



The roar of the tiger

**A compilation of the
in-session documents,
information documents and
interventions at the CITES
CoP14 on Agenda Document
CoP14 Doc 52 'Asian Big Cats'**

The Tiger Debate at CoP 14

Compiled by TRAFFIC-India
June 2007



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and interventions at the CITES CoP14 on Agenda Document
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TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



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**Compiled by TRAFFIC-India
June 2007**

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Design and Layout: Rahul Dutta

Preface

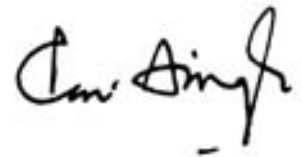
The appeal of the tiger as a conservation icon spreads far and wide globally. As our national animal, it also occupies centre stage in conservation in India.

CITES as the most significant international convention on wildlife trade, recently witnessed a landmark debate on tiger conservation at the 14th Conference of Parties, held in The Hague, The Netherlands from 3-15 June 2007. WWF and TRAFFIC were present at this important meeting and made a valuable contribution in providing scientific inputs for informed decision making by parties.

The tiger debate and consequent decisions not only showcases the level of international support for the tiger, it also places added responsibility for us in India, as the largest range state, to renew and revitalize our efforts to save the tiger in the wild.

This document chronicles this important debate on the future of the tiger. I am sure it will be of interest to policy makers, conservationists and all who hold the cause of conservation in general and the tiger in particular, dear to them.

I am also sure that the responsibility reposed in us will translate into greater coordinated field efforts to conserve wild tigers in India.



Ravi Singh
Secretary General & CEO
WWF-India

Introduction

Tigers and Asian big cats were at the centre stage of an important debate at the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties of the CITES at the Hague, The Netherlands. Led by India and other range states like Nepal, China, Bhutan and Russia, the 14th CoP was able to garner strong support for conservation of tigers in the wild.

After the 14th CITES CoP in The Hague, there was naturally a lot of interest in India on the tiger issue, and consequently several versions of the entire debate, unfortunately some of them inaccurate, being discussed. Given the significance of the debate and its long-term implications for tiger conservation, this compilation attempts to put together the in-session documents, information documents, interventions and other relevant documents of the debate around the Agenda Document CoP14 Doc 52 'Asian Big Cats'. As such, the statements made by various countries such as India, Nepal, Bhutan and China on the floor gather significance. One of the key messages to emerge on this important international forum was that "Tigers should not be bred for their parts or derivatives."

Given the significance of the debate and its long term implications for tiger conservation, this compilation attempts to put together the decisions and other relevant documents of this debate. While the summary records and the resolutions are excerpted from the official record of CITES, the interventions of various countries have been compiled from various sources including unofficial transcripts.

We are hopeful that this document will provide a useful insight into the international dimensions of tiger conservation.



Samir Sinha
Head, TRAFFIC-India

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Background

From 3-15 June 2007, the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (CoP14) took place in The Hague, Netherlands.

Naturally there was a great deal of interest in India and elsewhere on discussions that had taken place regarding conservation of Tigers. Several differing versions of this debate appeared in the media. For example, some reports believed China had moved a resolution asking for a removal of the 1993 ban on trade in Tiger parts; newspaper headlines appeared claiming CITES had rejected China's proposal to lift the ban, others claimed India had won a battle with China to save the Tiger.

This document attempts to put the record straight, by providing a clear, accurate and comprehensive account of all the discussions that took place regarding Tigers at CoP14.

Whilst every attempt has been made to represent all the views expressed at CoP14, it does not constitute an official record of the event. This will appear in due course on www.cites.org

Chronology of key events

13 February 07

- The CITES Secretariat publishes document CoP14 Doc.52

12 June 07

Morning Session: 0910 hrs-1215 hrs

Committee II:

- The Secretariat introduces document CoP 14 Doc. 52. The document and its annexures are noted.
- India takes the floor and informs that the Doc. Cop 14 Inf. 50, jointly proposed by India, China, Nepal and the Russian Federation provides Draft Decision regarding this agenda item. The Chairman asks these to be translated and put before the house at a later session

13 June 07

Morning Session: 0910 hrs-1215 hrs

- India takes the floor and endorses the Secretariat's recommendations. In its intervention, it urges that "Open sale of tiger body parts through farmed specimens is detrimental to the survival of an umbrella species like tiger, which is symbolic of the well being of an ecosystem. Therefore we strongly urge the Parties to desist from the idea of captive breeding of tigers, and phase out all such programs in the interest of wild tigers." It urges China to phase out Tiger farms and maintain their domestic ban. (See Annexure IV of this document)
- China takes the floor to refute the Secretariat's earlier statements regarding sale of tiger meat from one of its farms. It also states its intention to maintain their present domestic ban unless a policy review demonstrates that lifting the ban would provide benefits for wild tiger populations. (See Annexure V of this document)
- Bhutan expresses support for the document Cop 14 Doc 52 and the draft decisions and suggests some changes in the wording. (See Annexure VI of this document)
- Cambodia as a range state expresses their support for the recommendations in CoP 14 Doc. 52 and the draft decisions as introduced by India.
- Nepal, as Chair of the Global Tiger Forum recalls the International Tiger Symposium held in April 2007 and calls for restricting captive tiger populations to levels supportive only of conserving wild tigers. (See Annexure VII of this document)
- The Russian federation supports the amendments moved by Bhutan
- Indonesia, as a range state, welcomes the amendments as moved by Bhutan and the Russian federation.
- Thailand states their "in principle" agreement to the original draft decisions.
- Swaziland says it does not believe captive breeding of tigers has a conservation purpose.
- The US supports amendments moved by Bhutan and proposes additional text to be added to the draft decisions.
- The Chairman suggests that the US should discuss this with other parties during lunch

Afternoon Session: 1400 hrs-1700 hrs

- Kenya expresses support of views of Swaziland
- Malawi also expresses support of the same
- Germany, on behalf of the EU, expresses serious concern on the perilous conservation status of Asian big cats. They endorse draft decisions but say that they cannot endorse draft decision proposed by the US with respect to intensive breeding as this could include animals bred within the EU for zoological purposes
- Following discussions with the proponent of the draft decisions, the US revises proposed text for the fourth and fifth draft decisions. This now specifically asks parties breeding tigers on a commercial scale to restrict these to levels supporting wild tigers. It also asks parties that Tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives.

