos de establecimientos de cría ilegales y que la aduana de Viet Nam decomisó casi 90 kg de huesos de tigres, leopardos y leones en diciembre de 2021. Además, Tailandia informó que dos de los establecimientos que se había señalado que eran motivo de preocupación en el documento [SC70 Doc. 51](#) han sido cerrados y se tenía previsto cerrar otros establecimientos. Si bien estos ejemplos de las actividades realizadas son alentadores, es mucho lo que resta por hacer. Siguen siendo motivo de preocupación los constantes decomisos de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos, incluidos especímenes provenientes de establecimientos de cría en cautividad, y las posibles repercusiones de este comercio ilegal en las poblaciones de los grandes felinos asiáticos. Esto destaca que es necesario intensificar los esfuerzos y que resulta esencial que las Partes redoblen sus esfuerzos por abordar el comercio ilegal de grandes felinos asiáticos. Los Estados del área de distribución, de tránsito y de destino afectados por el comercio ilegal de grandes felinos asiáticos deberían fomentar activamente la plena aplicación de la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17), sobre *Conservación y comercio de tigres y otras especies de grandes felinos asiáticos incluidos en el Apéndice I*. Se alienta a las Partes a intensificar el intercambio de información, llevando los decomisos importantes de especímenes ilegales de grandes felinos asiáticos a la atención de las autoridades de los países de origen, de tránsito y de destino, según corresponda y proceda, sin demora. Esto debería incluir proporcionar toda la información relacionada con el decomiso que permita que puedan realizarse investigaciones de seguimiento.
42. La aplicación de algunas decisiones sigue siendo limitada o puntual, como en el caso de la Decisión 18.103. Por lo tanto, se recuerda a las Partes que realicen decomisos de pieles de tigre en sus territorios la Decisión 18.103 y el párrafo 1. l) de la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18). Los Estados del área de distribución del tigre que cuentan con bases de datos de identificación fotográfica para los tigres y capacidad para identificar tigres a partir de fotografías de pieles de tigre están enumerados en el párrafo 14 del documento [SC70 Doc. 42.1](#).
43. La Secretaría también aprovecha esta oportunidad para recordar a las Partes que la *Guía de bolsillo para el terreno para combatir el comercio ilegal de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos para organismos de aplicación de la ley* se encuentra disponible en versión electrónica en el Colegio Virtual CITES y que también hay copias impresas disponibles. Se invita a las Partes afectadas por el comercio ilegal de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos a que soliciten copias impresas a la Secretaría como se describe en la [Notificación a las Partes 2018/014](#), de fecha 30 de enero de 2018. La guía de bolsillo para el terreno está disponible en inglés y chino y está destinada a su distribución entre autoridades aduaneras y de policía y otras autoridades nacionales responsables de la aplicación de las leyes sobre vida silvestre.

Recomendaciones

44. La Secretaría invita al Comité Permanente a:
- a) alentar a las Partes que aún no lo hayan hecho a llevar a cabo la supervisión e inspección periódicas de los establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad, teniendo en consideración la Decisión 17.226 y aplicando medidas que permitan que se lleven registros precisos de todos los tigres que se mantienen en cautividad;
 - b) alentar a las Partes en cuyos territorios se ha señalado que existen instalaciones de cría en cautividad que son motivo de preocupación en el documento SC70 Doc. 51 a que presten especial atención a las actividades de estos establecimientos al aplicar la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17), sobre *Conservación y comercio de tigres y otras especies de grandes felinos asiáticos incluidos en el Apéndice I* y la Decisión 17.226, y a que tomen medidas rápidas y decididas en relación con las posibles actividades no autorizadas o ilegales que puedan detectarse;
 - c) alentar a todas las Partes que han realizado decomisos de pieles de tigre dentro de sus territorios a que apliquen la Decisión 18.103; y

¹ https://congan.com.vn/an-ninh-kinh-te/gan-90kg-xuong-ho-bao-va-nhieu-san-pham-dong-thuc-vat-nguy-trang_124998.html; [WWF commends Nghe An provincial authorities for tiger seizures in Viet Nam | WWF \(panda.org\)](#)

- d) alentar a las Partes afectadas por el comercio ilegal de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos a que recuerden a sus autoridades nacionales responsables de la aplicación de las leyes sobre la vida silvestre la disponibilidad de la *Guía de bolsillo para el terreno para combatir el comercio ilegal de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos para organismos de aplicación de la ley* en versión electrónica en el Colegio Virtual CITES, y a que soliciten copias impresas a la Secretaría, según sea necesario, para ponerla a disposición de las autoridades pertinentes.

Decisiones sobre Grandes felinos asiáticos (Felidae spp.) y
Especímenes criados en cautividad y en granjas

Dirigida a las Partes

- 18.100** Se alienta a las Partes afectadas por el comercio ilegal de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos, en particular aquellas señaladas en el documento CoP18 Doc. 71.1, a tomar en cuenta la información que figura en el Anexo 4 del documento CoP18 Doc. 71.1, y a ejercer esfuerzos de observancia para abordar este comercio ilegal, como por ejemplo iniciando investigaciones y operaciones conjuntas destinadas a poner freno a los miembros de las redes delictivas organizadas a lo largo de toda la cadena de comercio ilegal.
- 18.101** Se alienta a las Partes, en cuyos territorios existen mercados del turismo que contribuyen al comercio transfronterizo ilegal relacionado con especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos a que refuercen su cooperación en materia de observancia de la ley con las Partes de países vecinos para combatir este comercio ilegal.
- 18.102** Se invita a las Partes en cuyos territorios existen establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad a los que se hace referencia en la Decisión 18.108, párrafo a) a acoger una misión de la Secretaría para visitar esos establecimientos.
- 18.103** Se alienta a todas las Partes que hayan realizado decomisos de pieles de tigre después de la 17ª reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes a que compartan imágenes con arreglo al apartado l) del párrafo 1) de la Resolución Conf 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) sobre *Conservación y comercio de tigres y otras especies de grandes felinos asiáticos incluidos en el Apéndice I*, antes del 31 de diciembre de 2019, y se alienta a todas las Partes a que compartan imágenes de cualesquiera pieles que se hayan decomisado posteriormente dentro de los 90 días después de los decomisos.
- 18.104** Se alienta a las Partes, de conformidad con sus reglamentaciones nacionales, a que compartan muestras de especímenes de tigre de animales vivos, animales o productos confiscados que puedan contener ADN de tigre con el coordinador nacional de la República Checa para su utilización en el proyecto de investigación genética TigrisID, que se está centrando en el desarrollo de técnicas novedosas para facilitar la lucha contra el comercio ilegal de especímenes de tigre.
- 18.105** Se alienta a las Partes, en particular a aquellas mencionadas en la sección 3.1.5 del Anexo 4 del documento CoP18 Doc 71.1, a tener muy en cuenta las preocupaciones relativas al comercio ilegal de partes y derivados de leopardo descrito en el Anexo 4 del documento CoP18 Doc. 71.1 y a aplicar medidas para responder a esas preocupaciones.
- 18.106** Se insta a los Estados consumidores de especímenes de tigre y otras especies de grandes felinos asiáticos a que tomen medidas para poner fin a la demanda de partes y derivados ilegales de tigres y otros grandes felinos, trabajando con los especialistas pertinentes, como especialistas en cambio de comportamiento de los consumidores, comercialización social y comunicación, a fin de poner en práctica iniciativas de cambio de comportamiento que garanticen que las iniciativas estén respaldadas por datos sólidos, tengan bases de referencia adecuadas e incorporen una supervisión y evaluación sólidas, incluidas mediciones apropiadas para medir su eficacia; y a adoptar y aplicar medidas legislativas y normativas apropiadas destinadas a disuadir a los consumidores de comprar productos ilegales de grandes felinos asiáticos.
- 18.107** Se invita a las Partes a informar a la Secretaría en relación con la aplicación de las Decisiones 18.100 a 18.106 con tiempo suficiente para que la Secretaría informe al Comité Permanente y a la Conferencia de las Partes conforme a los requisitos del párrafo 2 a) de la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18).

18.108 *Dirigida a la Secretaría*

La Secretaría deberá:

- a) sujeto a la disponibilidad de financiación externa, emprender una misión a las Partes identificadas en el documento SC70 Doc. 51 y en cuyos territorios existen establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad y pueden ser motivo de preocupación, con la finalidad de entender mejor su funcionamiento y las actividades que realizan; e
- b) informar al Comité Permanente, en sus reuniones 73ª y 74ª, acerca de la aplicación de las Decisiones 18.107 a 18.108, párrafo a), y sobre los progresos realizados con respecto a las misiones concernidas, y formular recomendaciones para someterlas a la consideración del Comité Permanente.

18.109 *Dirigida al Comité Permanente*

El Comité Permanente, en sus reuniones 73ª y 74ª, examinará el informe y las recomendaciones de la Secretaría con respecto a la aplicación de las Decisiones 18.100 a 18.108 y determinará si se requieren otras medidas con plazos y específicas para cada país para reforzar la aplicación de la Convención, de la Decisión 14.69 y del párrafo 1 h) de la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18).

17.226 *Dirigida a las Partes con establecimientos de cría en cautividad de grandes felinos asiáticos*

Se solicita a todas las Partes en cuyos territorios haya establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad a que:

- a) examinen las prácticas de gestión y los controles nacionales establecidos para esos establecimientos, a fin de asegurarse de que esas prácticas de gestión y controles sean adecuados para evitar que especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos entren en el comercio ilícito desde esos establecimientos o a través de ellos;
- b) velen por una aplicación estricta de todas las prácticas de gestión y los controles establecidos para regular las actividades de los establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad, incluso con respecto a la disposición de los especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos que mueren en cautividad; e
- c) informen a la Secretaría sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación de esta Decisión.

14.69 *Dirigida a las Partes, particularmente a los Estados del área de distribución de los grandes felinos asiáticos incluidos en el Apéndice I*

Las Partes con establecimientos intensivos de cría de tigres a escala comercial deberán aplicar medidas a fin de restringir la población en cautividad a un nivel que redunde en pro de la conservación de los tigres silvestres; no deberían criarse tigres para comercializar sus partes y derivados.

