

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

ASIAN BIG CATS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 15th meeting (CoP15, Doha, 2010), the Conference adopted the following Decisions on *Asian big cats*:

***Directed to Parties, especially tiger range States***

15.46 *All Parties, but particularly tiger range States, should submit, by 30 June 2010, information relating to incidents of poaching of and illegal trade in tigers that have occurred within their territory since the beginning of 2007. Information should be submitted using the Ecomessage format distributed in Notification to the Parties No. 2009/028 of 22 July 2009. Ecomessage forms for each incident should be submitted to the CITES Secretariat or to the General Secretariat of ICPO-INTERPOL via INTERPOL National Central Bureaus.*

***Directed to the Secretariat***

15.47 *The Secretariat shall collaborate with ICPO-INTERPOL to undertake an analysis of the information received from Parties. Two reports, one for public consumption and the other solely for the law enforcement community, should be prepared. The public document will be posted on the CITES website, whilst the other will be circulated in a restricted fashion to relevant enforcement agencies. The Secretariat shall report on this matter at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee and make any relevant recommendations as a result of the analysis.*

15.48 *The Secretariat shall seek funds to convene, as soon as possible, a seminar involving senior-level Customs and police officers from tiger range States, to brief them on the threatened status of this species, particularly the impact wildlife crime has upon it. The officials shall also be briefed by the Secretariat regarding the Global Tiger Summit, planned under the Global Tiger Initiative, so that the law enforcement community throughout tiger range States is prepared to engage in efforts to safeguard this species and respond to measures adopted at the Summit. The Secretariat shall collaborate with ICPO-INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization in preparing the seminar. The Secretariat shall report on the outcomes of the seminar at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee.*

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

15.49 *At its 61st meeting, the Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and determine what actions are necessary as a result of the analysis and the seminar. This could include instructing the Secretariat to convene the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force or CITES Enforcement Expert Group to consider further action.*

3. In Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) (*Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*), the Conference of the Parties also:

*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.*

4. In accordance with Decision 15.49 and Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15), the Standing Committee reviewed the subject of Asian big cats at its 61st (SC61) and 62nd (SC62) meetings (Geneva, August 2011 and July 2012)<sup>1</sup>.
5. At SC62, the Standing Committee noted the need for information on the status of all Asian big cats in the wild, their conservation, and trade controls in place in Parties, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15). The Committee also stressed the need for information on compliance with Decision 14.69 (*Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species*), and asked the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties reminding them of their reporting obligations under Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) and Decision 14.69.
6. Consequently, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2012/054 of 3 September 2012, requesting that relevant information be submitted by 25 September 2012. At the time of writing (early October 2012), only Thailand had responded. This response is included as Annex 3 a to the present document.
7. The Secretariat will continue to pursue the submission of reports requested in Notification No. 2012/054 and will add those received to Annex 3, to enable a full assessment at the present meeting.
8. On 28 September 2012, the Russian Federation submitted to the Secretariat a report on poaching and seizures of specimens of Appendix-I Asian big cat species on its territory for the period 2007 to 2012. The report indicated the following:
- 2007: one seizure of skin and skeleton of Amur tigers (*Panthera tigris altaica*);
  - 2008: two incidents of poaching of Amur tigers;
  - 2009: three incidents of poaching of Amur leopards (*Panthera pardus amurensis*) and four incidents of poaching of Amur tigers;
  - 2010: four incidents of poaching of Amur tigers. The Russian Federation reported two further incidents involving Amur tigers but it was not clear from the report whether these were related to poaching or seizures;
  - 2011: one incident of poaching of Amur tigers and one incident of smuggling of skins and the incomplete skeleton of an Amur tiger; and
  - 2012: four incidents involving Amur tigers. Their nature was, however, not clear to the Secretariat. It seemed that two incidents were related to poaching and two to the seizure of eight skins and a skull.

In relation to these incidents, one suspect was arrested in 2008, two in 2009, four in 2010, one in 2011 and two in 2012. The report from the Russian Federation was written in bullet point format and provided limited information, hence the lack of further detail in the summary above. The Secretariat would like to thank the Russian Federation for submitting this report but it will not publish it because it contains individuals' names. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to encourage Parties to include detailed information in their reports to the Secretariat but to provide confidential information in separate correspondence, so that their reports may be made publicly available.

#### Decisions 15.46 and 15.47

9. Whilst some Parties have submitted detailed information in compliance with Decision 15.46, the overall response rate has been relatively poor. As a result, the Secretariat reported at SC61 that this exercise,

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<sup>1</sup> See documents SC61 Doc. 41 and SC62 Doc. 43.

which was intended to provide an international overview of poaching of and illegal trade in tigers, had not been particularly successful. The Secretariat has worked with ICPO-INTERPOL to implement Decision 15.47 and a joint report on poaching of and illegal trade in tigers was made available to Parties through document SC61 Doc. 41, Annex 1.

#### Decision 15.48

10. In compliance with Decision 15.48, a seminar, led by ICPO-INTERPOL for the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) was convened on 14 February 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand, through financial support from the European Commission and the World Bank. This seminar was attended by representatives of 13 tiger range States (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Viet Nam), and representatives of all five ICWC partners (the CITES Secretariat, ICPO-INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization). The Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank the European Commission and the World Bank for their generous financial contributions.
11. At SC62, the Secretariat reported on the outcomes of the seminar, which has achieved the objectives set out in Decision 15.48<sup>2</sup>. The final report of the seminar was made available to all CITES Parties<sup>3</sup>, and was sent to the ministers responsible for police, Customs and environment in tiger range States, accompanied by a letter from the Chair of ICWC (CITES) encouraging them to take note of the outcomes of the seminar and to continue engaging in efforts to safeguard the tiger.
12. During the seminar, participants agreed that the best support that could be provided to range States would be national seminars to raise awareness of the significance of wildlife crime and to foster improved inter-agency coordination and cooperation at the national level. The Secretariat has drafted a decision that would enable it to follow up on this conclusion (see Annex 1).