- India supports the revised draft decisions.
- China also supports the draft decisions but stresses that CITES is a mechanism to control only international trade and thus the word “international” be introduced before trade in the fourth draft decision.
- Germany, on behalf of the EU disagrees with China. It proposes that in the fourth draft decision, “parties” be replaced by “Range states”
- The Russian Federation, India, Nepal and Thailand oppose this amendment proposed by Germany on behalf of the EU.
- IUCN supports the draft decisions
- The Global Tiger Forum expresses concerns about declining tiger populations.
- WWF on behalf of the International Tiger Coalition, also shares these concerns
- The Wildlife Trust of India also raises concerns about declining tiger populations and draws attention to emerging illicit trade in Asian lion bone.
- The Traditional Chinese Medicine Association of China and the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine stress that effective alternative to tiger derivatives were being embraced by TCM practitioners globally.
- Voting Called for.
- Germany’s proposed amendment to replace “parties” with “range states” secured 42 votes in favour, 29 against with 5 abstentions. Not being able to secure a two third majority, it is thus rejected.
- China’s proposal to include the word “international” before trade, secured 19 votes in favour, 47 against with 11 abstentions. It is thus rejected.
- CoP14 Doc. 52 is noted.
- Agreement and approval of all decisions in document Comm II. 19, as amended, including amendments by Bhutan.
- China expresses regret that CITES has diverged from its remit on international trade.

14 June 07

Fourth plenary Session: 1400 hrs-1700 hrs

- Committee II notes that the report in document Cop 14 Doc. 52 and discussions have led to a series of draft decisions as contained in Document CoP14 Comm. II. 19.
- This is adopted
- China voices its dissatisfaction stating that they do not intend to change their current national policy and that the decision of the parties is not based on scientific information.

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

Summary record of the 11th session of Committee II

12 June 2007: 09h10-12h15

Chairman: C.S. Cheung (China)

Secretariat: J. Barzdo
J. Sellar
S. Nash
M. Silva
M. Yeater

Rapporteurs: P. De Angelis
J. Gray
T. Inskipp
R. Mackenzie

52. Asian big cats

The Secretariat introduced document CoP14 Doc. 52, focusing on big cat issues throughout Asia. It requested that the Committee endorse the recommendations, note the report, and note the recommendations in document CoP14 Doc. 52 Annex 7. The document and its Annexes were noted.

India informed the Committee that document CoP14 Inf. 50, written by China, India, Nepal and the Russian Federation, provided draft decisions regarding this item. The Chairman asked for these to be translated for discussion by the Committee at later session.

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.

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

Summary record of the 13th session of Committee II

13 June 2007: 09h10-12h15

Chairman: C.S. Cheung (China)

Secretariat: J. Barzdo
J. Sellar
J.C. Vasquez
M. Yeater

Rapporteurs: J. Caldwell
J. Gray
J. Hepp
W. Jackson

52. Asian big cats (continued)

India endorsed the Secretariat's recommendations in Annex 7 of document CoP14 Doc. 52. They stated that enforcement was crucial for the survival of Asian big cats and highlighted their efforts to enhance national legislation and strengthen anti-poaching patrols. They appealed to China to phase out tiger farms, consolidate stockpiles of tiger bones and maintain their ban on domestic trade ban of tiger bones. They introduced their draft decisions in document Com. II. 9 and noted their appreciation for conservation efforts undertaken by other tiger range States, especially China's efforts to regulate internal trade.

China stated their intention to maintain the voluntary 1993 ban on domestic trade unless a policy review otherwise demonstrated that lifting the ban would provide positive benefits for wild tiger populations. They drew attention to a fact sheet disseminated at the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee and the International Tiger Symposium and in their national report on implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5. They also noted plans to convene a tiger conservation workshop in July 2007, postponed from May at the request of a coalition of non-governmental organizations. They called attention to increased collaboration on enforcement, highlighted public education efforts and stated that they were considering an amnesty for pre-Convention products. They also raised questions related to an investigation into allegations of tiger meat sales that had been discussed at the International Tiger Symposium recently in Nepal. They also detailed their efforts to contact the reporter who originally raised these allegations. China stated that they had distributed further information related to this subject to Parties via the document distribution area.

Bhutan expressed support for document CoP14 Doc. 52, and suggested amendments to the text of the draft decisions contained in document CoP14 Com. II. 19. In the draft decisions directed to the Parties, they proposed: replacing "should" with shall in the first and fourth decisions; and, in the second decision, replacing the first "should" with shall, and the second "should" with are invited to. In the draft decisions directed to the Secretariat, Bhutan proposed: replacing the phrase "(building on recent scientific work, including the 2006 Tiger Conservation Landscape Assessment)" with and other relevant organizations in the first decision; inserting and in consultation with tiger range States after "Experts Group" in the third decision; and replacing the second decision with: *The CITES Secretariat, in consultation with Parties having or seeking to have specialized wildlife crime units, shall provide technical assistance and assist with the identification of additional opportunities for technical and financial support.*

Bhutan outlined various tiger protection and conservation initiatives underway in the country, such as the designation of protected areas based on tiger habitat and the creation of corridors to link habitat fragments. They warned that poaching, poor law enforcement, and demand for traditional medicines had caused the tiger population to dwindle. They informed delegates that a population survey using camera trapping techniques was underway, and that the government had established a programme to compensate people for losses due to human-wildlife conflicts.

Cambodia, as a tiger range State, noted their support for the recommendations in CoP14 Doc. 52 and supported the draft decisions as introduced by India.

Nepal, as Chairman of the Global Tiger Forum, highlighted the International Tiger Symposium held in April 2007 in Kathmandu, noting that habitat fragmentation, decline of the prey base, illegal trade, and human-tiger conflict had been identified as primary threats. They encouraged Parties to improve the implementation of regional enforcement networks, and called for restricting captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. They invited interested Parties to join the Global Tiger Forum.