Respuestas de las Partes a la Notificación 2020/039 sobre
Grandes felinos asiáticos (Felidae spp.) de fecha 29 de abril de 2020

Austria

Dear CITES Secretariat, Dear Colleagues,
(cc EU Commission)

Regarding Notification No. 2020/039 concerning Asian big cats (Felidae spp.) and Decision 17.226 and 18.104 in particular we like to provide the following information:

According to the Austrian Federal Act on the Protection of Animals (Animal Protection Act), the keeping of specimen of the subfamily Pantherinae, including Asian big cats, is restricted to approved Zoos and registered scientific institutions in accordance with the Animal Protection Act. The Ordinance of the Federal Minister for Health and Women Affairs on minimum requirements for zoos (Zoo Ordinance) further clarifies that only "Category A" Zoos (these have the strictest requirements) are allowed to keep specimen of the subfamily Pantherinae. The relevant Zoos and scientific institutions are regularly checked by the competent authorities.

In a relevant case Austria has provided samples to the TigrisID research project.



ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
Kingdom of Cambodia
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ
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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
សមត្ថកិច្ចគ្រប់គ្រងសេចក្តីសម្រេច
CITES Management Authority of Cambodia

No: 055/20 CMAC

Phnom Penh 17 June 2020.....

Ms. Ivonne Higuero

Secretary-General
CITES Secretariat, International Environment House,
Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine,
Geneva, Switzerland

Subject: Asian Big Cats (*Felidae spp.*)

Dear Ms. Ivonne,

In reference to the CITES Secretariat Notification to the Parties No. 2020/039, dated on 29 April 2020, the CITES Management Authority of Cambodia herewith submits its response to the concerning associated with Asian Big Cats (*Felidae spp.*) that required under the Decision 17.226 and the Decisions 18.100 to 18.109 agreed by the Conference of Parties.

For the implementation of paragraph a, b and c of the Decision 17.226, we would like to inform that Cambodia has only two facilities that are keeping tigers in captivity, which including Phnom Tamao Zoo and Wildlife Rescue Centre and Phnom Penh Safari. Currently, there are 4 tigers being kept in Phnom Tamao Zoo and Wildlife Rescue Centre, a government institution under management of the Forestry Administration. Other 2 tigers are being kept in Phnom Penh Safari, a private operation. However, Cambodia hasn't yet developed a national management practice and controls that regulate the activities of facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity.

Response to the implementation of the Decisions 18.100 to 18.106, Cambodia has established a joint wildlife crime unit from the government enforcement multi-agencies which includes the Forestry Administration, Military-Police General Department and the Fisheries Administration. This unit is under the support of the Wildlife Alliance and is known as Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team (WRRT). The WRRT has a national remit to suppress wildlife crime and works daily to arrest wildlife offenders, seize wildlife contraband and file cases to the court. As required, the operations of this specialized unit are also regularly cooperating with Cambodia Customs agency. Since 2001, the WRRT has seized over 70,000 live animals, 30 tons of bush meat, over 30 tons of body parts (for use in traditional Chinese medicine) and arrested close to 4,000 illegal wildlife traders. Currently, the WRRT are continuing intensively on investigating and combating illegal wildlife trades including Asian Big Cat and their parts and derivatives. As an example, the result of a 2014 raid, this specialized unit has seized 3 leopard skins (1 fake), 19 clouded leopard skins and 2 Asian golden cat skins from an illegal wildlife trader. For the implementation of Decisions 18.103 and 18.104, Cambodia have never had any records on the seizures of tiger skins since the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; therefore, we won't be able to provide or share any samples of tiger specimens.

Upon the implementation of Resolution Conf.12.5 (Rev.CoP18) that requested the Asian big cats range States to report the information regarding the status of the Asian big cats in the wild within their territories. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries issued an official Ministerial Declaration No.020 (Prakas No.020.MAFF, dated on 25 January 2007) that classified all the terrestrial wildlife in Cambodia into three main groups, which included: "Nearly Extinction Species", "Rare Species" and "Common Species". In Cambodia, there are 8 animal cat species in the Felidae Family and which are classified Ministerial Declaration with the detail information as follows:

| No. | Common Name | Scientific Name | CITES Appendix | Cambodia Classification (Prakas No.020.MAFF) |
|-----|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | Tiger | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | I | "Nearly Extinction" |
| 2 | Leopard | <i>Panthera pardus</i> | I | "Rare" |
| 3 | Clouded Leopard | <i>Neofelis nebulosa</i> | I | "Nearly Extinction" |
| 4 | Marbled Cat | <i>Pardofelis marmorata</i> | I | "Rare" |
| 5 | Asian Golden Cat | <i>Catopuma temminckii</i> | I | "Rare" |
| 6 | Fishing Cat | <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> | II | "Common" |
| 7 | Jungle Cat | <i>Felis chaus</i> | II | "Rare" |
| 8 | Leopard Cat | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | I, II | "Common" |

Cambodia is still lacking the scientific research to confirm on the current status of those 8 animal cat species in the wild. There was only a recent study conducted to determine the current distribution of Leopard, and estimate its population in Cambodia through the reviewing data from camera traps and other wildlife surveys conducted during the past 20 years. According to this study, Leopard now occurs only in 8.0% of its historical range in Cambodia. Leopard was recently detected in 4 Protected Areas in Cambodia, and in which in Mondulkiri Protected Forest, the largest Protected Area in the country with the highest biodiversity, the Leopard density declined about 70% from 2009 (3.6 leopard/100 km²) to 2014 (1.0 leopard/100 km²).

**Reply of the Czech Republic to CITES notification No. 2020/039
Implementation of CITES decisions on Illegal Trade in Asian big cats**

Czech Republic

June 2020

(Compiled by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic)

In reference to the CITES Secretariat notification No. 2020/039, please find below a response of the Czech Republic concerning the implementation of the relevant resolution and decisions on Illegal trade in Asian big cats (*Felidae spp.*)

1. Decision 17.226 and Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev CoP18) Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix I Asian big cat species

Since revealing a significant case of illegal killing of tigers and trade in tigers, tiger parts and derivatives in 2018 ([SC 70 Inf. 24](#)), a number of measures to prevent and combat illegal trade in tiger specimens have been implemented in the Czech Republic ([SC 70 Inf. 23](#)). These include among others:

- As a precautionary measure the Czech Republic has suspended issuing CITES permits for (re-)export of live captive bred tigers from the Czech Republic (the given declaration of the Minister of the Environment came into force on 29th July 2018 - International Tiger Day) to third countries (outside of the EU) for commercial purposes. Only export of tigers from the Czech Republic for breeding in zoos in third countries can be permitted.
- Furthermore, the conditions for issuing EU certificates allowing trade in captive bred tigers within the EU have been strengthened in the Czech Republic. The issuing regional Management Authorities have been recommended by the Ministry of the Environment to issue such certificates only as transaction specific documents and only for purposes of breeding, research and education in zoos.
- Checks of all existing facilities in the Czech Republic breeding tigers in captivity have been conducted by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, samples (hair, excrements) from tigers for archivation and for possible future identification through DNA analysis have been taken.
- The Project TigrisID financed by the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic to develop inter alia reliable DNA diagnostic tools for processed medicinals launched in 2018 and will continue till the end of 2022 (a progress report of the project attached for the information).

- Methodic guidance for proper control of tiger carcasses and their disposal has been released for competent veterinarian authorities in order to avoid misuse of carcasses for further illegal trade in tiger parts and other products. Death of tigers and other big cat species have to be also announced by the owners to the competent CITES Management Authorities according to the CITES national legislation, documents about proper disposal of the carcasses is required.

Currently, there have been registered 177 live specimens of tigers in the Czech Republic. Although it is premature to evaluate quite recently implemented stricter national measures, it has been recorded a decline in number of newly registered tigers in the Czech Republic (33 live specimens in the year 2018 in comparison to 16 specimens in the year 2019) and a decrease in number of cancelled registrations due to export or mortality of the specimens.

Enforcement matters:

The checks of breeders of tigers are conducted regularly and samples for DNA analysis are also continuously taken from new offspring of tigers born or imported to the Czech Republic.

In 2019 the Czech Environmental Inspectorate seized and confiscated 2 live specimens of white tigers (*Panthera tigris*) due to the fact that the specimens (legally acquired) were not marked by microchips as it is prescribed by our CITES national legislation and the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. Given specimens have been consequently moved to the facility of [Malkia Park](#) (Slovakia) specialized in breeding and rescue of big cat species.

A tiger skeleton (without a skull) and a separate tiger skull was confiscated on 2nd October 2019. Another case with the stuffed tiger body without proving of legal origin of the specimen seized in 2019 has not been finished yet.

Legislative measures:

Amendments of veterinarian legislation - Act No. 246/1992 Coll., on the protection of animals against abuse, strengthening the conditions of keeping and breeding tigers (and also other big cat species) by private breeders was adopted by the Government of the Czech Republic in 2019 and is currently waiting for its adoption by the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The proposed strengthened conditions include for example prohibitions of production of tigers and other big cat species by private breeders and also prohibited import of tigers and other big cat species from abroad for keeping by private breeders or trade.

2. Decision 18.102

On 27th July 2019, the Czech Republic received the letter of from Ms. Ivonne Higuero, the CITES Secretariat – General with the request for information about the facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity identified as of possible concern that tigers kept in these facilities may be misused for illegal trade tiger parts and derivatives. Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic in its reply of 31st October 2019 submitted the requested information about the facilities concerned. Because of the fact that there is still ongoing trial case and further investigation with the breeder operating the facilities concerned, it has been recommended to consider the postponement of the possible mission of the CITES Secretariat to the Czech Republic to visit such facilities until the trial case and investigation are completely finished.

3. Decision 18.104

Until now the Czech Republic has received samples of tiger specimens containing tiger DNA for genetic research Tigris ID from various sources (zoos, private breeders, seized specimens) from several countries of the European union (e.g. Slovakia, France, Germany etc.), no samples have been shared by the third countries (outside of the EU) yet.

4. Decision 18.105

Relevant measures described above in the section 1 as applied for Asian big cat species, incl. *Panthera pardus*.

