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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN TIGERS AND OTHER ASIAN BIG CATS

1. The attached document has been submitted by China, India, Nepal and the Russian Federation in relation to agenda item 52 (Asian big cats).
2. The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN TIGERS AND OTHER ASIAN BIG CATS

Introduction

As highlighted in Resolution Conf. 12.5, wild populations of tigers and other Asian big cat species are threatened by poaching and habitat loss, and poaching has been identified as an important cause of decline for some Asian big cat species.

Recognizing that improvements are necessary in law enforcement capacity in Asian big cat range States (COP14 Doc. 52), particularly to address serious organized wildlife crime;

Recalling that Resolution Conf. 12.5 calls on consumer States to remove references to parts and derivatives of Appendix I Asian big cats from the official pharmacopoeia and include acceptable substitute products that do not endanger other wild species;

Commending Parties that have made progress in implementing trade controls by adopting domestic tiger trade policy; and

Endorsing recent calls for a review of progress by range States in curbing illegal trade, particularly for tigers, at this meeting and meeting of the Standing Committee (COP14 Doc 52; SC54 Doc. 25.2 (Rev. 1)), as well as calls for greater international cooperation in Asian big cat conservation and trade control;

The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties agrees to adopt all of the recommendations of the CITES Secretariat included in Document 14.52, and the following decisions:

Directed to the Parties

Asian big cat range States should strengthen their efforts to implement Resolution Conf. 12.5, and for tiger range States, report on progress at SC57, and subsequent meetings of the Standing Committee, and to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; with a review for CoP15 identifying gaps and additional measures needed;

Asian big cat range States should improve international cooperation in conservation and trade control through continual dialogue, and when convened, tiger range States should participate in the tiger trade enforcement workshop and the conservation strategy workshop.

Parties are strongly encouraged to develop or improve implementation of regional enforcement networks;

Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale should implement measures to restrict the captive population to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers.

Directed to the Secretariat

Contingent upon availability of external funding, the Secretariat shall: convene a tiger trade enforcement meeting within 12 months of the end of COP14; and cooperate in the development of a conservation strategy workshop, to be facilitated by IUCN and Global Tiger Forum (building on recent scientific work, including the 2006 Tiger Conservation Landscape Assessment).

The CITES Secretariat shall consult with Parties with specialized wildlife crime units to provide technical assistance and assist with the identification of additional opportunities for technical and financial support; and

The CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force shall, in conjunction with the CITES Enforcement Experts Group, establish a mechanism to regularly monitor and evaluate the scale and nature of illegal trade in Asian big cats.