The Russian Federation supported the amendments suggested by Bhutan, noting that some had been discussed in the Working Group, and expressing surprise that they were not reflected in the document. They then outlined tiger conservation activities in their country, noting: the creation of a special inspection team for tigers in 1994; increased penalties for poaching; establishment of a national park that included tiger habitat; and work on establishing a trans-frontier protection area.

Indonesia, also as a range State, welcomed the amendments as proposed by Bhutan and the Russian Federation and highlighted tiger conservation efforts, which included establishing a tiger protection unit in Sumatra, the formation of a tiger action plan and a nationwide conservation campaign.

Thailand, as another tiger range State, called attention to domestic management and conservation efforts and particularly pointed to the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network as a way to provide capacity to enforce CITES, particularly for tigers and Asian big cats. They thanked China for the CoP14 Com. II Rep. 13 p. 4 invitation to attend the July workshop and also stated their support, in principle, for the original draft decisions.

Swaziland did not believe captive breeding of tigers had a conservation purpose and warned that the practice might result in confusion for enforcement officials because it was difficult to differentiate between wild-caught and captive-bred specimens.

The United States also supported the amendments proposed by Bhutan, and called for the development of new approaches to address tiger issues. They expressed concern regarding domestic pressure within China to re-open the tiger trade, and warned that any trade in captive-bred specimens would result in more poaching and illegal trade. They advocated strengthening enforcement efforts in range States, and proposed additional text for document CoP14 Com. II. 19.

They suggested replacing the fourth draft decision directed to the Parties with: *Parties with intensive tiger breeding operations on a commercial scale shall implement measures to restrict the captive populations to those that have the potential to contribute to internationally-recognized breeding conservation programmes;*

tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives.

They also suggested adding a fifth draft decision directed to the Parties as follows: *All Parties evaluating their domestic tiger trade control policies shall take into consideration the view of the Parties as expressed in Resolution Conf. 12.5 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, 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.*

The Chairman suggested that the United States discuss these paragraphs with other Parties during the lunch break, hoping for consensus at the next session.

The Chairman closed the session at 12h15.

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

Summary record of the 14th session of Committee II

13 June 2007: 14h00-17h00

Chairman: C.S. Cheung (China)

Secretariat: W. Wijnstekers
J. Barzdo
M. Jankowska
J. Sellar

Rapporteurs: J. Boddens Hosang
P. De Angelis
R. Machenzie
C. McLardy

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

52. Asian big cats (continued)

Kenya and Malawi wished to associate themselves with the views of Swaziland expressed in the previous session.

Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, expressed serious concern regarding the perilous conservation status of Asian big cats. Acknowledging that the tiger was facing a greater-than-ever risk of extinction, they regarded enforcement to be the key challenge facing range States. They endorsed the draft decisions in document CoP14 Com II. 19, but could not support the draft decision proposed by the United States of America in relation to "intensive breeding", as they felt this definition was unclear and could arguably include animals bred within the European Community for zoological purposes. They added that the Standing Committee should review progress made to combat illegal trade in tiger parts and derivatives at its 57th meeting and report at CoP15.

Following consultation with the proponents of document CoP14 Com II. 19, the United States revised their proposed text for the fourth draft decision directed to the Parties, to read:

14.XX Parties with intensive ~~tiger breeding~~ operations breeding tigers n a commercial scale shall

implement measures to restrict the captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers; ~~to these that have the potential to contribute to internationally recognized breeding conservation programmes~~; tiger should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives.

They proposal to amend the fifth draft decision directed to the Parties and incorporate it into the above-mentioned draft decision, to read: "All Parties especially those evaluating their domestic tiger trade control policies shall take into consideration the view of the Parties as expressed in Resolution Conf. 12.5."

India supported the revised draft decisions, as did China. However, China stressed that CITES is a mechanism to control only international trade rather than domestic trade, and proposed the addition of the word international before "trade" in the fourth draft decision.

Germany, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, supported by the United States, disagreed with China's proposed amendment, and suggested that in the fourth draft decision "Parties" be replaced by Range States. The Russian Federation, India, Nepal and Thailand could not support this amendment, noting the draft decision to restrict commercial breeding of tigers would not apply to non-range States.

IUCN-The World Conservation Union supported the draft decisions proposed by range States with the amendments proposed by the United States, and offered to facilitate the proposed workshop to agree on a global conservation strategy for tigers, subject to funding.

The Global Tiger Forum and WWF, speaking also on behalf of the International Tiger Coalition, shared concerns regarding declining tiger populations and current conservation efforts as did the Wildlife Trust of India, which also drew attention to the emerging illicit trade in Asian lion bone. The Traditional Chinese Medicine Association of China and the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine did not see cultural heritage as being incompatible with endangered species conservation, and stressed that effective alternatives were being embraced by reputable Traditional Chinese Medicine traders globally. The China Wildlife Conservation Association noted the importance of public education in China on the need for tiger conservation.

The Chairman asked Parties to vote on the proposed amendments to the draft decisions in document CoP14 Com. II. 19. With regard to the amendment to replace "Parties" with range States, the vote was 42 in favour, 29 against and five abstentions (vote 1). The proposed amendment was thus rejected.

On the inclusion of the word international before "trade", the vote was 19 in favour, 47 against and 11 abstentions (vote 2). The proposed amendment was thus rejected and document CoP14 Doc. 52 was noted.

The Chairman asked for agreement on all the decisions in document Com. II. 19, as amended, including the amendment of Bhutan. These were approved.

At the request of several Parties, the results of votes were displayed on the screen confirming that the keypads were functioning. China expressed their regret that CITES had diverged from its international trade remit, and requested their view be formally noted. The Secretariat observed that the decisions accepted by the Committee would have important financial implications for the Convention, and substantial external funding would be needed to be sought.

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

Committee II

Asian big cats

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of document CoP14 Com. II. 19, approved as amended following discussion of document CoP14 Doc. 52 at the 11th, 13th and 14th sessions of Committee II.