#### Decision 15.70

13. Decision 15.70, adopted at CoP15, is directed to the Standing Committee and reads as follows:

*The Standing Committee shall review and update the form and guidance contained in Annexes 1 to 3 in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) and report on this matter at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

14. At SC61 the Standing Committee adopted a suggestion from the Secretariat that the ICWC Senior Experts Group be asked to conduct the review required in Decision 15.70.
15. Whilst the guidance was prepared by a species-specific CITES Enforcement Task Force, the Secretariat believes that it relates to wildlife law enforcement in general. Indeed, the guidance contains no tiger-specific matters. Consequently it would seem sensible for the guidance to be incorporated as annexes to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP15) (*Enforcement and compliance*), rather than kept in Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) on Asian big cats. This is reflected in the draft revised Resolution presented in Annex 2.
16. At the time of writing, the revision of the form and guidance contained in Annexes 1 to 3 to Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) by the ICWC Senior Experts Group was still in progress. The final draft guidance will be made available at the present meeting.

#### South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

17. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 14.68 where it strongly encourages Parties "to develop or improve implementation of regional enforcement networks".
18. The Secretariat has reported previously to the Conference of the Parties on the political agreement among countries in South Asia, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, to establish a wildlife enforcement network. The Secretariat has actively encouraged this and was

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<sup>2</sup> See document SC62 Doc. 43.

<sup>3</sup> See document SC62 Doc. 43. Annex 1.

therefore particularly delighted to join officials from the member countries when SAWEN was formally launched in Paro, Bhutan, in January 2011<sup>4</sup>.

19. SAWEN includes a number of important tiger range States and the Secretariat is convinced that the establishment of this important wildlife enforcement network will contribute significantly to regional efforts to combat illegal trade in Asian big cats.

#### Global Tiger Initiative

20. The Secretariat has reported previously to the Conference of the Parties on the Global Tiger Initiative. This initiative has generated very substantial political will at the highest levels for tiger conservation. It has also helped in alerting the international community to the perilous state of this species and how close many of its populations are to extinction.
21. The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to provide the Conference of the Parties with an update on Global Tiger Initiative activities, progress, and priorities for the next phase of implementation of the *Global Tiger Recovery Program*<sup>5</sup>.
22. At a Stocktaking Meeting of Senior Officials and Experts held in New Delhi, India, in May 2012, all 13 tiger range States reported progress with the implementation of the *Global Tiger Recovery Program*, particularly with:
  - increased capacity for wildlife law enforcement to curb poaching in all tiger range States;
  - enhanced inter-agency cooperation to combat poaching and illegal trade in most tiger range States;
  - increased penalties for wildlife crime in four tiger range States; and
  - the completion of eight agreements between tiger range States to improve transboundary cooperation in wildlife law enforcement.
23. A World Bank-funded regional programme to increase capacity and strengthen regional cooperation for wildlife protection was launched in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, and was in preparation in India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam at the time of writing.
24. The Global Tiger Initiative is analysing enforcement reform of the top tiger reserves in range States. It is also documenting how specific protected areas are improving the performance of front-line teams in preventing, detecting and prosecuting wildlife crime.
25. Tiger range States' priorities for the next phase of implementation of the *Global Tiger Recovery Program* include: measures to implement, improve or expand law enforcement monitoring; and making continued progress on strengthening transboundary cooperation to combat illegal wildlife trade. Other priorities are mitigating threats to and managing tiger habitat, increasing resources and continuing to adhere to the *Saint Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation*<sup>6</sup>.
26. The Global Tiger Initiative informed the Secretariat that it would promote the piloting and application of the ICCWC *Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit*<sup>7</sup> in specific tiger range States. This Toolkit will assist these States in reviewing their response to wildlife crime and in identifying weaknesses and needs. Based on the Toolkit analysis, ICCWC will assist range States in drafting specific work plans for national capacity building and technical assistance. The Secretariat is very encouraged by the the Global Tiger Initiative's strong support to the ICCWC Toolkit.
27. During discussions at SC62, the Global Tiger Initiative pledged financial support for an independent technical study of the issue of tiger farms.

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<sup>4</sup> See document SC61 Doc. 30.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.globaltigerinitiative.org/2010/05/28/gti-key-documents/>.

<sup>6</sup> See [http://www.globaltigerinitiative.org/download/St\\_Petersburg/St\\_Petersburg\\_Declaration\\_English.pdf](http://www.globaltigerinitiative.org/download/St_Petersburg/St_Petersburg_Declaration_English.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> See [http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/pub/Wildlife\\_Crime\\_Analytic\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/pub/Wildlife_Crime_Analytic_Toolkit.pdf).

28. The success of the Global Tiger Initiative in elevating the cause of conservation of tigers among high-level political leaders, and its significant mobilization of financial resources for tiger and biodiversity conservation have produced a new business model that may be applied successfully to other species. This success has triggered interest in Kyrgyzstan and other countries in adopting a similar approach to help conserve snow leopards. The Global Tiger Initiative is currently working on organizing an international summit for snow leopard range States in 2013.
29. At the time of writing, the Secretariat was in the process of making arrangements to attend the second Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation in Bhutan, from 22 to 24 October 2012, where the outcomes of the Stocktaking Meeting of Senior Officials in New Delhi, India, in May 2012, will be reviewed. The second Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation will build on the technical work done at the Stocktaking Meeting, with the aim of agreeing on future collective action.