The Security Research for the Needs of the State 2016–2021 scheme

Project name: Applied research on the genetics of selected species of animals protected under the international convention of CITES

Investigator: Forezní DNA servis, s.r.o., Managing Director: RNDr. Daniel Vaněk, Ph.D.

Expert point of reference: Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI)

Project duration: 4 years; opening: 01–2018

The goal of the project is to achieve the following outcomes:

- Develop an analytical kit for the species-specific determination of the tiger in an unknown sample
- Develop an analytical kit for individual identification of tigers, hyacinth macaws and palm cockatoos, as well as an RT-PCR quantification kit
- Develop a reference database of DNA profiles of tigers, hyacinth macaws and palm cockatoos
- Develop population studies for tigers, hyacinth macaws and palm cockatoos
- Produce a comprehensive report

The progress as per February 7th, 2020

At the beginning of 2020, the research is in the stage of testing *Panthera tigris* specific DNA quantification system, 2 multiplexes for individual identification of *Panthera tigris*, specie identification of *Panthera tigris* in processed artifacts of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)s. According to information available to CEI, the investigator is now in the process of agreeing co-operation with other laboratories (including the U.S.) in order to run beta-testing for the quantification and individual identification of tigers. No significant success has been achieved so far in identifying *Panthera tigris* in heavily temperature damaged samples of material (long-term broths / bouillon cubes) where the procedures applied so far have not produced positive results. Therefore the research activities also focused on proteomic analysis. The research segment concerning the genetics of macaws and cockatoos is currently focussed on the testing of suitable loci for new multiplexes and generation of population studies

Collecting samples for the purpose of the project

Work involving sampling records and output protocols from the analyses (including statistical evaluation) was started in June 2018. The **Primary sample collection record** can cover the following:

- (I) By whom the collection was made (CEI officer / project Investigator / 3rd party – e.g. zoos/holders);
- (II) Primary Identification of the sample / collection kit;
- (III) Chip no.;
- (IV) Animal owner name;
- (V) Animal name (if known); and
- (VI) Whether or not a photo-documentation of the sample has been carried out.

Collection kits vary depending on the type of the primary sample (hair/feathers, blood, saliva, tissue, excrements). For the sake of sample stabilisation, testing was initiated of preparations suitable for stabilising samples of biological material at normal temperature.

As per February 7th, 2020, DNA as isolated from the following number of individuals:

- Palm cockatoo + other Cacatuidae: 27
- Hyacinth macaw + other Psittacidae: 104
- Tiger: 424

For related carnivore species, reference DNA is available from the following felines: *Panthera leo*, *Puma concolor*, *Panthera onca*, *Panthera pardus* and *Felis catus* (isolated and quantified DNA).

For the related species of birds, reference DNA is available from the following species: *Ara militaris*, *Ara ambiguus*, *Primolius couloni*, *Guarouba guarouba*, *Ara rubrogenys*, *Ara macao*, *Amazona aratrix*, *Amazona leucocephala* (isolated and quantified DNA).

The collection of reference materials of other related species is currently underway in co-operation with CEI and Czech zoos.

Testing, method development and setting up a database of DNA profiles

- Testing and validation of methods and procedures to identify a species in an unknown sample

Primers are continuously tested on forensic samples of tigers (excrements, hair, bone (native/processed), tissue, tanned/untanned skin and blood). This activity includes testing for the PCR robustness and tolerance to common inhibitors as well as bioinformatics analysis of the resulting sequences. Primers for species identification are continuously tested on biological materials sampled from other animals. In 2019, experiments were initiated to identify the dependence of DNA degradation on the skin tanning procedure. We have found a strong correlation between the chemicals used for the skin processing (especially the formic acid) and DNA degradation and crosslinking.

- Developing a database user shell

The database software for the comparison of animal DNA profiles was finished by the end of 2019, the validation phase at the CEI should be accomplished within few months. The database user interface allows logging, recording activities of authorized users, data backup, comparing database profiles against each other, exporting individual records, exporting the number of records, and so on. In addition to making direct comparison of profiles, a request was made for the function to be established of searching for candidate profiles that correspond to the parent-child relationship.

The instrumentation newly acquired as long-term tangible assets (the SeqStudio sequencer and the QuantStudio 5 RT-PCR system) was validated and is now fully used to address the individual aims of the project. This year, the equipment above will be subject to scheduled inspections carried out as part of the warranty period.

Overall commentary:

The timetable is continuously being met; considering the stage of the project, intermediate targets are being achieved as required.

India

**Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Wildlife Division**

**6th Floor, Vayu Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003**

File No: 4-1/2021-WL (Part 1)
Dated: 31 March 2021

CITES Secretariat
International Environment House
11 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland

Sub: Asian Big Cats

Sir/Madam,

Please find annexed to this letter a brief update on India's implementation of Decision 17.226, and Decisions 18.100 to 18.106 on Asian big cats.

Annex

| S. No. | Decision | Matter | India Remarks |
|---------------|-----------------|---|--|
| 1 | 17.226 | <p>Directed to Parties with Asian big cat captive facilities</p> <p>All Parties in whose territory there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity are requested to:</p> <p>a) review national management practices and controls that are in place for such facilities, to ensure that these management practices and controls are adequate to prevent Asian big cat specimens from entering illegal trade from or through such facilities;</p> <p>b) ensure strict application of all management practices and controls implemented to regulate the activities of facilities that keep Asian big cats in captivity, including with regard to the disposal of specimens from Asian big cats that die in captivity; and</p> <p>c) report to the Secretariat on progress with regard to the implementation of this Decision.</p> | <p>Asian big cats in captivity in India are only in zoological parks.</p> <p>These zoological parks (Zoos) have been established under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. These Zoos are regularly monitored & evaluated by the Central Zoo Authority, Govt. of India, MoEF&CC for animal welfare and housekeeping standards.</p> <p>There are no facilities of the nature of "tiger farms" in India.</p> |
| 2 | 18.100 | <p>Parties affected by illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, in particular Parties identified in document CoP18 Doc. 71.11, 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.</p> | <p>Illegal trade in Asian big cats is dealt with as per the relevant provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Further, India has established a dedicated Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) to deal with the menace of wildlife crime. In addition, India has established a National Repository of Camera Trap Photographs of Tiger (NRCTPT) to ascertain the origin of seized tiger skin specimens.</p> |
| 3 | 18.101 | <p>Parties, 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.</p> | <p>India has a formal understanding with China, Bangladesh and Myanmar and bilateral engagements with Nepal, Bhutan and Russia wherein information related to wildlife crime are shared for establishing linkages in illegal trade.</p> |
| 4 | 18.102 | <p>Parties in whose territories there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity referred to in Decision 18.108, paragraph a)</p> | <p>Not applicable</p> |

| | | | |
|---|--------|---|---|
| | | are invited to welcome a mission from the Secretariat, to visit these facilities. | |
| 5 | 18.103 | 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. CoP18) on Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species, paragraph 1 l) by 31 st December 2019 and all Parties are encouraged to share images of any skins seized hereafter within 90 days of such seizure. | India has established a National Repository of Camera Trap Photographs of Tiger (NRCTPT) which is fed with camera trap images of tiger captured during the quadrennial All India Tiger Estimation exercise conducted in 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018 besides the annual Phase-IV exercise conducted in tiger source areas. Information from this database is shared as and when required between States in India as well as with neighbouring countries. |
| 6 | 18.104 | 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 Tigris ID which is focusing on the development of novel techniques to facilitate tackling illegal trade in tiger specimens. | Conservation genetics forms an important part in tiger estimation in low density areas as well as in determining genetic constitution of India's tigers in different landscapes. Further, India is finalizing a set of primers which shall be used as the minimum standard for ascertaining tiger samples in cases of wildlife crime. |
| 7 | 18.105 | Parties, in particular those mentioned in section 3.1.5 of Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc.71.12, 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. | India has initiated population estimation of leopards in tiger landscapes to ascertain the trend in leopard numbers which shall also shed light on impact of illegal trade on the species. Apart from this, protocols in leopard conservation genetics have also been formalized. |
| 8 | 18.106 | 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. | Awareness generation activities which <i>inter alia</i> include aspects of wildlife crime are being assisted under the ongoing scheme of Project Tiger. |

The Netherlands

17.226

In the Netherlands it is prohibited to possess live big cat species. Only registered zoos and special rescue centers can get a permit to keep big cats. If you want to transfer an Appendix I species to a different location within the NL/EU, you need an EU-certificate. EU-certificates are issued only if the animal is legally acquired. The zoos are bound to the Dutch zoo legislation, which states that you may only transfer an animal to another zoo, if it will be housed in similar facilities and taken care of in a similar way. Housing facilities are inspected by the government regularly. Most zoos that keep Asian big cats are members of EAZA and only exchange these animals within the breeding programme.

18.100-18.106 as applicable:

There are no tourist markets in the Netherlands involving Asian big cats.

The Netherlands has not confiscated any tiger products in 2019. The only product of an Asian big cat that was confiscated in 2019, were traditional medicines with an ingredient of *Panthera pardus*. These were confiscated at Amsterdam airport and came from a tourist travelling from Hong Kong to the Netherlands.

Pakistan: Report on the implementation of CITES Decisions on Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species (CITES Notification No.2020/039 dated 29 April 2020).

A. Introduction

In Pakistan following two species of Asian big cats are found in wild:

- i. Common leopard (*Panthera pardus*)
- ii. Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*)

i. Common leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

Distribution and Status: In Pakistan common leopard is confined to Himalayan forest regions up to limit of the tree-line or the lower altitude valleys in the more arid mountainous regions further north. It is mainly found in the mountain forests of Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, lower Gilgit and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. It is also found in the highlands of Baluchistan and Sindh. The common leopard is "Critically Endangered" in Pakistan. Except a few thick forest patches and protected areas, where a reasonable degree of protection has helped the species to grow in numbers, it is dwindling in other parts of its distribution range. The total population of this beautiful cat in Pakistan may be in between 150-250.

