

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Santiago (Chile), 3-15 November 2002

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

CONSERVATION OF THE LEOPARD, SNOW LEOPARD AND CLOUDED LEOPARD

The attached document has been submitted by India.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat welcomes this initiative by India to increase awareness of the threat posed to some leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard populations by poaching and illicit trade. However, the Secretariat believes that the actions called for in the draft resolution are basic elements that require to be implemented to conserve populations of, and control trade in, all CITES-listed species, particularly those in Appendix I, and that every Party should already be striving to have these in place.
- B. In keeping with the recent trend of the Secretariat and Standing Committee away from addressing species-specific issues, the Secretariat is unable to support this draft resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Conservation of the leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard

AWARE that the leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard are included in Appendix I of the Convention;

RECOGNIZING that the parts and derivatives of these three species are in great demand in clandestine markets across the globe;

NOTING that there have been reports of large-scale poaching of these species in several range States for their skins, bones and other products;

AWARE that, if Parties and States that are not yet party to the Convention do not take action to eliminate the illegal trade, poaching may cause declines and even extirpation of certain populations;

RECOGNIZING that a long-term strategy for conservation of the three species requires substantial protection measures to be taken by the Parties and the States that are not yet party to the Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES all Parties, particularly range and consumer States and those through which specimens of leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard pass in transit, to take immediate action in order to reduce demonstrably the illegal trade in parts and derivatives of these species by:

- a) introducing innovative enforcement methods and, as a matter of priority, strengthening enforcement efforts in key border regions;
- b) pursuing the development of a clear labelling system for products containing part and derivatives of leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard and the development and dissemination of forensic methods to detect the same;
- c) encouraging all range States and consumer States that are not party to CITES to accede to the Convention at the earliest possible date in order to improve control of international trade in parts and derivatives of leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard; and
- d) developing bilateral and regional agreements for improving conservation and management of leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard, strengthening legislation and strengthening enforcement efforts;

RECOMMENDS that manufacturing and consumer States cooperate in the development and distribution of identification guides for manufactured products containing specimens of these three species; and

CALLS on the Parties, international aid agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as a matter of priority, to provide financial and technical assistance to range States to conduct population surveys and surveys of domestic markets for specimens of leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard, including both legal and illegal trade.