Directed to the Parties

- 14.XX Asian big cat range States shall 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.
- 14.XX All Parties, especially those evaluating their domestic tiger trade control policies, shall take into consideration the view of the Parties as expressed in Resolution Conf. 12.5.
- 14.XX Asian big cat range States shall improve international cooperation in conservation and trade control through continual dialogue, and when convened, tiger range States are invited to participate in the tiger trade enforcement workshop and the conservation strategy workshop.
- 14.XX Parties are strongly encouraged to develop or improve implementation of regional enforcement networks.
- 14.XX 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 the Secretariat

- 14.XX 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) and other relevant organizations.

- 14.XX The CITES Secretariat in consultation with Parties having or those seeking to have specialized Wildlife crime units shall provide technical assistance and assist with the identification of additional opportunities for technical and financial support.
- 14.XX The CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force shall, in conjunction with the CITES Enforcement Experts Group and in consultation with tiger range States, establish a mechanism to regularly monitor and evaluate the scale and nature of illegal trade in Asian big cats.

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

Summary record of the fourth plenary session

14 June 2007: 14h00-17h00

Chairman: G. Verburg (the Netherlands)

Vice Chairman: A. van de Zande (the Netherlands)

Chairman Committee I: G. Leach (Australia)

Chairman Committee II: C.S. Cheung (China)

Secretariat: W. Wijnstekers
J. Barzdo
M. Jankowska
D. Morgan

Rapporteurs: J. Boddens Hosang
P. De Angelis
W. Jackson
C. McLardy

The Chairman congratulated delegates for their excellent work over the preceding days.

52. Asian big cats

Committee II had noted the report in document CoP14 Doc. 52 and discussions had resulted in document CoP14 Com. II. 19. Committee II had accepted the report of the Secretariat and approved a series of draft decisions, contained in document CoP14 Com. II. 33. This document was adopted.

China voiced their dissatisfaction, stating that their country acted responsibly with regard to the conservation of the tiger, and that captive breeding was successful. They did not intend to change the current national policy and stated that the decision taken by the Parties was not based on scientific information.

Annexure - I

Conf. 12.5 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 trade in skins from the tiger and other Asian big cat species appears to be escalating again, and that this trend could 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 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 from them 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, including the enforcement training course conducted in India, but 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;

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;

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;
- d) those Parties and non-Parties in whose territory 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;
- e) those Parties and non-Parties in whose countries 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;
- f) 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 and the Snow Leopard Network; and
- g) 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;

RECOMMENDS that:

- a) the CITES Secretariat expand the remit of the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force to include all Asian big cat species;
- B) 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;
- c) 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;
- d) all range and consumer States take measures to increase awareness of wildlife crime and illicit wildlife trade among their enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities;

- e) 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;
- f) 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
- g) 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) 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
- b) 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 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.

Annexure II

CoP14 Doc. 52

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

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

ASIAN BIG CATS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, June – July 2005), the United States of America submitted document SC53 Doc. 17, expressing concern regarding illicit trade in tigers. The Committee requested Asian big cat range States to submit reports on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 and deferred further discussion on this subject to its 54th meeting.
3. At its 54th meeting (Geneva, October 2006), the Standing Committee considered the report of the Secretariat, in document SC54 Doc. 25.1, in which it was recorded that only nine of the 21 range States had submitted reports. The United States also submitted document SC54 Doc. 25.2, in which it made a number of suggestions for consideration by the Committee.
4. In their documents, the United States and the Secretariat expressed their concerns regarding the drop in numbers of tigers in the wild and the continuing high levels of illicit trade in specimens of the species. The Secretariat recommended that a high-level summit be convened with a view to addressing the situation. For its part, the United States suggested that the progress of range States in implementing Resolution Conf. 12.5 should be assessed, that trade suspensions should be considered if inadequate progress was being made and that diplomatic missions involving the Secretary-General of CITES should be considered. Both documents questioned whether sufficient political will and law enforcement priority was being given to the conservation of the species.
5. During discussions on this subject, China and India (both tiger range States) made interventions in which their delegates denied emphatically any lack of political will with regard to tiger conservation in their countries and assured the Committee that enforcement work was being conducted to combat poaching and illicit trade. Neither country supported the proposal of a high-level summit and the Secretariat did not pursue this recommendation.
6. The Committee was unable to reach agreement on how this matter should be pursued and the subject was

deferred to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14). At the same time, the Committee again called for range States to submit reports on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5, so that the need for additional measures may be considered by CoP14. The Committee asked the Secretariat to consider, if funds were available, providing technical assistance to range States prior to CoP14.

7. At the time of writing (January 2007), Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam had submitted reports. Reports that are received from range States will be attached to this documents as annexes. By January 2007, the Secretariat had been unable to undertake any CoP14 Doc. 52 – p. 2 technical assistance work and does not believe it will have the capacity or funding to do so before CoP14.
8. The Standing Committee also encouraged the United States and the Secretariat to submit a document for CoP14, suggesting measures to be taken. Since SC54, the Secretariat and the CITES Management Authority of the United States have had discussions on this issue. The United States indicated that it preferred the Secretariat to submit a document on its own and, therefore, this document is solely the work of the Secretariat.

Asian big cats and CITES

9. The tiger has been a 'flagship species' of conservation for several decades. However, for all the attention that has been paid to this species, and the considerable sums of money that have been expended to safeguard its future, wild populations of the species are probably at greater risk of extinction today than ever before.
10. The CITES community has been aware of the plight of the tiger for many years and has attempted to address this in a variety of ways. In 1993, the Standing Committee undertook a combination of technical and political missions to a limited number of tiger range and consumer States. This led to China, in particular, prohibiting the domestic use of tiger parts and derivatives.
11. In 1999, the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to organize further technical missions. Consequently, a technical mission team, consisting of the CITES Secretariat, law enforcement officials and TRAFFIC staff members, visited 14 tiger range and consumer States. Subsequently, Secretariat staff, either alone or in conjunction with enforcement officers and TRAFFIC, have visited other range States. In total, the Secretariat has visited 12 of the 14 countries where tigers are believed to still be present in the wild.
12. The CITES Tiger Missions of 1999 identified a number of issues that it suggested should be addressed by range States, consumer States and the international community. It is worth noting that the team also expressed concerns regarding criminal activities in relation to leopard populations in Asia and commented that it felt insufficient attention was being paid to this species. This observation seemed to go unnoticed at the time but has since proved to be very valid. Indeed, at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Santiago, 2002), the existing Resolution related to tigers was extended to all Appendix-I Asian big cat species.
13. The activities of the CITES Tiger Missions Technical Team were supplemented by political missions in 2000. These were conducted in China, India and Japan. 14. The technical missions, and also to an extent the political missions, considered alternative approaches to the total prohibition of international and domestic trade in tigers. It was noted that hunting could potentially raise considerable sums of money for tiger conservation but the technical team was of the opinion that wildlife law enforcement in several tiger range States was not sufficiently adequate to provide the strict regulation that would be necessary if this were to be adopted.
15. The technical team and political missions also considered the trade in tiger parts and derivatives from captive-breeding operations. This was also excluded for a number of reasons, including: doubts as to whether there was sufficient information available to assess the demand for products derived from the species; whether there was sufficient captive-breeding to meet demand; whether captive breeding of