Threats: The main threats to this species include:

- o Habitat degradation, disturbance in the form of forest cutting, livestock grazing and fodder collection due to which their natural habitat is shrinking day by day.
- o Growing livestock population can create forage competition with wild ungulates, resulting in overgrazing and decline or local extinction in natural prey of common leopard.
- o Human-animal conflict; killing of common leopard by locals as retaliatory killing due to its predation on their livestock.
- o Lack of awareness among the local community.

ii. Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*)

Distribution and Status: In Pakistan Snow leopard is found in northern mountainous systems; Hindu Kush, Pamirs, Karakorams, and Himalayas. An estimate of 200-420 snow leopards, exist across Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. A national-level assessment deemed the species "Critically Endangered" within the country (Sheikh and Malour, 2004).

Threats: The main threats to this species are more or less similar to those of common leopard, which include:

- o Habitat loss and degradation
- o Livestock-based livelihood, impacting natural prey base
- o Human-animal conflict and retaliation killing
- o Weak institutional Capacity
- o Lack of awareness
- o Climate Change

Conservation activities for Big Cats in Pakistan: For conservation of snow leopard, Pakistan along-with other range states of snow leopard is a part of Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP). In line with GSLEP priorities an exclusive project titled Pakistan Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (PSLEP) has been launched in Pakistan. It is a US\$4.64 million Landscape Based Conservation Project funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) through United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Pakistan. The project is being implemented over a five-year period (2018-2023). It follows UNDP's NGO execution modality and the Snow Leopard Foundation (SLF) is implementing the project under the supervision of the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC).

In general, Provincial/Territorial Wildlife Departments undertake various activities for conservation and protection of big cats. In these efforts, there is active collaboration and supports from NGOs; Snow Leopard Foundation Pakistan, WWF Pakistan, Wildlife Conservation Society, Himalayan Wildlife Foundation and IUCN. Conservation activities include:

- **Legal Protection:** Both big cats in Pakistan (Common leopard and Snow leopard) are "Protected" under respective provincial wildlife legislations and their hunting, killing and capturing has been completely banned. Any violation is punishable with imprisonment or a fine or with both.
- **Establishment of Protected Areas:** For conservation and preservation of the species a system of protected areas has been established in the country. In Pakistan total protected area comprise of more than 12% of the total area.
- **Watch and Ward:** Provincial wildlife authorities ensure strict enforcement through watch and ward in and around the protected areas.
- **Community-based Trophy Hunting Programme:** Trophy hunting of wild ungulates (Markhor, Urial, Ibex and Blue Sheep) is being successfully implemented in Pakistan and is world recognized. The local communities get 80% shares of the revenue generated, which is used for their socio-economic uplift, in return the communities protect wildlife with a sense of ownership. This programme has great potential in changing public attitude toward wildlife.
- **Predator Proof Corrals:** To reduce livestock depredation by big cats predator proof corrals are being constructed in big cats habitat areas.
- **Livestock Vaccination:** To control transmission of disease from

livestock to wildlife and vice versa livestock vaccination is carried out in big cat habitats.

- **Livestock Insurance Scheme:** To address community grievances from big cat's depredations livestock insurance scheme has been launched in some areas. Scope of these schemes is to be extended in other areas.
- **Research and Monitoring:** To enhance understanding of the big cat species many research activities have been undertaken on various aspects that include; population status and distribution, habitat mapping, ecology, food habits, ranging movements, as well as to properly document human-leopard conflicts in its range.
- **Improving habitat:** Activities to protect and restore habitat of the big cats include; protecting forests, stabilizing landslides and providing alternative energy to local communities to reduce pressure on forest for fuelwood.
- **Awareness Raising:** Awareness raising activities are undertaken to increase acceptance of big cats by highlighting their importance and role in ecosystem. Local communities, students and other stakeholders are involved in these campaigns.

B. Implementation of Decisions (Decision 17.226 and Decisions 18.100 to 18.109) on Illegal trade in Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

For effective enforcement of CITES provisions in Pakistan an exclusive legislation at federal level, The Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012 was enacted and Rules under it titled, The Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Rules, 2018 have been notified. Any violation (illegal trade of CITES-listed species), is punishable under the said Act; with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year or more than two years or with fine which shall not be less than 0.500 million Pak. Rupees or more than 1.000 million Pak. Rupees. Moreover, there is a comprehensive document titled; "Guidelines for the Acquisition and Management of *Felids* (Cat Species) in Captivity" which provides detailed guidelines regarding acquisition and management of felids in captivity (Copies of the documents enclosed for reference).

In Pakistan there are two types of captive big cats;

- within government zoos/facilities
- within private zoos/facilities

In government facilities parts of any felid expired in captivity are disposed off properly to prevent illegal trade. Some parts like pelt and bones are donated to public sector museums for research and education purpose; however record of such parts is maintained by the provincial wildlife departments and verified from time to time.

In private facilities felids are kept in accordance with the approved "Guidelines for the Acquisition and Management of *Felids* (Cat Species) in Captivity" which has provision of proper disposal of expired big cats and Provincial wildlife departments ensure implementation.

Provincial/Territorial Wildlife Departments staff carryout strict enforcement of provincial wildlife laws through watch and ward to control poaching and trade of wildlife species including big cats. At entry and exit points of the country, Pakistan Customs in collaboration with Ministry of Climate Change and Provincial/Territorial Wildlife Departments ensure strict implementation of CITES. Moreover with reference to CITES Notification No. 2018/014 dated 30 January 2018, CITES Management authority of Pakistan received 140 copies of "**A guide for law enforcement agencies to combat illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens**" which were accordingly distributed among the relevant law enforcement agencies.

For collaboration at regional level, Pakistan is member of following forums which are working on conservation of big cats:

- South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN).
- Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP).

Reference: Sheikh KM, Molur S. 2004. Status and red list of Pakistan's mammals based on the Pakistan mammal conservation assessment & management plan workshop. Karachi City: IUCN, 312.

Link to: [Guidelines for the acquisition and management of felids \(cat species\) in captivity](#)

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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

ISLAMABAD, MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2018

PART II

Statutory Notifications (S. R. O.)

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 27th December, 2018

S.R.O. 1639(I)/2018.— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 28 of the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012 (XIV of 2012), the Federal Government is pleased to make the following rules, namely:—

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) These rules may be called the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Rules, 2018.

(2) These rules shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.**—(1) In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(3451)

Price : Rs. 10.00

[8050(2018)/Ex. Gaz.]

- (a) "Act" means the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act 2012 (XIV of 2012);
- (b) "certificate" or "permit" or "licence" means the official document used to authorize import, export, re-export, or introduction from the land, sea or air of specimens of species or their parts and derivatives listed in Appendices I, II or III of the Convention and covered by any other law;
- (c) "enforcement authority" means provincial wildlife departments or any other department duly authorized by the Federal Government for application of the Act and these rules;
- (d) "readily recognizable part or derivative" means any specimen which appears from an accompanying document, packaging, mark, label, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) or from any other circumstances, to be a part or derivative of a wild animal or plant;
- (e) "rescue or rehabilitation centre" means a center designated by the Federal or a Provincial Government as the case may be, to look after the welfare of living specimen, particularly those that have been confiscated;
- (f) "specimen" any animal or plant, whether whole or a part, alive or dead and any readily recognizable part or derivative thereof specified in any Appendix of the Convention in relation to the species; and
- (g) "trade" means export, re-export, import and introduction from the sea.

(2) All other terms and expressions used but not defined in these rules shall have the same meanings as are assigned to them in Act, and the United Nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 1973.

3. **Management Authority.**—(1) For the purposes of this Act the Management Authority shall be as follows, namely:

| S.No. | Organization | Designation |
|-------|---|----------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) |
| 1 | Federal Minister of the Division concerned. | Chairman |
| 2 | Secretary, of the Division concerned. | Vice-Chairman |
| 3 | Inspector General Forests. | Member-cum-Secretary |

| | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 4 | Secretary, Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Government of Punjab. | <i>Member</i> |
| 5 | Secretary, Forest and Wildlife Department, Government of Sindh. | <i>Member</i> |
| 6 | Secretary, Environment Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. | <i>Member</i> |
| 7 | Secretary, Forests and Wildlife Department, Government of Balochistan. | <i>Member</i> |
| 8 | Secretary, Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries Department, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. | <i>Member</i> |
| 9 | Secretary, Forest, Wildlife and Environment Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan. | <i>Member</i> |
| 10 | Chairman, Capital Development Authority. | <i>Member</i> |
| 11 | A representative not below the rank of regional head from International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources-Pakistan (IUCN -Pakistan). | <i>Member</i> |
| 12 | A representative not below the rank of Director of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Pakistan). | <i>Member</i> |
| 13 | A prominent Non-Official member of civil society from each province or territory nominated by the Division concerned on the recommendation of the province or territory concerned. | <i>Member</i> |

(2) The Management Authority shall meet at least once a year unless earlier required.

(3) The Division concerned on the recommendation of Management Authority shall designate an office to provide secretariat support including inter-agency coordination.

(4) The Management Authority shall perform all the requisite duties under the Act and which includes the following, namely:—

- (a) to consider issuing of licence or permit or certificate throughout Pakistan relating to import, export, re-export and certificate of origin of any species listed in any Appendix of the Convention and the local legislation or policy, and to attach any condition to any permit or certificate that it may deem necessary;

- (b) to seek and act on the advice of Scientific Authority to exercise its functions relating to implementation of the Act and the rules made thereunder;
- (c) to communicate with the CITES Secretariat and the Management and Enforcement Authorities of other Parties to the Convention on scientific, administrative, enforcement and other issues related to implementation of the Convention;
- (d) to maintain records of international trade in specimens, as per the provisions of section 22 of the Act, and prepare an annual report concerning trade, and timely submit this report to the Convention Secretariat;
- (e) to prepare a biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the Convention, and timely submit this report to the CITES Secretariat;
- (f) to coordinate national implementation and enforcement of the Convention and these rules and to cooperate with relevant Federal and Provincial authorities and other stakeholders in this regard;
- (g) to consult with the Scientific Authority on the issuance and acceptance of Convention documents, the nature and level of trade in species listed in the Convention, the setting and management of quotas, the registration of traders and production operations, the establishment of Rescue or Rehabilitation Centers and the preparation of proposals to amend the Convention Appendices;
- (h) to represent Pakistan at national and international meetings related to Convention and any related matters;
- (i) to develop and provide awareness-raising, capacity-building, training, education material and information related to the Convention;
- (j) to advise on designation of one or more rescue or rehabilitation centre for seized and confiscated living specimens;
- (k) to provide capacity building opportunities and any other facility or resources to any confiscating authorities including return of the confiscated consignment from other country, and safe-keeping and release into wild of the live specimen;

- (l) in consultation with Scientific Authority and Convention secretariat, provide necessary advice or instructions including resources for safe disposal of confiscated consignment of dead specimen or derivatives;
- (m) to provide technical advice to the court of law and to the enforcement authority in any matter under the Act and these rules;
- (n) to coordinate requirements and allocation of annual export quota allotted to provinces and other territories; and
- (o) to perform any other function which the Federal Government may authorize to carry out the objectives of the Act.