#### Project PREDATOR

30. ICPO-INTERPOL's Project PREDATOR was launched during the organization's 80th General Assembly in 2011. This Project is designed to support and enhance good governance and law enforcement capacity for the conservation of wild tigers. Several campaigns were launched as part of this project, both globally and in tiger range States, aiming at gathering intelligence for analytical purposes, in order to better equip ICPO-INTERPOL's member countries and to engage collaboratively in effective intelligence-led operations. The CITES Secretariat issued a press release on 28 November 2011 commending this project.<sup>8</sup>
31. ICPO-INTERPOL has established national environmental security task forces as part of Project PREDATOR, and seminars to bring together these national task forces are in the planning phase for India and the Russian Federation. These will gather enforcement and other officials from diverse fields extending beyond criminal justice.
32. In April 2012, ICPO-INTERPOL called on several tiger range States to participate in Operation PREY, which was designed under Project PREDATOR. Operation PREY aimed at protecting tigers and other big cats by targeting the individuals and organized crime groups behind illegal activities affecting these species. It was conducted across Bhutan, China, India and Nepal in July 2012. The operation involved police, Customs, environmental agencies, narcotics bureaux, forest protection authorities, health departments, immigration authorities and prosecutors. Operation PREY led to nearly 40 arrests and the seizure of big cat skins and other body parts, as well as rhino horns, ivory, seahorses, protected orchids and cacti<sup>9</sup>.

#### Combating the illegal trade in Asian big cats: A guide for enforcement officers

33. At SC54 (Geneva, October 2006), the Secretariat informed Parties that the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), a non-governmental organization, in consultation with the Secretariat, had produced a film designed to help raise awareness of illegal trade in Asian big cats<sup>10</sup>.
34. EIA recently produced an updated version of this film, in consultation with the Secretariat and ICPO-INTERPOL, taking into account changes in the market demand for Asian big cat parts since the original version had been released, and highlighting the need for intelligence-led enforcement and international cooperation. The film is accompanied by fact-sheets that follow the structure of the film and serve as an additional resource. The fact-sheets are currently available in English only.
35. This film, available in English, Hindi, Mandarin, Nepali, Thai and Vietnamese language versions, was released in September 2012. It is not intended to replace institutional training on this subject matter, but to complement it. Because the film and fact-sheets contain enforcement-specific information, their circulation is restricted to law enforcement officers. The film includes interviews with several experienced wildlife law enforcement officers, describes illegal trade and offers excellent advice on how to target poachers, dealers and smugglers.

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<sup>8</sup> See [http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2011/20111128\\_predator.php](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2011/20111128_predator.php).

<sup>9</sup> See <http://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News-media-releases/2012/PR060>.

<sup>10</sup> See document SC54 Doc. 25.1.

36. The Secretariat is grateful to EIA for conducting this project and believes that the film and fact-sheets are of a very high standard. The Secretariat has made the film and fact sheets available to Parties through the CITES Enforcement Authorities forum and the CITES Virtual College<sup>11</sup>.

Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) (Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species)

37. The Secretariat has noticed that some parts of the Resolution are now out of date and believes that it should be revised accordingly. New text could also be included to facilitate a more coordinated law enforcement approach in the implementation of the Resolution. A draft revised Resolution with the proposed amendments marked-up, including the deletion of the Annexes mentioned in paragraph 15 above, is contained in Annex 2 to the present document.

Final remarks

38. Good enforcement work has been done and some progress has been achieved in the conservation of Asian big cats.
39. The CITES Secretary-General's Certificate of Commendation was awarded to the Airports of Thailand Public Company and the CITES Wildlife Checkpoint of the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department of the Government of Thailand, at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok, in recognition of a seizure, made at Suvarnabhumi Airport on 23 August 2010, when officials of the two agencies discovered a person attempting to smuggle a live tiger cub out of the country. The tiger had been carefully concealed in baggage but was discovered during X-ray screening<sup>12</sup>.
40. Seizures of tigers and tiger and other big cat body parts were made in Thailand between February and May 2012. Two tiger poachers were sentenced to the most severe punishments for wildlife poaching ever given in Thailand in March 2012. Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) rescued two-month-old tiger cubs in June 2012 and four cubs were seized from suspected wildlife smugglers in Viet Nam in September 2012.
41. The above represent only a few encouraging success stories amongst many others, but also serve as a clear indicator that this matter continues to be of major concern, in particular for tigers. Actions to combat the illegal trade in Asian big cats, and reduce demand for these species and parts and derivatives thereof, require increased efforts from Parties, especially from range and consumer States.
42. Information on seizures, arrests and prosecutions often comes to the attention of the Secretariat through public sources, such as media reports. Insufficient information is received directly from Parties. Given the transnational nature of wildlife crime, international cooperation between law enforcement agencies is vital and the Secretariat would like to use this opportunity to re-emphasize the importance of submitting Ecomessages via ICPO-INTERPOL's National Central Bureaux, to the ICPO-INTERPOL General Secretariat. The Ecomessage format that was designed by ICPO-INTERPOL offers a number of important benefits that are highlighted in Notification to the Parties No. 2009/028 of 22 July 2009.
43. The Secretariat will continue to pursue responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2012/054 and trusts that these responses, as well as discussions at the second Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation, will produce ideas or possible solutions that will markedly reduce illegal trade in tigers through concerted efforts from the law enforcement community.
44. The future of Asian big cats, especially tigers, remains very perilous and it is evident that there is no room for complacency. The Secretariat shall evaluate the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2012/054 and convey its findings and recommendations to the Conference of the Parties. Owing to the serious threat of extinction of some populations of tigers, the Secretariat believes this subject should continue to be an agenda item at each regular meeting of the Standing Committee.

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<sup>11</sup> See <http://campusvirtual.unia.es/cites>.

<sup>12</sup> See Notification to the Parties No.2010/030 of 28 October 2010.

## Recommendations

45. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:

- a) note this document;
- b) adopt the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to the present document; and
- c) adopt the proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP15) contained in Annex 2.
- d) accept the deletion of Decisions 15.46, 15.47, 15.48 and 15.49, as they have been implemented.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

**Asian big cats**

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

- 16.A The Standing Committee shall review the conservation of and trade in tigers and, as necessary, other Appendix-I Asian big cat species at its 65th and 66th meetings, and determine any actions deemed necessary to combat illegal trade in Asian big cats. These could include instructing the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to convene the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force or CITES Enforcement Expert Group to consider further action.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 16.B The Secretariat shall:
- a) subject to available resources, arrange national seminars involving all relevant enforcement agencies in tiger range States, in cooperation with ICCWC partners, to promote a multidisciplinary approach that will facilitate improved coordination and cooperation in the detection, investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime offences.
  - b) seek funds for and develop a leaflet containing simple illustrations and guidance, to increase awareness of illegal trade in Asian big cats and the endangered status of the species amongst front-line law enforcement staff and border-control staff.