tigers would be financially viable; concerns that captive-breeding operations might be used to 'launder' animals taken illegally from the wild; and concern that any legal trade in tiger and parts and derivatives thereof would motivate poaching of wild tigers, whose numbers were already worryingly low. However, what both the technical and political missions team regarded as being of almost primary importance was the fact that the international community, and many countries acting on their own, had spent considerable resources in education campaigns to discourage the traditional medicine community and consumers from using products containing Appendix-I species, especially the tiger. Both teams felt that to reverse this approach would send conflicting messages to consumers and others. The teams also noted comments made by persons in the traditional medicine community that the use of tiger in medicines was not essential and that several alternatives existed.

16. At its 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee (Lisbon, September – October 1999), considered the report of the Tiger Missions Technical Team and endorsed its recommendations. At its 11th meeting, the Conference of the Parties (Gigiri, 2000) noted the report of the political missions. In that report, the team raised concerns regarding the adequacy of work being conducted in India but the Conference did not decide that any additional measures were necessary. The Conference did, however, endorse the recommendation that a CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force should be established and this group has met twice subsequently.
17. A major two-week training event, convened under the auspices of the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force, was held at the National Police Academy of India in May 2002 and provided law enforcement training to 28 officials from 12 tiger range States.
18. Since that time, the Secretariat has continued to monitor illicit trade in tigers (and other Asian big cats) and has provided assistance wherever possible.
19. It will be seen that the Convention and its bodies have given considerable attention to this species but it appears that the solution to reversing the decline in its numbers in the wild has yet to be identified. There are, of course, several issues affecting Asian big cats, such as socio-economic problems, habitat loss and conflict between big cats and humans and livestock that are largely outside the remit of CITES. Indeed, as is the case for many Appendix-I species, the most significant role for the Convention is in combating and preventing illicit trade.
20. Several countries have achieved success by using well-equipped and properly trained specialized units to combat poaching and illegal trade, supported by prompt prosecutions and adequate penalties imposed by courts. One excellent example has been the Inspection Tiger Brigades that operate in the Far-East of the Russian Federation. Although the level of penalties available to courts in that area appear limited and there have recently been concerns expressed regarding possible cuts in funding and other support for the Brigades it does seem that tiger numbers in this part of the world are no longer decreasing. It should be acknowledged, however, that the potential for conflict between tigers and humans and livestock appears to be less in the Russian Federation than in many other range States.
21. The Secretariat has no grounds to suggest that any tiger range State is ignoring poaching or illicit trade. It must also be recognized that these are both highly clandestine criminal activities and that many range States have large areas of land that are difficult to patrol and long borders that can make smuggling difficult to detect or prevent. It does believe, however, that two important range States give cause for concern and this is addressed in the following sections.

China

22. At SC54, in document SC54 Doc. 38 (Enforcement matters), the Secretariat described its communications in terms of Article XIII of the Convention with the CITES Management Authority of China. This related to what appeared to be significant levels of illicit trade in specimens of Asian big cats, particularly in the Tibet Autonomous Region and neighbouring provinces.

23. The Standing Committee agreed that China should submit a report to the Secretariat, by 31 January 2007, on its efforts to combat the illicit trade in Appendix-I Asian big cat species. China should also report upon any existing or intended domestic use of Asian big cat parts and derivatives. The Secretariat, should, thereafter, conduct a verification mission to assess the results of China's enforcement work and report at CoP14 on this subject. The Standing Committee recommended that the Conference of the Parties review the reports of China and the Secretariat and decide whether additional measures, including non-compliance measures, are necessary. The Secretariat will report orally at CoP14 on this issue.

India

24. Both the technical and political mission teams, in 1999 and 2000, expressed concern regarding a lack of coordination in India's wildlife law enforcement efforts and recommended the creation of a specialized central wildlife crime unit. In 1994, a committee, chaired by a senior police officer, and established by the Central Government of India had made exactly the same recommendation. Throughout the early 2000s, India assured both the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee that such a unit was to be established.

25. In 2005, a task force established by the Prime Minister of India to review tiger conservation also called for the establishment of such a unit and the Prime Minister instructed that such a body should be created urgently.

26. At the time of writing, the Secretariat understood that formal approval had been given by the Government of India for the establishment of a central wildlife crime bureau but that it had still not come into operation.

27. The Secretariat believes that the continued absence of a central coordination of efforts in India to combat the poaching of and illegal trade in Asian big cats is a matter of concern. It presumes India will report on this issue in its national report relating to implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5 and believes the Conference of the Parties should take careful note of whether progress has been made.

Conclusion

28. Since, at the time of writing, so few range States had submitted reports on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.5, the Secretariat finds it difficult to offer suggestions regarding either general or country-specific measures that the Conference might consider to improve the conservation of Asian big cats and reduce illicit trade in specimens of these species.

29. Saying that proper implementation of the Convention is essentially what is required may be somewhat simplistic but it is also accurate. Experience shows that political will to provide the resources needed, combined with law enforcement priority in range and consumer States, is effective. Experience also tends to show that calling upon States to repeatedly submit reports has not proved particularly useful. The CITES community is generally very effective in identifying where specific problems lie.