4. **Scientific Authority.**—(1) A Scientific Authority may be constituted in each Province and region of Pakistan with Provincial Forest and Wildlife Department as its focal point. The Scientific Authority may include the following on the basis of requisite scientific information, namely:—

- (i) Department of Zoology of relevant universities in the Province or region;
- (ii) Department of Botany of relevant universities in the Province or region;
- (iii) fisheries departments, Inland and Marine;
- (iv) independent Wildlife and Forestry experts or researchers; and
- (v) any other relevant agency or individual.

(2) The Scientific Authority shall render advice after consultation with relevant scientific experts or agencies to the Management Authority as required by the Convention.

5. **Export.**—(1) The export of any specimen of species included in any Appendix of Convention and non-listed species shall require the prior grant and presentation of a valid export permit or certificate of origin issued by the Management Authority in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Act, after obtaining a no objection certificate (NOC) issued by the respective Provincial Wildlife Department.

(2) Any person desirous of trading in specimens shall present permit, certificate for clearance only at the designated Customs ports of entry and exit, as

specified in Annexure-I through which Convention listed and non-listed species can be imported, exported or re-exported only.

6. **Import.**—(1) The import into Pakistan of any specimen of species included in any Appendix of Convention shall require the prior presentation of an import permit or NOC issued by the Management Authority and either export permit or re-export permit or certificate of origin issued by the country of export.

(2) The import permit for import into Pakistan of any specimen of species included in Appendix-I of the Convention and NOC for Appendix-II or III of the Convention, into Pakistan, shall be granted in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of the Act. To mitigate spread of any contagious disease, the Management Authority may take such actions as deemed appropriate, subject to the advice of Scientific Authority.

7. **Re-export.**—The re-export from Pakistan, of any specimen of species included in any Appendix of the Convention, shall require the prior grant and presentation of a valid re-export permit issued by the Management Authority in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of the Act.

8. **Introduction from the Sea.**—The introduction from the sea of any specimen of species included in any Appendix of Convention shall require prior permission and presentation of a permit or certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of section 8 of the Act.

9. **Permit, no objection certificate and certificate.**—(1) The permit, certificate and NOC granted under the Act and these Rules shall be issued by CITES Management Authority with the deposit of prescribed fees.

10. **Registration.**—(1) Any firm or person who wishes to trade specimens of any species listed in Appendices of Convention and non-listed species internationally shall have prior registration with the Management Authority on recommendation of Provincial or relevant authorities and with the deposit of prescribed fees.

11. **Enforcement.**—(1) The Management Authority shall monitor the enforcement by an enforcement authority authorized under the Act.

(2) For registration of a case at least two officials of the concerned Provincial Wildlife Department in the case of fauna, and at least one official from concerned Provincial Forestry Department in case of flora shall be nominated to act as the authorized persons to register a case under the Act.

(3) The Federal and Provincial Governments may make provisions in their annual non-development budget to facilitate implementation of this Act, and prosecution of the case registered under the Act.

ANNEX-I

[see rule 6]

List of Land Ports, Airports and Harbors designated for Import, Export and Re-Export

1. Land Ports

- (a) All International land or dry ports of Pakistan.
- (b) Pak-China Border Post, Khunjerab Pass;
- (c) Pak-Afghan Border Post, Khyber Pass;
- (d) Pak-Afghan Border Post, Chaman;
- (e) Pak-India Border Post, Wagah Post;
- (f) Pak-India Border Post, Khokhrapar Post;
- (g) Pak-Iran Border Post, Taftan Post; and
- (h) Pak-Iran Border Post, Mand Post.

2. Airports and Harbors

- (a) all International Airports of Pakistan; and
- (b) all International Seaports of Pakistan.

[File No. 18-3/96-CC.]

EHSAN-UL-HAQ,
Deputy Secretary (Admin-II).



Directorate for Nature, Biodiversity and Landscape Protection

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Your ref.
Notification No.
2020/039

Our ref.
8199/2020-6.2
25484/2020

Contact person/☎
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Bratislava
3rd June 2020

Subject:

Notification No. 2020/039 on Asian Big Cats – reply of Slovakia

In relation to the Notification No. 2020/039 from 29th April 2020, published by the CITES Secretariat, we are sending following information to relevant decisions and resolution:

1. Decision 17.226 and Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species

a) legislation

As a result of review of the Slovak national CITES legislation, on 1st January 2019 amendment of the Act No 15/2005/15 Coll. on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein and on the amendment to certain acts came into force. Regarding Asian big cats, aim of the amendment was to prevent Asian big cat specimens (*Panthera tigris*, *Panthera pardus*, *Neofelis nebulosa*, *Uncia uncia* and *Panthera leo*) that die in captivity (and their parts) from entering illegal trade.

Regarding holding live animals, we have in place administrative obligations as record keeping on a separate species card (prescribed form in the Decree No 110/2005 Coll.). The holder is obliged to notify the CITES Management Authority (CITES MA) on every change of data in the species card by delivering a copy of the part of the species card containing the change within 15/30 days from the registration of the change. Aim of this provision is to have information on keeping, breeding, handling and trading on above mentioned specimens in Slovakia.

On disposal of dead specimens and their parts, on 1st January 2019 we introduced duty to the holder of died specimens of the above mentioned species to refer to the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC) on the date of hand over of a dead specimen to a licensed person for destroying the specimen or a licensed taxidermist. The hand over is than realised under supervision of the SNC that performs the physical identification of the specimen and its unique marking. The SNC shall execute a record of hand-over and send its copy to the CITES MA within 30 days from the date of its execution. The holder of dead specimen shall be obliged to provide cooperation in identifying the specimen. In case that the holder decided for processing the specimen by the taxidermist, after processing he is obliged to keep records of the treatment of the dead specimen and notify to CITES MA every change of data in the record of treatment of the dead specimen (prescribed form in the Decree No 110/2005 Coll.) by delivering a copy of a part of the record with the change designated within ten business days from the date of recording the change.

In case that the dead specimen is tiger, SNC takes also samples of hairs of such died tigers. One sample taken from the dead specimen is collected for the purposes of the TIGRIS ID project in Czech Republic and one sample is stored for our national purposes in National ZOO Bojnice. More detailed information on our contribution to this project is referred under the Decision 18.106.

In last years, number of facilities focused on direct contact with big cat species is growing. As this is more welfare problem, we suggested changes in the veterinarian legislation to avoid the direct contact with the animal (excepting persons regularly caring for the specimen). Amendment of the veterinarian legislation came into force on 1st March 2020.

b) controls

In 2018 Slovak Environmental Inspectorate (SEI) collected from several information resources (CITES Authorities, veterinarian authorities) data about subjects who might keep/keep *Felidae* species in Slovakia. Based on this data, regional inspectorates carried out inspections of together 10 facilities (including one circus from the Czech Republic). Administrative offences were detected in two cases. Inspection in case of one facility is still ongoing (preliminary, no violation of CITES legislation detected in relation to big cat species).

During inspections focused on *Felidae* species (2017 – 2019) were taken samples (hairs) from 65 live tigers for the purposes of the TIGRIS ID project in Czech Republic.

c) other management practices

In case of processing applications for intra EU (domestic) trade, we apply strict approach in permitting procedures. In general, we are extremely careful in case of proceedings and applications concerning relevant *Felidae* species, and in the event of any sign of doubt, we order DNA tests. Using this method is however in some cases complicated due to the frequent crossbreeding. In case of intra EU trade, we apply also restriction of the exemption to one transaction. The goal is to keep track of the movement of the specimen in case of changing the holder.

2. Decision 18.104

Based on good cooperation between SEI and Czech Environmental Inspectorate, in 2019 SEI shared samples taken from 65 live tigers holding in Slovakia and 2 samples from died specimens for the purposes of the genetic research project TIGRIS ID. SEI plans to contribute with the samples also in the future, especially from died specimens.

3. Decision 18.105

As you can see in point 1, we have applied the same measures also for the species *Panthera pardus*.

Notificación 2020/039

España cuenta con diferentes instalaciones (centros zoológicos) en los cuales se encuentran los especímenes indicados en la tabla número 1.

Algunos de ellos son instituciones o refugios que no crían grandes felinos asiáticos con fines comerciales y están incluidos en programas de conservación [Europeos](#).

Estos ejemplares, de los cuales se conoce su origen, han sido identificados y marcados. Asimismo, cada centro informa de nacimientos y muertes. De hecho, cuando se produce un nuevo nacimiento se realiza una inspección física para verificarlo.

En cuanto a la aplicación de las Decisiones 18.100 a 18.106, España no es objeto de comercio ilícito de este tipo de especies. No obstante, en los centros que a continuación se mencionan, se producen inspecciones periódicas para corroborar que se cumple con la normativa CITES.