DRAFT REVISION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 12.5 (REV. COP15)

## **Conf. 12.5** **(Rev. CoP156)\***

## **Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species**

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 11.5, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting (Gigiri, 2000), relating to *Conservation of and trade in tigers*;

NOTING that wild populations of tigers and other Asian big cat species (snow leopard, *Uncia uncia*, clouded leopard, *Neofelis nebulosa*, all subspecies of leopard *Panthera pardus* within its Asian range, and Asiatic lion, *Panthera leo persica*) are threatened by the combined effects of poaching and habitat loss caused by disturbance, fragmentation and destruction;

AWARE that all tigers and other Asian big cat species are included in Appendix I, and that commercial international trade in Asian big cat species and their parts and derivatives has been prohibited by the Convention since 1975 (with the exception of the Asiatic lion and the Amur tiger *Panthera tigris altaica*, which were included in 1977\* and 1987, respectively);

CONSCIOUS that three subspecies of tiger, *Panthera tigris*, have become extinct within the last 50 years and NOTING with concern that, despite inclusion of Asian big cat species in Appendix I, illegal trade in specimens of nearly all these species has escalated and further threatens their long-term survival in the wild;

CONCERNED that the use of medicines and products containing parts and derivatives from the tiger and other Asian big cat species continues in many countries around the world and that the bones of some of these species may be used in traditional medicine systems as a substitute for tiger bone;

CONCERNED further that, despite some improvements, trade in skins from the tiger and other Asian big cat species continues to fuel poaching that could lead to extinction in the wild;

NOTING that the Standing Committee has called upon all Parties and non-Parties to the Convention to take such measures as are required to halt the illegal trade in tigers and tiger parts and derivatives;

COMMENDING the positive actions taken by some range and consumer States to address the illegal trade in ~~tiger and tiger parts and derivatives specimens~~ and to facilitate cooperation with other Parties, but NOTING that measures are required to address illegal trade in specimens of all Appendix-I Asian big cat species;

CONSCIOUS that the driving forces behind the illegal killing of tigers and other Asian big cats and the illegal trade in specimens thereof vary from region to region and may include financial gain from the sale of live specimens, parts and derivatives, protection of people living in Asian big cat habitats and protection against or response to the predation of livestock;

RECOGNIZING that strengthened technical cooperation between range and non-range States and financial support, would contribute to more effective conservation of tigers and other Asian big cat species;

ACKNOWLEDGING that increased political commitment, financial resources and expertise in some range and consumer States will significantly improve control of the illegal killing of Asian big cat species, trade in their parts and derivatives and protection of their habitats;

ACKNOWLEDGING the progress made through the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force, and the results of the second CITES Enforcement Experts Group meeting in 2009, and NOTING that the causes of conservation problems could be relevant to other Asian big cat species and that the solutions to reduce illegal trade in tiger specimens could be applied to benefit these species;

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\* Amended at the 15th and 16th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

ACKNOWLEDGING further the actions and reports of members of the Snow Leopard Network and of the Global Tiger Forum in reviewing the threats to the long-term survival of the species in the wild and the recommended measures to address those threats;

WELCOMING the establishment of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC);

AWARE of the important role of ICCWC in bringing coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the subregional and regional networks that, on a daily basis, act in defence of natural resources;

ENCOURAGING all stakeholders to take note of the final report of the ICCWC Seminar on Tiger Crime for Heads of Police and Customs, held on 14 February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand;

CONCERNED that the failure to provide regular detailed reports on progress in implementing measures aimed at conserving tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cats has prevented adequate assessment of the effectiveness of the measures taken;

RECOGNIZING also that long-term solutions to the protection, conservation and management of tigers and other Asian big cat species and their habitats requires the adoption of bold and innovative actions based on a sound base of information;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES:

- a) all Parties and non-Parties, especially range and consumer States of Asian big cat species, to adopt comprehensive legislation and enforcement controls which clearly define the administrative responsibilities of the various government agencies responsible for regulating trade within and outside of protected areas and in outlets for parts and derivatives, such as in wildlife markets and shops, etc., as a matter of urgency;
- b) all Parties seeking to improve their legislation prohibiting international commercial trade in specimens of tiger and other Asian big cat species, and products labelled as, or claiming to contain, their parts and derivatives, to adopt such legislation, to include penalties adequate to deter illegal trade and to consider introducing national measures to facilitate implementation of CITES, such as voluntarily prohibiting internal trade in such parts, derivatives and products, as provided for in Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev.);
- c) all Parties, especially range and consumer States, to introduce innovative enforcement methods and, as a matter of priority, strengthen enforcement efforts in key border regions, and develop or improve implementation of regional enforcement networks;
- d) all range States and other relevant Parties to implement systems for the recording of information relating to illegal trade in Asian big cats and to share this information as appropriate to ensure coordinated investigations and enforcement;
- e) all range States shall seek to ensure enforcement units and personnel receive relevant and effective support in anti-poaching operations; the gathering and use of intelligence; targeting offenders; wildlife crime investigative techniques; collecting evidence; inter-agency liaison and cooperation; and preparing cases for prosecution; ~~and in doing so may wish to consider the guidance provided at Annexes 1, 2 and 3, taking into account individual national circumstances;~~
- f) Parties to contribute financial and technical assistance to enable range States to comply with the implementation of this Resolution and enhance capacity building, improvement of conservation measures and sustainable livelihoods, so as to contribute towards the conservation of Asian big cats;
- g) those Parties and non-Parties ~~in~~ whose ~~territories~~ territories tigers and other Asian big cat species are bred in captivity to ensure that adequate management practices and controls are in place to prevent parts and derivatives from entering illegal trade from or through such facilities;
- h) those Parties and non-Parties ~~in~~ whose ~~countries~~ territories there exist stocks of parts and derivatives of tiger and other Asian big cat species (such as tiger bone stocks), but not including pre-Convention specimens, to consolidate and ensure adequate control of such stocks, and where possible destroy the same, with the exception of those used for educational and scientific purposes;

