

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2024/086

Geneva, 6 August 2024

CONCERNING:

Invitation to submit information on Asian big cats (*Felidae* spp.)

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted several Decisions on *Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)*. These Decisions can be found in Annex 1 to the present Notification. Decision 18.107 (Rev. CoP19) invites Parties to report to the Secretariat on the implementation of Decisions 14.69, 18.100, 18.101, 18.102 (Rev. CoP19), 18.103 (Rev. CoP19), 18.105, 18.106 and 19.109 in time for the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19).
2. In addition, at its 77th meeting (SC77; Geneva, November 2023), the Standing Committee agreed recommendation c) also presented in Annex 1 to the present Notification. In this recommendation, the Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties inviting reporting on conservation measures, poaching incidents, and illegal trade regarding *Panthera pardus* within its Asian range.
3. To facilitate the preparation of the Secretariat's report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee, and support the work of the Committee, the Secretariat invites:
 - a) Parties to report on their implementation of Decisions 14.69, 18.100, 18.101, 18.102 (Rev. CoP19), 18.103 (Rev. CoP19), 18.105, 18.106 and 19.109, as applicable;
 - b) all range States of Asian leopards (*Panthera pardus*) within its Asian range to report on the conservation measures undertaken and poaching incidents detected involving this species, by completing the questionnaire in Annex 2 to the present Notification;
 - c) all Parties that made seizures of specimens of Asian leopards (*Panthera pardus*) to report information on these seizures. Parties are encouraged to use the standard format for the CITES annual illegal trade report. Kindly see Section D in Annex 2 to the present Notification for more details. Information previously reported by Parties in their annual illegal trade reports to the Secretariat does not need to be reported again.
4. Parties are invited to submit reports by email with the subject line "Notification 2024/086 on Asian big cats" to info@cites.org with a copy to maroun.abi-chahine@un.org by **30 August 2024**.

DECISIONS ON ASIAN BIG CATS (*FELIDAE* SPP.)

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

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

Directed to Parties

18.100 Parties affected by illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, in particular Parties identified in document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, are encouraged to take into consideration the information in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, and pursue enforcement efforts to address this illegal trade, including through the initiation of joint investigations and operations aimed at halting the members of organized crime networks across the entire illegal trade chain.

18.101 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 (Rev. CoP19) Parties in whose territories there are facilities keeping Asian big cats in captivity referred to in Decision 18.108 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph a) are invited to welcome a mission from the Secretariat, to visit these facilities.

18.103 (Rev. CoP19) All Parties that make seizures of tiger skins are encouraged to take note of the information on tiger range States which have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins, as presented in paragraph 14 in document SC70 Doc. 42.1, and to share images in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*, paragraph 1 l) within 90 days of such seizure.

18.105 Parties, in particular those mentioned in section 3.1.5 of Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1, are encouraged to take serious consideration of the concerns regarding illegal trade in leopard parts and derivatives as outlined in Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 71.1 and take measures to address these.

18.106 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 (Rev. CoP19) Parties are invited to report to the Secretariat on implementation of Decisions 14.69, 19.109, 18.100, 18.101, 18.102 (Rev. CoP19), 18.103 (Rev. CoP19), 18.105 and 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. CoP19).

19.109

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) inform the Secretariat of forensic research projects, including genetic and other methods, undertaken in their territory focusing on the development of techniques to support addressing illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens, for this information to be made available to Parties;
- b) in accordance with their national regulations, share samples of Asian big cat specimens from living animals, seized animals or products that could contain DNA of Asian big cats with genetic research projects focusing on the development of techniques to address illegal trade in Asian big cat specimens; and
- c) take note that methods for the identification of tiger species and individual identification from different types of specimens of tiger parts and derivatives have been developed in the Czech Republic, and that analytical kits for use of these methods, as well as testing of tiger samples, are available to Parties free of charge.

Directed to the Secretariat.

18.108 (Rev. CoP19) The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, undertake a mission prior to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee 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 77th meeting on implementation of Decision 18.108 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph a), and progress with regard to the missions concerned and formulate recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.109 (Rev. CoP19) The Standing Committee at its 77th and 78th meetings shall review the report and recommendations of the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decisions 19.109, 18.100, 18.101, 18.102 (Rev. CoP19), 18.103 (Rev. CoP19), 18.105, 18.106, 18.107 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.108 (Rev. CoP19) 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. CoP19).

RECOMMENDATION C) ON ASIAN BIG CATS (*FELIDAE* SPP.)
AGREED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE
AT ITS 77TH MEETING (SC77, GENEVA, NOVEMBER 2023)

The Standing Committee

[...]

c) requested the Secretariat to:

i) issue a Notification to the Parties inviting:

- A. all range States of *Panthera pardus* within its Asian range to submit a report to the Secretariat on the conservation measures undertaken and poaching incidents detected; and
- B. all Parties that made seizures of specimens of *Panthera pardus* to submit a report to the Secretariat on seizure data involving *Panthera pardus*;

ii) report on the information received to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee; and

iii) develop, where possible, country-specific recommendations in its report to the Standing Committee on this agenda item.