



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/039

Geneva, 29 April 2020

CONCERNING:

Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)

1. In paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*, the Conference of the Parties instructs the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties on the status of Asian big cats in the wild, their conservation, and trade controls in place in Parties, using information provided by the range States on measures taken to comply with this Resolution and related relevant Decisions and any relevant additional information provided by relevant countries.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.226 on *Illegal trade in Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)*, which remains in effect; and at its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.100 to 18.109 on *Illegal trade in Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)*. These Decisions can be found in the Annex to this Notification.
3. 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 Decisions 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 reporting information regarding the status of Asian big cats in the wild within their territories.
4. Responses should be submitted by email to the Secretariat at info@cites.org no later than **8 June 2020**.

Decisions on *Illegal trade in Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)*

17.226 *Directed to Parties with Asian big cat captive facilities*

All Parties in whose territory there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity are requested to:

- 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;
- 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
- c) report to the Secretariat on progress with regard to the implementation of this Decision.

Directed to Parties

- 18.100** 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.
- 18.101** 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.
- 18.102** Parties in whose territories there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity referred to in Decision 18.108, paragraph a) are invited to welcome a mission from the Secretariat, to visit these facilities.
- 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 December 2019 and all Parties are encouraged to share images of any skins seized hereafter within 90 days of such seizure.
- 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 TigrisID which is focusing on the development of novel techniques to facilitate tackling illegal trade in tiger specimens.
- 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.

¹ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam.

² Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, and Nepal.

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.

18.107 Parties are invited to report to the Secretariat on implementation of Decisions 18.100 to 18.106 in time for the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties as per requirements in paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18).

18.108 *Directed to the Secretariat*

The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, undertake a mission to those Parties identified in document SC70 Doc. 51 and in whose territories there are facilities which may be of concern keeping Asian big cats in captivity, with the purpose of gaining a better understanding of the operations and activities undertaken by these facilities; and
- b) report to the Standing Committee at its 73rd and 74th meetings on implementation of Decisions 18.107 to 18.108, paragraph a), and progress with regard to the missions concerned and formulate recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.

18.109 *Directed to the Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee at its 73rd and 74th meetings shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decisions 18.100 to 18.108 and determine whether any further time-bound, country specific measures are needed to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, of Decision 14.69 and of paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18).