- i) range and non-range States of the tiger and other Asian big cat species to support and participate in international conservation programmes, such as the Global Tiger Forum, the Snow Leopard Network, the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force and the Global Tiger Initiative; and
- j) all range 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 tiger and other Asian big cat species;

INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to:

- a) 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; and
- b) work with ICCWC partners to promote increased awareness amongst the law enforcement community of the serious nature and impact of illegal trade in Asian big cat species, and to improve cooperation and a multidisciplinary approach in the detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes related to these species;

RECOMMENDS that:

- a) the range States of the tiger and other Asian big cat species ensure that anti-poaching teams and enforcement units are established and effectively resourced to counter the illegal killing of and trade in Asian big cat species, and that intelligence is shared between relevant enforcement agencies to counter illegal killing and trade;
- b) range States of the tiger and other Asian big cat species carry out appropriate education and awareness campaigns directed at urban and rural communities and other targeted groups, on the ecological and cultural significance and the significance for ecotourism of Asian big cats, their prey and habitats;
- c) all range and consumer States take measures to increase awareness of wildlife crime and illicit wildlife trade among their enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities;
- d) the enforcement agencies in range and consumer States of the tiger and other Asian big cat species establish cooperative bilateral and multilateral arrangements, especially for the management of shared wildlife species and protected habitats with common boundaries, in order to achieve more effective control of illegal international trade in specimens of Asian big cat species;
- e) Parties and non-Parties convene regional workshops on law enforcement needs associated with illegal cross-border movement of specimens of Asian big cat species, including the extent of the trade, smuggling routes, methods and final consumer markets for live specimens and parts and derivatives, with technical assistance from the CITES Secretariat and, where available, financial support from interested governments and organizations; and
- f) the range States of Asian big cat species conduct, where appropriate, studies to examine the motivation behind the illegal killing of these species and to recommend appropriate measures to address such motivation;

REQUESTS:

- a) ~~Parties to submit information in relation to the scale and nature of the trade in Asian big cats to the database to be developed as agreed in Decision 15.42;~~
- ba) countries and organizations with the relevant expertise to encourage and support range and consumer States, as a matter of urgency, in the development of practical identification manuals to aid the detection and accurate identification of parts and derivatives of Asian big cats; and
- eb) that, since biological and distribution data are essential for the implementation of the Convention, donor nations assist in funding the infrastructure and the provision of expertise to develop computer databases and mapping as well as any other necessary conservation management techniques;

RECOMMENDS that the consumer States of specimens from the tiger and other Asian big cat species:

- a) work with traditional medicine communities and industries to develop and implement strategies for gradually reducing and eventually eliminating the use of Asian big cat parts and derivatives;
- b) where necessary and appropriate, 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, and introduce programmes to educate the industry and user groups in order to eliminate the use of substances derived from Appendix-I Asian big cats and promote the adoption of appropriate alternatives; and
- c) carry out appropriate education and awareness campaigns to eliminate illegal trade in and use of Asian big cat skins as trophies, ornaments and items of clothing or for the production of other materials;

CALLS UPON all governments and intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies, and non-governmental organizations to provide, as a matter of urgency, funds and other assistance to stop illegal trade in specimens of Asian big cat species, and to ensure the long-term survival of the Asian big cat species in the wild; and

REPEALS Resolution Conf. 11.5 (Gigiri, 2000) – *Conservation of and trade in tigers*.

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## **Annex 1** ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ **Preliminary report form**

~~To be used for reporting incidents of wildlife crime, illegal trade, poaching of endangered species or significant intelligence.~~

1. ~~Date:~~
2. ~~Place:~~
3. ~~Species:~~
4. ~~Type of event:~~
5. ~~Suspect(s):~~
6. ~~Evidence:~~
7. ~~Modus operandi:~~
8. ~~Actions:~~
9. ~~Other relevant information:~~
10. ~~Person reporting:~~
11. ~~Date form submitted:~~

~~The following guidance should be used to assist in the completion of the form and as a memory aid for staff at the scene of the incident.~~

<b>1. <del>Date:</del></b> indicate, as appropriate: — date of discovery — date of incident — date information received	<b>2. <del>Place:</del></b> indicate, as appropriate: — full address (if known) — nearest town or landmark — map reference — GPS coordinates
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— type of place, e.g. forest, commercial building, private dwelling, railway station, airport etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Species:</b> indicate, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— common name</li> <li>— quantity</li> <li>— age</li> <li>— sex (if known)</li> <li>— live or dead</li> <li>— type of specimen, e.g. skin, trophy head, medicinal product, leather articles etc.</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Type of event:</b> indicate, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— poaching</li> <li>— taking</li> <li>— death</li> <li>— seizure</li> <li>— trade</li> <li>— intelligence</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Suspect:</b> indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— full name</li> <li>— age, including date and place of birth (if known)</li> <li>— address</li> <li>— nationality (ID and passport No. if known)</li> <li>— occupation</li> <li>— description</li> <li>— whether previous offender</li> </ul>	<p><b>6. Evidence:</b> provide brief details of initial results, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— witnesses</li> <li>— documents</li> <li>— carcasses (whether any parts removed, e.g. horn or tusk) and plants</li> <li>— scene of crime results (weapons, nets, lights, traps, poison, footprints, tyre tracks, photographs)</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Modus operandi:</b> manner in which the crime was committed. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— vehicle(s) used (provide registration number if possible)</li> <li>— apparent cause of death</li> <li>— method of killing, smuggling or concealment</li> <li>— route used</li> </ul>	<p><b>8. Actions:</b> provide details of initial work done by law enforcement agency or others at scene, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— arrest</li> <li>— <i>post mortem</i></li> <li>— filing or registration of case</li> <li>— seizure</li> <li>— search</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Other relevant information:</b> give details such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— intelligence gathered</li> <li>— any further action required</li> </ul>	<p><b>10. Person reporting:</b> indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— full name</li> <li>— rank or title</li> <li>— organization</li> </ul>