Alicante

- AAP [Primadomus](#)
- SIRER/SAFARI AITANA
- Río Safari Elche
- [Terranatura](#)

Barcelona

- Zoo de Barcelona

Bilbao

- Parque de la Naturaleza de Cabárceno
- Zoológico de Santillana
- [Karpin](#) Fauna
- Senda Viva

Cádiz

- Zoológico de Jerez
- Zoológico de Castellar

Gijón

- NZ El Bosque

Las Palmas

- Centro de Rescate [Canaryfauna](#) S.L. (Parque de cocodrilos)
- Rancho Texas Park

Málaga

- [Qasys](#) Park

Madrid

- Zoo de Madrid
- Safari Madrid
- Fauna y Acción

Murcia

- JACAS FALCONS SL
- Zoo Terra Natura

Palma de Mallorca

- Safari Zoo
- Fundación Natura Parc

Sevilla

- Zoo de Córdoba
- Zoo de Guillena (Sevilla)

Tenerife

- Loro Parque
- Jungle Park

Vigo

- Zoo de Vigo

Tabla nº 1.- Especímenes de especies de grandes felinos asiáticos presentes en núcleos zoológicos en España.

| | Alicante | Barcelona | Bilbao | Cádiz | Gijón | Las Palmas | Málaga | Madrid | Murcia | Palma de Mallorca | Sevilla | Tenerife | Vigo |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------|-------|------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|---------|----------|------|
| <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 26 | X | 20 | 4 | 1 | 5 | X | 18 | X | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| <i>Panthera pardus</i> | 1 | X | 4 | 2 | X | X | X | 3 | 2 | X | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Panthera leo persica</i> | 4 | X | 2 | 1 | X | X | X | 3 | X | X | X | X | X |
| <i>Panthera leo</i> | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 6 | 3 | X | X | X |
| <i>Panthera pardus saxicolor</i> | X | X | X | X | X | X | 2 | 1 | X | X | X | X | X |
| <i>Panthera pardus kotiya</i> | X | 2 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| <i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i> | X | 2 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| <i>Neofelis nebulosa</i> | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | 2 | X | X | X | X |

**Thailand Report on the Implementation of Decisions 17.226 and
Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev.CoP18)
Asian big cat (Felidae spp.)**

Background

According to Notification to the parties no. 2020/039 dated 29 April 2020, to facilitate the preparation of the Secretariat's report to the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee, and the work of the Committee,

- a) Parties in whose territory there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity are requested to report on their implementation of Decision 17.226;
- b) Parties are invited to, as applicable, submit information on their implementation of Decision 18.100 to 18.106; and
- c) Parties are invited to submit information on their implementation of Resolution Conf.12.5 (Rev. CoP18). Asian big cat range States are encouraged to include in their report information regarding the status of Asian big cats in the wild within their territories..

Measures put in place to ensure the application of Decision 17.226

Currently there are a total of 23 public zoos with less than 49 tigers in their possession and 9 public zoos with more than 49 tigers in their possession in Thailand. There are 10 facilities in Thailand that were identified as being concern. The names of those 10 facilities with number of tiger kept in their facilities are shown in the table below.

Table1 Current status of Asian big cat in captive facilities of concern in Thailand

| No. | Name of Facility | Reason | Number of tiger in possession | | Remark |
|-----|---|-----------|-------------------------------|------|----------------------|
| | | | 2019 | 2020 | |
| 1 | Safari World, Bangkok | a) | 221 | 224 | |
| 2 | Star Tiger Zoo, Chaiyaphum | b) | 7 | 5 | |
| 3 | Sriracha Tiger Zoo, Chonburi | a) and b) | 272 | 288 | |
| 4 | The Million Years Stone Park and Pattaya Crocodile Farm, Chonburi | b) | 55 | 69 | |
| 5 | Tiger Temple, Kanchanaburi | a) and b) | - | - | Closed down |
| 6 | Safari Park open Zoo Camp, Kanchanaburi | b) | 28 | 23 | |
| 7 | Mukdahan Tiger Zoo and Farm, Mukdahan | b) | 50 | 49 | |
| 8 | Mali-Salika Zoo, Nakhon Nayok | a) | - | - | Closed down |
| 9 | Phuket Tiger Kingdom, Phuket | a) | 44 | 13 | will close down soon |
| 10 | Huahin Zoo and Animal Park, Prachuap Khiri Khan | b) | 35 | 47 | |
| | | Total | 712 | 718 | |

Data as of June 2020

In general, Thailand does not have any intensive operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale for trade in their parts and derivatives. According to Thailand's Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E.2535 (1992), breeding tiger for commercial purpose is prohibited. The newly published Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act, B.E.2562 (2019), which came into effect in November 2019, continues the prohibition of breeding tiger for commercial purpose and additionally has standards for establishing and running public zoos that must be met. If it is later found that the license holder fails to meet the standard of zoo management or if the interior of zoo is found to be risk to the public or animal well-being then the minister has the authority send the letter to the license holder to fix the problems.

Thailand has adopted an effective measure in managing and regulating tigers in our public zoos. The 9 public zoos with more than 49 tigers in their possession are most being large zoos or open zoos that have sufficient area spaces to accommodate large cage areas or open spaces for free-roaming for the purposes of conservation, education, and tourism. Some zoos operate their business by being a place of edutainment which incorporate both entertainment and education into its model by giving knowledge on the caretaking and research of tigers to the general public to imprint both knowledge and experience of tigers. These zoos also generally cooperate with educational or research institutes that are related to various researches of tiger. There must be measures taken to regulate the population of tiger. This is to be done by separating the cages of male and female specimens to prevent unregulated reproductions as well as measures for zoos for birth control to regulate the number of newborn cubs each year.(operation under the notification of the Ministry to Natural Resource and Environment B.E. 29 January 2558 (2015) on "Term of caretaking protected species B.E. 2558(2015)" Moreover, permission to breed must be received from the officials on a yearly basis on how many newborns are allowed and for what purposes will the newborns fulfill.

Management practices and controls to prevent illegal trade in tiger parts and derivatives

Thailand implements the following management practices and controls to prevent parts and derivatives from tigers from entering illegal trade from or through the facility:

1) Establish a registry for safe keeping evidential documentations of captive tigers and updating it to the latest iteration according to the information collected from captive tigers which includes gender of tiger, identification number (microchip), and photograph of tiger stripe patterns from all 6 sides.

2) In the event of a change in tiger population by either birth or death, the changes in population must be notified to the DNP immediately within 24 hours through the hot line 1 3 6 2 for further official inspection. The official notification on increase or decrease in population must be submitted to DNP within 60 days.

2.1) The newborn tigers are subjected to identification marking (microchip) within 90 days. The photos of six-side stripe pattern and their DNA samples are also to be collected.

2.2) The newly deceased tigers are to be kept for inspection by the officials. Veterinarians are to conduct necropsy for cause of death, to inspect tigers' identification mark, and to extract a sample for DNA test. The remains of the tigers are not allowed to be moved outside the vicinity of the public zoological gardens until it is inspected by officials.

3) Managing the specimens or parts of captive Asian big cats.

3.1) In the case of safekeeping of the specimen, the request of safekeeping must be submitted to the official for approval. State of intention of safekeeping and detail of the specimen or part to be kept such as the skin, bones, teeth, furs, claws, or etc. must be specified. All specimens or parts to be kept must apply the identification mark.

3.2) The preservation of biopsy, skeleton, organs, or skins of the diseased or dead specimen for research must be properly registered by species, sex, date, and identification number (microchip) on the preservation utilities and have its record registered in the laboratory. The samples will be kept in a sealed room, locked by keys, and where all withdrawals and deposits are recorded every time.

3.3) In the case of disposal, the disposal methods will be through incineration, the presence of official is mandatory for every disposal.

4) Terms and conditions in transferring and transporting specimens between zoos:

Tiger is protected species according to the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act. The possession is only allowed for the public zoo for educational purpose. The transfer of tiger between zoos must perform the following measures:

4.1) The list of tiger with detail of individual, identification mark, and documents on the acquisition of the specimen that's being transferred must be provided and submitted to the DNP for approval before transferring and transporting. The security measures must be applied and prioritized for safety of the specimen and general public. A veterinarian must be on-duty to take responsibility over the caretaking of the specimen. The exchange or transfer of wildlife species ownership between public zoological gardens must be for the purpose of displaying the specimen in the zoo vicinity in accordance with the natural business of the public zoological garden(s), without intention of advertised selling.

4.2) both public zoological gardens who send and receive the transferred tigers must notify the change in number of tiger individual in their possession to the related official authority for further inspection.

5) in order to monitor and control the captive management of facilities, the collaborative operation team comprises of DNP and police officers has been appointed, and conduct an inspection at the facilities at least once a month. If a violation of the law or duty was found then law enforcement will be strictly enforced.

Thailand can reassure the Secretariat that we do not have any intensive operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale for trade in their parts and derivatives. We welcome a mission by the Secretariat.

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) (Information regarding the status of Asian big cats in the wild in Thailand)

Thailand is one of the Tiger's country of origin with a successful conservation of the specimens in nature. At present it is estimated that the tiger population size is collectively around 150 – 200 in the 31 protected forest areas. Thailand has systematically placed implementations for the care of tigers such as the supervision of tiger habitats through the increased installation of the SMART patrol system in hunting areas of tigers, which have resulted in the increase in size of the tiger territory into adjacent forest areas. There have also been evidence of tiger in a newly formed conservation site which haven't contained tigers for a very long time such as the Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary and the Erawan National Park in Kanchanaburi Province. In addition, efforts to revive the tiger population in Thailand have also received the approval of Hollywood star "Leonardo DiCaprio" who thanked the Thai government for revitalizing and protecting Thailand's tiger population, as seen in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary in Uthai Thani province where the tiger population have increased from 41 to 60-65 (a 66% increase in population) since 2010. This effectively shows that Thailand have been successful in wild tiger conservation, with Thailand hoping to increase the tiger population size by 50% in 2022 in accordance to the Thailand Tiger Action Plan while giving emphasis to the areas of the Western Forest Complex and the Dong Phrayayen–Khao Yai Forest Complex.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

UK response to CITES notification 2020/039 concerning Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

As requested by the CITES Secretariat in CITES notification 2020/039 concerning trade in Asian big cats, we are pleased to provide the information below on the UK's implementation of Decision 17.226, Decisions 18.100 to 18.106 and Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18).

Decision 17.226 Directed to Parties with Asian big cat captive facilities

The UK is not a range state for Asian big cats, however there are Asian big cats in captivity in the UK. The UK submitted a response to Notification No. 2018/002 concerning Asian big cat captive facilities in 2018. We have no further updates to report with regard to implementation of this Decision.