30. With reference to the provision of technical assistance, the Secretariat would welcome suggestions, especially from range States, as to what form this should take. The major training event held for tiger range States in 2002 appeared to be successful. However, it was very time-consuming upon Secretariat resources and also very expensive to organize (almost USD 100,000). The Secretariat is aware that many officials benefited from the training and knows that some were able to put the skills learned into action. It is conscious, however, that there is little use in providing such capacity building if those involved will not be provided with the opportunity or support to use skills, and share their knowledge, when they return to their home countries. This seems to have been the case for some who attended the training event and others like it.

31. The Secretariat suggests, as was agreed previously by the Standing Committee, that it be left to bring to the attention of that Committee and the Conference of the Parties situations or cases that deserve attention. It encourages the wider CITES community, particularly civil society, to assist it in that task.

32. Unless the Conference can identify any new approach to the conservation of tiger and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species, the Secretariat, with regard to the role of CITES, sees little option other than for the Parties to renew their efforts to eliminate illicit trade in specimens of these species. In doing so, the Parties (especially range States) will require the assistance of the international community and such efforts will need to be combined with actions related to habitat and prey loss and conflict between these species and humans and livestock.

Annexure III

CoP14 Inf. 19 – p. 1

CoP14 Inf. 19

(English only / únicamente en inglés / seulement en anglais)

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
TIGER UPDATE BY GLOBAL TIGER FORUM (GTF) – MAY 2007

The attached information document has been prepared by the Global Tiger Forum and is submitted by the CITES Secretariat.

TIGER UPDATE BY GLOBAL TIGER FORUM (GTF) – MAY 2007
(including the outcome of International Tiger Symposium, organized by
GTF at Kathmandu, Nepal, between 16th to 18th April 2007)

An International Tiger Symposium was organized by Global Tiger Forum with the support of the host country Nepal in the 3rd week of April 2007, to make an assessment of the tiger conservation scenario in the wild world over. The meeting was attended by 40 national delegates coming from 12 tiger range countries, 30 International NGOs and 30 National NGOs.

The Symposium took stock of the global tiger conservation on seven major issues and observed that:

- There is an overall declining trend in the wild tiger population, with only 4 countries reporting stable tiger population and one with peripheral increase. North Korea may still have some visiting tigers, but there is no confirmed evidence of the presence of South-China tiger in the wild.
- Shrinkage and quality degradation of habitat still remain as major threats to tiger with vanishing corridors and declining preybase in many countries, along with continuing threat of poaching and illegal trade.
- Effective documentation of poaching and illegal trade is still inadequate. Intracountry coordination on enforcement and inter-country understanding for regional cooperation are required to be improved.
- Tiger-human conflict is increasing in many States, especially where tiger population is stable, causing lack of public support for tiger conservation. Effective and quick mitigation measures are required to address the same.
- Updated (post 2000) prioritized and costed Tiger Action Plan is still not in position in many countries, which is an urgent need.
- There is a need for some transboundary tiger conservation protocols/programmes and follow up action for existing protocols to enhance the conservation of shared tiger population along national borders.
- The Global Tiger Forum can play the unique role in addressing the multiple issues linked to wild tiger conservation including livelihood aspects of local population, to ensure the future of wild tiger world over.

It may be mentioned here that in the 1st General Assembly of GTF held at Dhaka, Bangladesh, in January 2000, the Forum identified four key issues effecting the future of tigers:

- a. the loss and degradation of habitat,
- b. the reduction of the prey base,
- c. poaching and illegal trade,
- d. reconciling human development needs and tiger conservation.

In the 2nd General Assembly of GTF held at New Delhi, India, in November 2001, the Forum adopted a Resolution GA.2.01.1-CONF: "Restrictions on captive breeding of tigers for commercial purposes", opposing any move to legitimize trade in captive bred specimens, parts and derivatives of tigers except those involving exchange, gifts or making available live specimens between institutions that are recognized by the World Zoo Organization. It also urged the CITES Standing Committee to fulfill decision 11.81, review and assess the quantum of illegal trade and position of stockpiles in all Range States and major consumer countries.

In the Hanoi Declaration adopted in the 3rd General Assembly of GTF held in November 2004 at Vietnam, it was observed that wild tigers all over the world are highly endangered. In spite of efforts by National Governments both individually and through multilateral agreements such as CITES and through organizations such as IUCN over the last 30 years, the tiger still remains highly threatened. Habitat degradation, declining preybase, ongoing international illegal trade in tiger, its parts and derivatives and lack of public support for conservation still remains as major issues threatening the future of tiger.

It will thus appear that all threats to tiger as identified in the earlier General Assemblies of GTF still remain valid.

While the CITES Secretariat has carried out significant review regarding tiger trade, but the exact quantum of illegal trade in tiger and position of stockpiles currently, is not forthcoming from all the Range States. It is expected that the 14th CoP of CITES will take stock of the implementation of the resolution of Conference 12.5 covering all the tiger Range States including the key consumer countries and would come out with suggestions regarding general and/or country specific measures to improve the conservation of Asian big cats including tiger, to reduce illicit trade of this species.

The recommendations of the International Tiger Symposium including gist of assessment on various topics under seven sessions are attached for information.

International Tiger Symposium: Recommendations

Introduction: All of these are matters arising from the International Tiger Symposium, 16-18 April 2008, Kathmandu, Nepal, under the auspices of the Global Tiger Forum, and hosted by the government of Nepal. These recommendations are prepared by the Chair of the Symposium, Dr Susan Lieberman (WWF International). Several recommendations are general, directed at tiger range states, non-range states, international NGOs, and other partners and stakeholders. Those recommendations that are specific to the Global Tiger Forum for action are in bold typeface. A summary of each session follows these recommendations. All presenters and participants were thanked and acknowledged for their excellent presentations, discussions, and contributions. The recommendations were submitted to the Symposium participants in a final session; no objections were raised to these recommendations, and it was agreed to forward them to the Global Tiger Forum.

Session I: Distribution and population of tigers in various countries, and trends

- **The GTF should recommend that methods of tiger estimation and presentation of results should be standardized—by the end of 2008 if possible.**
- It is important to standardize methods, but they must be adapted to different habitats, ecological conditions, and prerequisites of each range country. • Stratified monitoring with indicators sampled over an entire area and calibration areas with quantitative methods (e.g. camera trapping) are recommended.