## Annex 2

## Guidance for reporting and intelligence analysis

The Preliminary Report Form should, where necessary, be adapted to suit local requirements. Field staff should receive guidance on the categories of case for which it should be completed and to whom it should be submitted. It should be stressed to field staff that accurate and timely reporting is essential and, importantly, welcome. Every effort should be made to dispel any cultural or traditional influences that may encourage the concealment of crime or poaching. Prompt and detailed reporting and recording must be given a positive image within the organization. Staff must be reassured that there will be no recrimination for the reporting of incidents.

The person or persons tasked with collating the report forms should, ideally, maintain a database of the information and be responsible for responding to input, or communicating the information to those tasked with coordinating responses. It is at this stage that consideration can also be given to creating ECOMESSAGES to pass information between agencies or at regional and international levels or waiting until further investigation is complete.

The CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force identified that the gathering of information and intelligence is not, in itself, sufficient. Once gathered, intelligence must be analysed. Although computer software packages are available to assist the analytical process, much can be achieved by simple study of the data.

Analyses can be used for both operational and strategic purposes. They enable not only decision-making with regard to deployment, or re-deployment, of resources, risk assessment and targeting, but can also identify the additional human or technical resources needed for effective response to crimes, legislative weaknesses, weak border points, and can assist in the design of awareness campaigns. Analyses should be viewed as a strong management tool to identify priorities and assess performance.

The intelligence gained from such analyses must then be used effectively and not just stored. Consideration will require to be given to how the information is disseminated. The preparation of alerts or bulletins for distribution has been shown to be very effective and demonstrates clearly that input is valued and acted upon. Intelligence can also be disseminated through formal and informal email networks or made available through secure websites. Potential recipients of analyses might include such as CITES Management Authorities, all national enforcement agencies, the CITES Secretariat, ICPO-Interpol and the World Customs Organization. Ensuring as wide a distribution as possible and relevant should help promote feedback, inter-agency cooperation and the submission of more intelligence.

Careful consideration should be given to what information can be made public and what ought to remain confidential. The level of confidentiality may also require to be defined and dissemination adjusted accordingly.

The Task Force recommended that the following fields or subjects should be examined when studying data that have been collected:

#### **Patterns**

To identify geographical, time of day, day of week, seasonal similarities, etc.

#### **Suspects**

To identify repeat offenders and common descriptions

#### **Suspect profiling**

To identify likely offenders

#### **Networks**

To identify poachers, traders, dealers, smugglers, financiers, buyers, defence lawyers (especially those incompatible with the accused's resources), etc. that may be operating together or whose activities are linked

#### ***Modus operandi***

To identify common or linked methods of committing crime and engaging in illegal trade, etc.

#### **Trends**

To identify increased or decreased attention to particular species by criminals, locations, methods of crime and smuggling, etc.

#### **Evidence**

To identify common or linked physical and documentary findings, such as repeated use of same calibre weapons, poison, forged documents, etc.

#### **Target species**

To identify the most vulnerable, illegally hunted, smuggled and traded species

#### **Forensic science results**

To identify links between crime or illicit trade cases that can be demonstrated through such methods as ballistic, fingerprint or hand-writing comparisons, etc.

#### **Target criminals**

To identify offenders who are most active and those committing most serious offences, and to deploy resources, surveillance and intelligence gathering against them

### **Motives**

To identify what is prompting offenders to engage in illegal hunting and trading

### **Routes**

To identify access and exit routes used by poachers and routes used by smugglers to transport specimens. Also to identify methods of transport.

### **Markets**

To identify places and countries where illegal specimens are sold in either transit locations or final destinations, including profiles of likely buyers

### **Prices**

To identify value of specimens at different points in the supply chain, i.e. financial gain by poacher, smuggler, traders and price paid by final customer, etc.

### **Financing**

To identify persons or companies that may be funding poaching or illegal trade or to identify whether profits from wildlife crime are funding other activities

### **Links with other crimes**

To identify any links with other crimes or illegal trades, such as narcotics, weapons, illegal immigrants, etc.

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## **Annex 3**

## **Guidance for specialized wildlife law enforcement units**

The role of specialized units in addressing issues relating to wildlife crime and illicit trade in CITES-listed species has been identified by the Conference of the Parties on a number of occasions. The CITES Tiger Missions Technical Team found specialized units to be very successful, wherever it encountered them. Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP15) encourages Parties to consider the establishment of such units.

The following are regarded as important elements to be considered by any country planning the establishment, or further development, of one or several specialized units to tackle wildlife crime and illegal trade. They are not listed in order of importance. Some elements will be of greater significance than others, depending upon the country circumstances.

The structure and composition of specialized units will also be dictated by whether they are created at national, provincial or local level or a combination of these.

### **Government support/political will**

This element is absolutely essential. To be truly effective, the unit must have the backing of central and state/provincial governments as well as all other enforcement agencies.

### **Authority**

Another absolutely essential element. The unit must be properly empowered to carry out its duties. Inclusion of multi-agency personnel will usually ensure that the unit has staff that is legally authorized to conduct effective operations. Alternatively, although it should not be necessary ordinarily, legislative measures should be enacted to empower the unit. This element is also closely linked with *Parity*.

It is also important that the unit leader should be authorized, to as acceptable a degree as possible, to act on his or her own initiative to direct operations without having to constantly refer matters to a higher authority.

