

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2015/006

Geneva, 30 January 2015

CONCERNING:

Asian big cats

1. At its 65th meeting (SC65, Geneva, 2014), the Standing Committee endorsed a number of recommendations on Asian big cats and requested the Secretariat to communicate them in a Notification to the Parties. A consolidated version of the Committee's recommendations on this subject is found below. The Standing Committee:

- a) *requests the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam to review their implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), and in particular:*
 - i) *paragraph g) under URGES – for Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam; and*
 - ii) *paragraph c) under URGES, and paragraphs a), c) and e) under the first RECOMMENDS – for Myanmar, with a specific focus on its borders with China and Thailand, and the towns of Mong La, Golden Rock and Three Pagodas Pass;*
- b) *requests China, India and Nepal to take note of the information about the alleged illegal trade in Asian big cats from the seven border towns identified in Annex 1 to the present document [Document SC65 Doc. 38], and to take it into account when developing work programmes and undertaking law enforcement operations;*
- c) *requests China and Viet Nam to take note of the information about the alleged illegal trade across the Ka Long river at the border between near Mong Cai, Viet Nam, identified in Annex 1 [to document SC65 Doc. 38];*
- d) *requests China, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam to provide a report to the Secretariat, by 1 October 2015, on activities implemented in relation to recommendations a) to c) above, as applicable, for consideration by the Standing Committee at SC66; and*
- e) *encourages Appendix-I Asian big cat range States, where possible, to promote the elements referred to in Decision 16.70, paragraph a), within existing or planned broader enforcement initiatives in order to implement this part of the Decision in a cost-effective manner, and to invite the Secretariat to support these as instructed by the Conference of the Parties.*

Concerning legislative and regulatory measures

- f) *encourages Parties to review all relevant national legislation to ensure that national measures restricting internal and international trade in Asian big cats and their parts and derivatives are comprehensive in that, recalling Decision 14.69, parts and derivatives obtained from specimens bred in captivity are included;*
- g) *recalling Decisions 14.66 (Rev. CoP15) and 14.69, as well as Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), requests all Parties where internal and international trade in Asian big cats and*

their parts and derivatives is permitted, to report at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee on what legal trade is allowed, the species and trade volume involved, and describe how such trade is monitored and enforced, and to inform about measures taken to prevent illegal exports;

Concerning national law enforcement

- h) encourages Parties to engage with e-commerce trading site companies and to encourage them to ensure that no online advertisements are made for illegal specimens of protected species;*
- i) encourages Parties to take note of the recommendations of INTERPOL's 2014 assessment of enforcement responses to tiger crime;*
- j) encourages Parties to share images of seized tiger skins with range States with photographic identification databases so as to assist in the identification of the origin of the illegal specimen;*

Concerning demand reduction, education and awareness

- k) recalling Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), urges Parties to address the growing use of Asian big cats, including as pets, parts and derivatives as luxury items through targeted demand reduction strategies, including behavioural change interventions, and to strengthen demand reduction efforts;*

Concerning the prevention of illegal trade in parts and derivatives from breeding facilities

- l) recalling Decision 14.69, urges Parties to develop and implement regulatory controls for Asian big cat breeding facilities to prevent illegal trade, including oversight of any international trade to ensure non-commercial purposes, and monitored destruction of the specimens that die in captivity;*
- m) encourages Parties developing DNA registration, photographic identification, other types of identification databases of captive Asian big cats to make this information available outside national borders for law enforcement purposes to assist forensic determination of the origin of seized specimens, and encourages the Secretariat and Parties with financial resources and technical expertise to assist, through in-country activities, Parties that have yet to establish national registries or identification databases for Asian big cats to do so;*

Concerning the management of national and privately-held stocks of parts and derivatives

- n) in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), requests all Parties with national or privately held stockpiles of captive-bred or confiscated Asian big cat body parts and derivatives to report to the Secretariat on the volume of these stockpiles, measures taken to guarantee the security of these stockpiles and, if applicable, actions to destroy such stockpiles with the exception of those used for educational or scientific purposes;*

Concerning inter-sessional work

- o) requests the Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements to consider all reporting requirements for individual species and devise a template which would form the basis for consistent reporting across species;*
- p) decides to establish an inter-sessional Working Group on Asian Big Cats to identify outstanding issues of concern, assess implementation of these recommendations, Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16), and related Decisions, and to make recommendations for further action at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.*

2. To assist the Standing Committee's inter-sessional Working Group on Asian Big Cats in implementing its mandate, the Working Group has, with the assistance of the Secretariat, prepared a questionnaire in relation to recommendations f) to n) above, for completion by Parties. The questionnaire is contained in Annex 1 to the present Notification. The Working Group requests Parties to report on the implementation of recommendations f) to n) above, to the Secretariat by 1 August 2015, preferably using the questionnaire to facilitate a standardized approach to reporting. The Secretariat will make these reports available to the Working Group for its consideration.
3. Management Authorities that are not in a position to provide all the information requested in the questionnaire independently are encouraged to consult all relevant national authorities to obtain the required information.
4. China, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam are requested to, in accordance with recommendation d) above, submit their reports to the Secretariat, by 1 October 2015.
5. All Parties with national or privately held stockpiles of captive-bred or confiscated Asian big cat body parts and derivatives are requested to report to the Secretariat by 1 October 2015, in accordance with the provisions of recommendation n) above, using the model table prepared by the Secretariat contained in Annex 2 to the present Notification.