Session II: Threats to tiger habitats, corridors, and prey base

- More stress is required to be given on protection and development of the habitat, and improvement of tigers' prey base
- In all tiger conservation work, there must be a balance between sustainable development, conservation, and protection, and due consideration of human livelihood issues.
- There must be good consideration of habitat fragmentation, and the management of habitat outside of protected areas.

Session III: Threats from poaching and illegal trade in tigers, and their parts and derivatives

- **GTF should establish an effective information sharing system for range countries and others concerned with tiger conservation to share up-to-date information on poaching and seizure cases, legal measures taken and on innovative approaches to tackle illegal trade.**
- **GTF should encourage tiger range states outside the ASEAN region to consider developing similar approaches to regional cooperation to those employed through ASEAN-WEN.**
- **GTF should seek funds, working with the CITES Secretariat, to convene a workshop of tiger range countries (particularly enforcement officers), and others with appropriate expertise, to share knowledge, resources, materials and skills related to enforcement of tiger trade controls.**
- **GTF should provide a formal response to China's request for input to its review of its current domestic trade policy.**

Session IV: Human/Tiger Conflict

- Human/tiger conflict is increasing, and mitigation plans are necessary to address the root causes
- Governments should implement integrated conflict mitigation strategies.
- If countries wish to use capture and translocation of problem tigers, that must be done with careful monitoring, planning, and tracking
- Voluntary relocation of human communities from core tiger habitat areas has been effective in some countries, and is encouraged when appropriate
- Compensation schemes should be simplified, and payments expedited
- **GTF should be asked to help countries explore alternative compensation and insurance schemes.**
- **GTF should be asked to assemble available reviews of various compensation and insurance schemes, to assist range states in their planning and implementation efforts.**

Session V: Updated and costed tiger action plans

- **Countries who have not updated and prioritized their costed tiger action plans are urged to do so, by the end of 2008 (GTF should work to assist them to do so).**
- Countries are asked to reconsider their action planning—and in particular to reconsider and update any plans that are more than 5 years old

Session VI: Trans-boundary Tiger Conservation Protocols and Programs

- It is very important that range states with trans-boundary tiger populations increase collaboration to jointly design and implement trans-boundary conservation plans.
- Range countries should share information about the nature of their signed bilateral or trilateral protocols and agreements.

- Trans-boundary conservation activities should be included in country action plans
- Any other potential areas for trans-boundary cooperation in the future should be explored.
- It is recommended that governments to harmonize the census period between range countries sharing a common border, in order to avoid duplication.

Session VII: Towards a global coalition between tiger range states, non-range states, NGOs, and donors

- Local, national, regional and global cooperation is essential if tigers are to be conserved.
- **GTF should work in partnership with other leading players (treaties, etc.) To promote tiger conservation via its unique role as champion of the tiger.**
- Long-term commitment is needed – sustained funding and expertise are needed to deliver benefits to local populations, tigers and their habitats; and local communities and livelihoods should always be fully considered
- Delivery of tiger conservation requires a proper scientific base upon which to build, and a stepped up, staged approach to achieve common goals;
- **GTF should work with the IUCN (SSC and Cat Specialist Group) to convene an international workshop to develop a global tiger conservation strategy in a participatory process, involving range countries and other stakeholders—non-range states, international and national NGOs, and local communities as appropriate and feasible.**

Session I: Distribution and population of tiger in various countries and trend thereof

Lead presentation: Dr Sybille Klenzendorf, WWF US: *Current tiger status and importance of regional cooperation.*
Session Chair: Dr Urs Breitenmoser, Chair, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group

Reports and comments by the range countries

Bangladesh: 1 population (Sundarbans), 440 tigers estimated in 2005 at a density of 14–17 km²/individual. Increasing trend.

Bhutan: No figures presented as no comprehensive assessment since 1998. Tiger observations at higher altitudes. Management interventions for the improvement of the carrying capacity for tiger populations are considered.

China: North China (*altaica*), 18–22; south-central China (*amoyensis*), no confirmed presence; Tibet Autonomous Region (*tigris*), 8–12; southern China (*corbetti*), 11–15; total 37–50. Improvement of habitat for tiger is very important, but difficult and expensive. Population decreasing.

India: 28 tiger reserves. Census 2001 revealed about 3750 tigers. Newest census (2006) included various methods, results will be published by end of 2007. Recent evaluation included tiger habitat assessment for all reserves. Tiger populations in some increasing, in some stable and in some decreasing. Study indicates declining trend. Indonesia: PHVA in 1992 revealed 400 tigers in total, of which 100 are outside protected areas. A newer assessment by WCS included camera trapping and habitat assessment in pockets, but does not provide a comprehensive picture for the whole country.

Lao People's Democratic Republic: Working closely with NGOs (WCS). New assessments have so far confirmed the presence of tigers in 7 out of 17 earlier identified biodiversity landscapes.

Malaysia: 1993 estimation 500 tigers in area of 27,000 km². 20 years ago, the estimation was 1000 tigers in the whole country. Action plan has been implemented aiming to increase population to 1000 specimens within 10 years.

Myanmar: 2001/02 estimation: 140 tigers (tigris and corbetti). 2006/07 assessment: 350 tigers. Increase may however be due to underestimation in earlier assessment.

Nepal: Repeated assessments: 1999/2000, 340–350 tigers; 2005, 350–370; 2006, 350–370. Estimation methods included camera trapping over past 3 years. 35 tigers discovered/killed in past 7 years. Population stable.

Russian Federation: 2005 assessment: 428–502 tigers (altaica). Density estimation 1.5 tigers/100 km². Population split in two. Prey base stable in DCL1, but decreasing in DCL2 in period 1990–2005. Population stable.

Thailand: Camera trapping over past 3 years revealed 120 tigers in western forest complex, with a density of 1.5–2.6 ind/100 km². Population may be on decline.

Viet Nam: Tiger estimation 2004/05 not more than 100 along border with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia. Recent action plan on threatened species 2005–2010 implemented. Population declining.