Decisions 18.100 to 18.106 and Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18)

The UK government is committed to tackling illegal trade of wildlife products, including tigers and other Asian big cats, and has contributed financial and technical assistance to enable range states to comply with the implementation of these Decisions and Resolution.

The UK is providing up to £4 million funding (since 2016) to the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) to support the delivery of its strategic programme, which delivers a wide range of key activities globally, including:

- o Strengthening of regional cooperation and law enforcement;
- o Regional threat assessments;
- o Training on specialised investigation techniques – anti money laundering, controlled deliveries, online investigations;
- o Training on anti-corruption;
- o Support to prosecutorial network – promoting prosecutorial/judicial networking;
- o The ICCWC toolkit – implementation of the toolkit, the toolkit recommendations and the indicator framework.

The UK government (Defra) also manages the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, which is a competitive grants scheme with the objective of tackling illegal wildlife trade and, in doing so, contributing to sustainable development in developing countries. Projects funded under the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund address one, or more, of the following themes:

- Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT
- Strengthening law enforcement
- Ensuring effective legal frameworks
- Reducing demand for IWT products.

Over £26 million has been committed to 85 projects since the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund was established in 2013. Ten projects were awarded in the latest Challenge Fund Round 6 in 2020, including two that will address threats to tigers:

- **IWT085: Social marketing to reduce demand for tiger products in Vietnam**
 - o £400,200 awarded to a project led by TRAFFIC International.
 - o Priority species: tigers, lions and leopards.
 - o Summary: Vietnamese demand for tiger products threatens the future of the species. TRAFFIC's 2017 consumer survey found that 6% of Vietnam's urban population self-reported using tiger products; 64% of them would recommend these to others. Drivers of consumption include gifting, medicine, and good luck. This project will build on these behavioural insights and recent successes to reduce rhino horn consumption to

implement a culturally relevant and carefully targeted social marketing campaign, aiming to stop consumption of tiger products of main user groups.

- **IWT081: *Enabling and promoting communities to tackle IWT (including tiger) in Southern Myanmar***
 - £380,725 awarded to a project led by Fauna and Flora International (FFI).
 - Priority species: Asian elephant, Sunda pangolin and tiger.
 - Summary: Southern Tanintharyi, on the Myanmar-Thailand border, is one of Myanmar's last strongholds for globally threatened species including tiger, Asian elephant and Sunda pangolin. All are threatened by poaching and illegal trade, primarily across the border into Thailand. In response, FFI will support six local communities at key trade routes to become active in addressing these threats, in exchange for support with development of sustainable livelihoods and improved resource management. This will be complemented with improved law enforcement.

Details of all projects awarded in Challenge Fund Round 6 are available on the Defra website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illegal-wildlife-trade-challenge-fund-list-of-existing-projects>.

UK CITES Management Authority
June 2020

United States of America

Notification to the Parties No. 2020/039 on *Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)*

U.S. seizure data (December 2016-present) – provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement

During the period of December 2016 to the present, the Office of Law Enforcement has seized a total of 127 shipments containing Asian big cats (*Panthera tigris*, *Panthera pardus*). The majority of the seized imports were from Asia.

- Shipments primarily transported by passengers and packages shipped via international mail.
- Shipments consisted of medicinal products (i.e., medicinal balls, pills)
 - o 67 of the 127 shipments contained ~~medicinals~~ totaling over 10,000 pills, patches, medicine balls
 - o 4 of the 127 contained a total of 2,758 grams of ~~medicinals~~
 - o 1 shipment contained an eye pathology specimen
 - o 1 shipment contained an unspecified specimen
- Other products imported included claws, teeth, bones, small skin pieces, and paws
 - o 35 of the 127 shipments contained a total of 39 claws
 - o 11 shipments contained a total of 13 teeth
 - o 2 shipments contained skin pieces
 - o 2 shipments contained paws
 - o 2 shipments contained bones only
 - o 1 shipment contained a trophy specimen
 - o 1 shipment contained a garment

IMAGES PROVIDED BY FWS/OLE FIELD OFFICES:

Medicinals



Claws



Tiger skin piece



Paw



Fetal Specimen





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**Report on
Situation of conservation and trade of tiger and Appendix I Asian big cats species**

Pursuant to Resolution 12.5 on Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species.

Pursuant to the Notification No. 2020/039 of the CITES Secretariat on Asian big cats.

Vietnam CITES Management Authority submits report on the conservation of tigers and Asian big cats in Appendix I CITES as follows:

I. LEGAL REGULATIONS

The Asia tiger and big cats in Appendix I are strictly prohibited to trade for commercial purposes according to Viet Nam regulations.

All big cat species such as *Panthera tigris corbetti*, *Neofelis nebulosa*, *Panthera pardus* and *Catopuma temminckii* are in Group IB in accordance with Vietnam laws, list of endangered, precious and rare forest plants and animals in accordance with the Government's regulations (Decree No. 06/2019 / ND-CP). They are strictly prohibited to exploit and use for commercial purposes. The above species are also on the list of endangered precious and rare species prioritized for protection. All violations of the law on the protection of tigers and big cats in Appendix IB as well as Appendix I of CITES are strictly punished accordance with Article 244 of the Criminal Code 2015 (amended 2017) with maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a maximum fine up to VND 15 billion.

Tigers are under national conservation accordance with the Prime Minister's Decision No. 539/QĐ-TTg of April 16, 2014, approving the Tiger Conservation Program for the period of 2014-2022.

II. STATUS OF TIGER IN THE WILD

According to a survey conducted in 2012, the tiger's current distribution area belongs to six protected areas, named as Muong Nhe Nature Reserve, Pu Mat National Park, Vu Quang National Park, Song Thanh Nature Reserve, Chu Mom Ray National Park, and Yok Don National Park. Tiger population has been strongly reduced, the number of individuals is estimated under 20 individuals in few small groups and under strong pressure of hunting and habitat loss.

Viet Nam do not have updated database of tiger and big cat species because there are lack of comprehensive field survey for tiger and appendix I big cats species recently.

The Government promulgated Decision No. 539/QĐ-TTg of April 16, 2014 on approving the national program for tiger conservation in the period of 2014-2022, focusing on establishing and building priority areas to recover tiger population, their prey and their habitat.

III. MANAGEMENT OF TIGERS AND BIG CATS FACILITIES IN VIETNAM

1. Currently, Vietnam has a total of 20 tigers and big cats facilities with 360 individuals, including 14 facilities belonging to zoos, display facilities and rescue centers (*Panthera pardus*, *Panthera onca*) for non-commercial purposes (conservation education and display). Vietnam law does not allow to captive the tiger and big cats for commercial purposes.

Particularly, the Soc Son Wildlife Rescue Center that under Hanoi Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, rescues and receives specializedly wildlife animals. Currently, the Center has caring for 36 tigers those seized from by enforcement agencies and then transferring to this Center.

2. Enclosure condition

The majority of big cat facilities are privately owned (accounting for 84% of all big cat facilities in the country). Therefore, the increase and decrease of individuals are concerned and strictly controlled by local forest protection department. All tiger's facilities are managed and checked periodically by the provincial forest protection department (shown on individual checking note and tracking book).

Vietnam CITES Management Authority has collaborated with the authorities to strictly control the origin of tigers at these facilities. 8 facilities have been granted Management codes or certificates for non-commercial purposes in accordance with Decree No. 06/2019/ND-CP. All tiger specimens at these facilities have original sources such as (i) import and (ii) exchange specimens among zoos by regulations.



Tiger in My Quynh facility

However, housing enclosure conditions in some facilities are limited due to the narrow area, and constructed many years ago. Some facilities do not keep a safe distance for people and animals. CITES MA are reviewing to consult competent authorities solutions to manage facilities that do not meet enclosure conditions.

In order to enhance safety management, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is developing a general technical requirements for cages for dangerous animals, including tiger.

CITES MA and other relevant agencies regularly conduct monitoring visit and directing local authority to strengthen management of tiger and big cat facilities (at least twice a year)

3. Marking specimens

Vietnam CITES MA in collaboration with the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources collected and analyzed DNA samples of all tiger facilities in Vietnam in 2012. However, the activities of marking specimens, the management and monitoring of tigers and wildlife have been carried out by the Provincial Forest Protection Department (be responsible for supervision and monitoring). For Felidae, especially big tigers, attaching a microchip for marking management is not highly effective. It is highly costly to test as the result of anesthesia. Some facilities have applied the number of method for captive, and reproduced, and microchip management for imported specimen.

III. ENFORCE WILDLIFE PROTECTION LAW RELATED TO TIGER AND BIG CATS

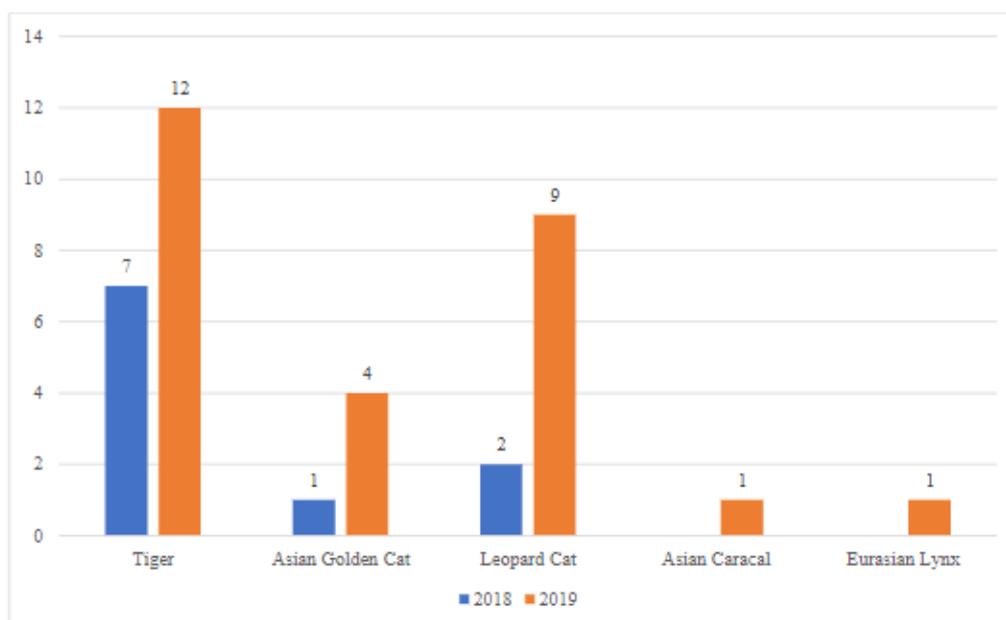
1. Interdisciplinary coordination in trade control

Vietnam authorities investigated and arrested 31 cases of illegal trafficking, transportation and storage of tiger specimens and big cats (Appendix 1) in the period of 2018-2019. Of which, there were 15 cases of illegal trading, transporting and illegal keeping of tiger specimens (accounting for 48.38% of the total number of arrests). In particular, trading and transportation activities often occur in provinces bordering Laos such as Nghe An. Besides, trading and transporting tiger specimens were also discovered in Hanoi. Most of illegal tiger specimen seized by enforcement agencies were frozen tiger (individual), some skins, such as 07 tiger specimen seized by Hanoi police, the species on the way from Nghe An to Hanoi.