It may be very desirable for the unit to be empowered to include in its tasks anti-corruption work related to wildlife crime. If that is the case, it is essential that the unit, or some of its personnel, should be empowered under relevant legislation or policies to investigate/arrest government officials.

### **Good management**

Clear, appropriate and experienced leadership is needed, particularly in the unit at operational level but this also applies to strategic management. Careful consideration should be given to which agency is given responsibility for overall management and strategic direction of the unit; a committee of relevant agencies may be preferable.

### **Clearly structured**

There should be no doubt as to the lines of command and responsibilities of the unit and its staff.

### **Tasks**

The duties of the unit should be clearly defined and understood by its staff and all agencies with which it will interact. These might include intelligence gathering and dissemination, investigation, coordination and prosecution, as appropriate.

An appropriate degree of flexibility should, however, be incorporated so that the unit leader can respond quickly to developing situations and allocate resources in an effective manner. A degree of mobility will also require to be taken into account so that staff can go where they are needed.

### **Targeted**

Linked to *Tasks*, it is essential that the unit's work be properly focused so that resources are utilized in a meaningful, efficient and effective manner. It is also important, to achieve support from the public and other agencies, that the unit concentrates on priority and serious crime issues and does not become involved in 'technical' violations of national law or CITES.

### **Dedicated**

This refers not only to the commitment expected of unit personnel but also to the manner in which the unit must be allowed to concentrate solely upon its tasks. It should not be allowed to be diverted to other duties.

### **Full time**

Depending upon local circumstances, a 'core' number of unit personnel should be deployed on a full-time basis. Additional staff can be used to supplement and support activities as and when necessary.

### **Parity**

The unit and its personnel should enjoy equal status with other official enforcement agencies, such as the police and Customs.

### **Volunteers**

All unit personnel should be volunteers. However, selection procedures should be carefully designed to identify the most suitably qualified and appropriate staff, whilst remembering that appropriate training can compensate for any lack of previous experience. The unit must not be regarded as somewhere to which poorly performing staff can be consigned. Whilst staff should be encouraged to serve voluntarily in the unit, this should not be taken to mean their service will be unpaid.

### **Multi-agency**

It is important that the unit should include personnel from each of the national agencies that regularly engage in wildlife law enforcement, such as Forest and Wildlife Departments, the police and Customs. It should also have ready access to the resources of those agencies that participate on an irregular basis. The involvement of personnel from a variety of agencies can also be an effective measure against corrupt practices.

### **Properly funded**

The unit must have a budget commensurate with its activities and its leader should not be too constrained in its use. A degree of flexibility should be incorporated to allow for an appropriate response to operational

requirements. The use of external funding from supporting donors should be permitted, where necessary, as long as control remains with the proper national authorities and potential donors are not allowed to dictate the unit's activities.

### **Size**

Whilst this will be dictated by country circumstances, having the right people with the right support will probably be more important than the numbers of staff in the unit. Quality should be the focus, rather than quantity.

### **Technical support**

The unit should be properly equipped to enable it to carry out its duties. Equipment of a general and routine nature might include, for example, uniforms, vehicles, communications, firearms, surveillance gear, computers and associated software. Provision should be made for ready access to more specialized support, such as forensic science services, scenes of crime examination officers, and species identification experts.

### **Training**

All unit personnel should be adequately trained in relevant specialized fields and this should be an ongoing process. Training should be regarded as a priority investment activity for the unit's staff. After gaining suitable experience, unit personnel should be utilized for the training of others.

### **Strategies**

The unit should be provided with sufficient time and resources to consider and identify strategic issues, aside from its operational commitments, or should be supported by an infrastructure that will consider these issues.

### **Long term**

Unless there are very good reasons to suggest otherwise, the unit should be regarded as a long-term or permanent structure within the country's enforcement institutional and policy framework. This will provide for continuity, the acquisition of specialized experience and demonstrate to other enforcement agencies and the public governmental commitment to combating wildlife crime.

### **Recognition**

Steps should be taken to ensure that the purpose and tasks of the unit are publicized among all enforcement agencies and the general public. The latter aspect can have a deterrent effect for offenders and also encourage the public to supply information.

### **Local support**

Every effort should be made to facilitate and encourage support to the unit from local communities, both in a formal and informal fashion. The unit should be encouraged to liaise with local community leaders and enlist their assistance in convincing citizens of the worth of its aims.

### **Incentives**

This issue is linked with *Parity* and consideration may have to be given to achieving parity of salary among unit staff, regardless of the agency in which they would usually be employed. Bonus or 'top-up' salary payments are worthy of consideration to recognize the specialized duties that will be undertaken, as are allowances for field operations, etc. These should also take account of the hazardous duties that the unit may engage in. Salaries commensurate with the work undertaken ought to also encourage resistance to corruption. Adequate insurance for staff should be regarded as essential.

### **Discipline**

The unit should be expected to maintain the highest standards of discipline. If a multi-agency approach is employed, the personal and professional conduct standards that are the most stringent should be adopted as the 'norm'. Any deviance from the standards should result in a rigorous response, with expulsion of the offender from the unit being encouraged in serious cases.

## **Secondments**

Aside from the 'core' members of the unit, the concept of short- and mid-term secondments from as wide a variety of enforcement agencies as possible should be encouraged to promote inter-agency cooperation, supplement numbers in the unit and spread knowledge and experience. Secondments to the unit can provide excellent training opportunities for personnel from various agencies and also provide useful insights for unit members to the work of others.

## **Informant network**

The unit should be encouraged to develop a network of informants as a priority task and this can be facilitated by means of reward schemes and confidential information 'hotlines' to allow the supply of information.

## **Cooperation and coordination**

The unit should, ideally, act as a central repository of intelligence regarding wildlife crime and illicit trade. Every effort should be made to avoid duplication of effort among enforcement agencies and eliminate opportunities for informants to supply, and be rewarded for, the same intelligence to a variety of agencies.

If the unit itself does not investigate cases from beginning to prosecution, it should have a role to maintain an overview of serious cases of wildlife crime and provide assistance and guidance whenever appropriate.