Three suspicion people and exhibits were investigated in Hanoi in July 2019

Vietnam authorities had collaborate with non-governmental organizations and international conservation organizations such as WCS, Traffic, ENV, and WJC to carry out inspection and surveillance campaigns at wildlife trade hotspots. Several main targets in the tiger trade and transport line had been arrested as result. All cases of trafficking, possession of tigers and big cats are arrested and prosecuted by the authorities. The court in Hanoi sentenced a total of imprisonment 16 years to 03 illegal dealers of 07 tigers in July 2019.



Movements of seizures of tigers and big cats in 2018-2019

2. Training and raising awareness

Viet Nam CITES Management Authority coordinated with scientific and enforcement agencies to organize training and capacity building for 1,000 provincial forest protection, customs and environment police, border guards, market management officer for CITES implementation and identification of wildlife species frequently traded, including tigers in period of 2018-2019. Based on these activities, CITES enforcement agencies have made great efforts in inspecting, controlling, detecting and preventing the illegal trade, transportation and storage of tiger specimens. In particular, the dissemination of the provisions of Article 244, the Criminal Code 2015 (amended in 2017), Decree No. 06/2019 /ND-CP, Decree No. 64/2019/ND-CP and other provisions of the law on wildlife protection encourage the

people to raise awareness on the protection and conservation of tiger and endangered, precious and rare wild animals.

Viet Nam CITES Management Authority in collaboration with CITES Scientific Authority compile documents guiding the implementation of Decree No. 06/2019/ND-CP for Forest and Fishery protection department in whole country has been developed. It is expected to organize a training course for 300 forest rangers will be organized throughout the country in 2020.

Viet Nam CITES Management Authority in collaboration with Department of Legislation and Scientific Management (Supreme People's Court) to organize to compile "Intensive training materials on the provisions of the Criminal Code on violations of regulations on protection of endangered, precious and rare wild animals" and to train 200 judges in whole country in the first quarter of 2020.

Viet Nam CITES Management Authority in collaboration with scientific organizations to develop a "Process of expertise, collection, storage, preservation and transportation of specimens from illegal trade, transportation and stockpiling of endangered, precious and rare wildlife". It is expected to organize training courses for executing staffs in the third quarter of 2020.

Viet Nam CITES Management Authority in collaboration with Anti-Smuggling Investigation Department (General Department of Customs) to develop a Customs Handbook of Customs Control of wildlife and wildlife products in 2019. It is expected to organize training courses for customs officers working at border gates in whole country in the third quarter of 2020.

Viet Nam CITES Management Authority cooperate with organizations such as ENV, Traffic, WCS to conduct investigation and survey of demand for tiger specimens and tiger parts and its derivatives in 2019.



3. International cooperation in trade control

Organizing annual dialogue between Vietnam and Laos on wildlife trade control in border provinces between the two countries, in which discussions on tiger trade has been controlled.

Organizing the bilateral meetings between Vietnam and China on strengthening cooperation in CITES implementation.

Submitting the reporting regularly to the CITES Secretariat and the Animal and CITES Standing Committee on the seizure of CITES wildlife, including tigers in 2017 and 2018; reporting to CITES Secretariat and India CITES MA on tiger skin image seizures in 2017-2018.

Exchanging regularly information with ASEAN countries within the framework of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and wildlife protection, updating and sharing information on seizures and proposing national and ASEAN regional control measures.

Pictures of tiger skin from seizure in Vietnam in 2019 (Appendix 2) are summarized and sent to CITES Secretariat.

IV. PLAN FOR INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT IN THE FUTURE

1. Proposing the Prime Minister to give instructions to comprehensively assess tiger facilities activities in whole country, tighter management solutions, and prohibition tiger facilities for commercial purposes.

2. Proposing the Prime Minister to direct local government agencies to ensure breeding conditions, strengthen the management, inspection and supervise raising

activities of big cat cultivate facilities, and ensuring the maintenance of existing numbers. Measures to destroy dead specimens must be taken immediately according to the provisions of law in the case of tiger death of at rearing facilities.

3. Implementing measures to mark tiger specimens by taking photos of "tiger skin", attaching microchips, and numbering for management. It shall be done by DNA sampling management for long term.

4. Strengthening interdisciplinary coordination among law enforcement authorities on trade control on tigers and wildlife in key areas and provinces sharing the border with China and Cambodia and Laos.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITES SECRETARIAT

1. Recommend CITES Secretariat to re-plant to implement Decision 18.102 by sending a mission to visit selected tiger facilities in Vietnam after controlling the Covid - 19 epidemic.

2. Proposing the Conference of the Member States to amend Resolution 12.5 to further clarify the concept of "tiger facility on a non-commercial scale".

3. Proposing relevant international organizations to provide technical and financial support for Vietnam to strengthen the management of tiger breeding.

Annex 1. The seizures of tiger and other big cats in the period of 2018-2019

| Date | Enforcement agency | Place | Species | Quantity |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 16 July 2018 | Cai Rang Police | Can Tho | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 02 heads |
| 5 July 2018 | Ha Long Police | Quang Ninh | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 41 kg |
| 8 June 2018 | Long Bien Police | Ha Noi | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 01 head |
| 6 June 2018 | Nghe An Police | Nghe An | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 05 heads |
| 01 July 2018 | Ha Long Police | Quang Ninh | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 05 heads |
| 01 July 2018 | Ha Long Police | Quang Ninh | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 01 kg |
| 01 July 2018 | Ha Long Police | Quang Ninh | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 41 kg |
| 01 February 2018 | Hoa Binh Police | Hoa Binh | <i>Catopuma temminckii</i> | 03 heads |
| 1 November 2019 | Sop Cop Police | Son La | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 02 heads |
| 10 November 2019 | Sop Cop Police | Son La | <i>Catopuma temminckii</i> | 01 head |
| 20 September 2019 | Quang Ninh Police | Quang Ninh | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 09 heads |
| 20 September 2019 | Quang Ninh Police | Quang Ninh | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 03 heads |
| 30 September 2019 | Me Linh Police | Ha Noi | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 01 head |
| 4 October 2019 | Ha Noi Forest Protection Department | Ha Noi | <i>Catopuma temminckii</i> | 01 head |
| 16 September 2019 | Quang Ninh Police | Quang Ninh | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 01 head |
| 9 September 2019 | Dzien Chau Police | Nghe An | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 01 head |

1

| Date | Enforcement agency | Place | Species | Quantity |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 29 July 2019 | Ha Noi Police | Ha Noi | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 07 heads |
| 25 July 2019 | Hai Phong Police | Hai Phong | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 10 heads |
| 26 June 2019 | Dong Nai Forest Protection Department | Dong Nai | <i>Lynx lynx</i> | 01 head |
| 26 June 2019 | Dong Nai Forest Protection Department | Dong Nai | <i>Caracal caracal</i> | 01 head |
| 6 May 2019 | Le Chan Police | Hai Phong | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 01 head |
| 29 May 2019 | Thai Nguyen Police | Thai Nguyen | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 30 kg |
| 29 May 2019 | Thai Nguyen Police | Thai Nguyen | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 01 head |
| 29 May 2019 | Thai Nguyen Police | Thai Nguyen | <i>Catopuma temminckii</i> | 01 head |
| 23 April 2019 | Tu Son Police | Bac Ninh | <i>Panthera tigris corbetti</i> | 02 heads |
| 21 April 2019 | Hoang Mai Police | Ha Noi | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 03 heads |
| 16 April 2019 | Tay Ho Police | Ha Noi | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 02 heads |
| 11 April 2019 | Mong Cai Police | Quang Ninh | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 01 head |
| 22 March 2019 | Nghe An Police | Nghe An | <i>Panthera tigris corbetti</i> | 02 heads |
| 4 March 2019 | Thuong Tin Police | Ha Noi | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 02 heads |
| 29 March 2019 | Ky Son Police | Nghe An | <i>Catopuma temminckii</i> | 01 head |
| 30 January 2019 | Bac Tu Liem Police | Ha Noi | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 18 heads |
| 30 January 2019 | Bac Tu Liem Police | Ha Noi | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 01 head |

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| Date | Enforcement agency | Place | Species | Quantity |
|------------------|--------------------|--------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 31 January 2019 | Thanh Xuân Police | Ha Noi | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 04 heads |
| 8 January 2019 | Nam Tu Liem Police | Ha Noi | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | 05 heads |
| 25 December 2018 | Ha Dong Police | Ha Noi | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 03 heads |
| 25 December 2018 | Dong Da Police | Ha Noi | <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | 05 heads |

Annex 2. Photo of tiger skin in all seizures in 2019



Seizured by Police in Quang Ninh Province, 19 June 2019



Seizured by Police in Quang Ninh Province, 19 June 2019



Seizured by Police in Ha Noi, 23 July 2019



Seizured by Police in Quang Ninh Province, 5 August 2019



Seizured by Police in Thai Nguyen Province 29 May 2019



Seizured by Police in Thai Nguyen Province 29 May 2019



Seizured by Police in Thai Nguyen Province 29 May 2019