The unit should be responsible for liaison on wildlife matters with appropriate regional and international law enforcement agencies and other relevant organizations, such as ICPO-Interpol, the World Customs Organization and the CITES Secretariat. This should include the preparation and submission of ECOMESSAGES at the international level.

Any information received by the unit that relates to activities outside its remit, e.g. narcotics, trafficking in firearms, illegal immigration, etc., should be passed to the relevant agency as soon as possible and without hesitation. Such action should encourage reciprocal approaches.

## **Prosecution**

Where a prosecutor is not included in the unit, every effort should be made to establish the closest working relationship possible with prosecution authorities. Raising of awareness in such authorities should be given priority and their support to the unit should be established. The unit may well be able to provide training for prosecutors. Case reporting and evidential requirement standards should be established. Prosecutors can also assist in identifying priorities and targets for the unit.

## **Judiciary**

Whilst the relationship between the unit and a country's judiciary should be maintained at an appropriate distance, it is very important that the unit raises awareness among the judiciary of wildlife crime and promotes their participation in appropriate sentencing and deterrent responses. The unit should also seek information and feedback from the judiciary on relevant decisions and issues that have arisen in civil and criminal cases and any problems with evidence or the manner in which investigations have been conducted.

## **NGO assistance**

Taking into account the comments above with regard to funding, the unit should be encouraged to establish close but appropriate links with national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Their importance as sources of information and expert advice and assistance must be recognized. It is essential, however, that their role should be restricted to support of the unit and that NGOs should not be allowed to engage in any operational activity without the agreement of the unit and prosecution authorities.

NGOs ought not to be allowed to undertake activities that rest more properly with government agencies, i.e. covert operations or the maintenance of databases on crime and criminals.

NGOs should be encouraged to discuss with the unit any research or trade surveys that might involve a covert element; if for no other reason than this will prevent NGOs accidentally intruding into the unit's own 'undercover' activities.

## CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN TIGERS AND OTHER APPENDIX-I ASIAN BIG CAT SPECIES

*Report submitted by CITES Management Authority of Thailand for the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16)*<sup>13</sup>

To comply with Resolution Conf. 12.5, Thailand has taken various steps on implementing conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-1 Asian big cat including research, population sustainable conservation and management, public awareness, and related law enforcement.

### 1. The status of tigers in Thailand

The total population of tigers is estimated in Thailand at 189-252 tiger found in 25 terrestrial protected areas in 10 of recognized terrestrial forest complexes. One forest complexes has a core area with a high tiger density (Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary), and the population estimate at 59-77 tigers.

### 2. Conservation

#### 2.1 Political will

The Cabinet approved Thailand Tiger Action Plan 2012-2022 in year 2012. At present, Thailand is carrying out the second period of 5 year goals comprised of the following four goals:

- 1) Effective management systems in place in the Tenasserim-WEFCOM and Dong phayayen-Khao Yai Forest complex landscapes.
- 2) Key tiger threats in the priority landscape show a clear decline.
- 3) Important tiger ecology (e.g., home-range variation) in the priority landscapes very well understood and used to guide management.
- 4) Tiger populations stabilized or increased in Tenasserim- WEFCOM and Dong phayayen-Khao Yai Forest complex landscapes and possibility for re-establishing in other areas explored.

#### 2.2 Research program

Research is prioritized to recover wild tiger population in the Greater Tenasserim where is the most important habitat for tigers in Thailand. The intensive monitoring covers following research areas program:

- Camera trapping for annual population estimates, ecology and distribution in forest complex.
- Prey research and monitoring using appropriate techniques.
- Landscape species occupancy monitoring at the landscape scale for tiger and prey distribution and relative abundance in the landscape.
- Establishing the regional tiger conservation and research center in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary for exchange training with Southeast Asian countries.

#### 2.3 Captive-breeding program

There are 27 Public Zoos which have been granted possessing and breeding permit the two Asian big cats species (*Panthera tigris* and *P. pardus*) with altogether 1,174 heads. Captive-bred tigers are

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<sup>13</sup> *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

prohibited from commercial uses. Breeding operation is under strict monitoring measures. Changes of tiger number (e.g. birth, death, transferring) in any breeding operation must be reported to DNP for investigation. All captive-bred tigers required permanent individual marking. DNP is developing a database on individual stripe-marking of captive-bred tigers, in addition to implanting microchip as usual practice. The database intended to serve as important tool for future enforcement activities.

### 3. Trade controls

#### 3.1 Laws

The Asian big cats in Thailand are protected species under the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act (WARPA) B.E.2535 (A.D.1992), hunting, possessing, or trading in these species are prohibited, except for scientific purposes.

#### 3.2 Enforcement

According to statistics from 2011 until October 2012, DNP in close cooperation with other enforcement agencies (Police and Customs) intercepted 14 cases of Asian big cat trafficking as shown in the following table.

*Table: Details of significant seizure of tigers and other big cats.*

Seizure year	species	Description	Number	Weight (kg.)	Seizure location
23/2/2011	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	live	6	-	Sa Kaeo
13/5/2011	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	live	2	-	Bangkok
13/5/2011	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	live	2	-	Bangkok
21/7/2011	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	live	1	-	Chaiyapum
20/8/2011	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	carcasses	1	-	Nong-Khai
5/2/2012	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	3	200	Bangkok
6/2/2012	<i>Felidae spp.</i>	carcasses	-	18	Bangkok
16/2/2012	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	live	1	-	Suratthani
8/3/2012	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	live	5	-	Saraburi
4/4/2012	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	live	2	-	Chaiyapum
16/5/2012	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	1	-	Bangkok
	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	1	-	Bangkok
	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	1	-	Bangkok
	<i>Panthera pardus</i>		1	-	Bangkok
10/09/12	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	live	6	-	Phatumtani
12/09/12	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	live	3	-	Ang Thong
13/09/12	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	live	8	-	Ayutthaya