Discussion and conclusions: Standardised methods of tiger estimation and presentation of results by 2008 would be welcome. Standardisation of methods is important, but must be adapted to habitats and prerequisites of each range country. Stratified monitoring with indicators sampled over entire area and calibration areas with quantitative methods (e.g. camera trapping) recommended.

Session II: Threats to tiger habitats, corridors, and prey base

Lead presentation: Dr YV Jhala and Q. Quereshi, Wildlife Institute of India/India: *Monitoring and Evaluating Tiger Population and Habitat.*

Session Chair: Dr RB Lal, India

One key issue in the presentation was that Indian tiger habitat has been reduced by 30% in 100 years, at the district level. The field survey of tigers, its habitat and major prey base in selected areas of India, have been completed. The paper outlined the analytical methodology; the entire report with tiger populations for India, is expected by December 2007.

Bangladesh inquired if the approach adopted by India is applicable for the Sundarbans. The presenter clarified that in the broad scientific aspect it is, but India is developing a separate protocol for the Sundarbans.

Nepal noted that threats to tiger habitats include: 1) shrinkage outside protected areas; 2) invasion by *Mikania* spp; 3) grazing in corridor and buffer areas. There has been a 40% reduction of habitat in the last 10 years.

The main threats to tigers and their habitats in the Russian Federation are: 1) illegal trade; 2) illegal logging; 3) forest fires; and 4) hunting of prey base in buffer zones.

Recommendations:

- More stress is required to be given on protection and development of the habitat, and improvement of tigers' prey base
- In all tiger conservation work, there must be a balance between sustainable development, conservation, and protection, and due consideration of human livelihood issues.
- There must be good consideration of habitat fragmentation, and the management of habitat outside of protected areas.

Session III: Threats from poaching and illegal trade in tigers, and their parts and derivatives

Lead presentation: Kristen Nowell, TRAFFIC International: *Conservation of and trade in Asian big cats: Implementation of CITES Resolution 12.5 and Recommendations of the CITES Tiger Missions—an analysis of progress*."

Other presentations:

- Andrea Heyldauff, Wildlife Conservation Society (delivered in session I): *Mitigating poaching related threats to tiger populations through a new model of in-situ conservation*

- Belinda Wright, Wildlife Protection Society of India: *The threat from poaching and the illegal trade in tiger parts, and action taken/required to combat the problem.*
- Debbie Banks, Environmental Investigation Agency: *The Role of Transnational Organised Crime*
- Jia Qian, Research Group on Endangered Species Conservation for Public Health, China Scientific and Technological Information Institute: *New Policy Needed for Tiger Conservation.*
- Grace Gabriel, IFAW: *Farming tigers to Extinction*
- Judy Mills, Save the Tiger Fund/CATT: *It takes a village to stop tiger trade*
- Dr Susan Lieberman, WWF International: *CITES and Tiger Trade: Past, Present, and Future*

Session Chair: Steven Broad, TRAFFIC International

There was a lively discussion, with numerous interventions. A summary of the discussion follows:

Along with habitat loss and lack of prey, poaching remains a significant concern in most range states. The main driving forces of poaching are conflict between people and tigers at a local level and the trade in tiger parts. The international policy response has been to ban international and domestic trade in tigers and tiger products through CITES and national laws. However the effectiveness of this approach depends on the extent to which countries are willing and able to employ effective law enforcement measures.

Noting its historical role as a major consumer of tiger products, participants commended China for its enactment of a domestic trade ban in 1993 and its dedicated enforcement efforts since that time. Overall this was seen to have been a significant contribution to conservation of wild tigers.

The meeting heard that China is reviewing a possible change in domestic trade policy to allow trade in tiger products from captive production. Proponents of such a change within China have suggested that such supply might reduce pressure on wild tiger populations.

However, many participants expressed serious concerns that such a policy change might have the effect of increasing, rather than decreasing the incentives for poaching of wild tigers and the opportunities for illegal trade. Nevertheless, participants expressed appreciation to China for raising this policy question in open debate in an international forum recognising that its implications stretch beyond the boundaries of any single country.

On enforcement, participants encouraged greater effort, better cooperation between countries and greater emphasis on intelligence-led enforcement action. They noted encouraging examples of effective enforcement approaches in a number of range states and models for international enforcement cooperation such as the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN).

Recommendations:

- **GTF should establish an effective information sharing system for range countries and others concerned with tiger conservation to share up-to-date information on poaching and seizure cases, legal measures taken and on innovative approaches to tackle illegal trade.**
- **GTF should encourage tiger range states outside the ASEAN region to consider developing similar approaches to regional cooperation to those employed through ASEAN-WEN.**
- **GTF should seek funds, working with the CITES Secretariat, to convene a workshop of tiger range countries (particularly enforcement officers), and others with appropriate expertise, to share knowledge, resources, materials and skills related to enforcement of tiger trade controls.**
- **GTF should provide a formal response to China's request for input to its review of its current domestic trade policy.**

Session IV: Human/Tiger Conflict

Lead presentation: Dr Bivash Pandav, WWF International: *Tiger-human conflict*

Other presentations:

- Shiv Raj Bhatia, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal: *Tiger-human conflict*
- Sunarto Sunarto, WWF Indonesia: *Mitigation of tiger-human conflict in Sumatra*

Session Chair: Mr M.M. Sultan Mahmud, Bangladesh

The lead paper indicated that human-tiger conflict is not new; that Bangladesh, India, and Nepal have protected their habitat better than other neighboring countries, and effective mitigation strategies are necessary. The causes of human/tiger conflicts are: encroachment and fragmentation of habitat; declining prey base, intrusion by humans, and pressure from grazing, logging, and resource exploitation.

The second paper highlighted that for Nepal, there have been cases of humans being killed, and tigers being killed, and Nepal is making great efforts to expand the buffer zone.

The paper on Indonesia indicted that: there has been significant habitat loss in the last 10 years; humans are being killed; and there have been 5 captured problem tigers returned back to the wild. Integrated human/wildlife conflict mitigation strategies are critical.

China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Viet Nam noted that human/tiger conflict is a problem in their countries.

Several suggestions were offered in terms of mitigation. It was discussed by several participants that data on conflict (and mortalities) are important as indicators, and much more work is needed to mitigate conflict, and assess compensation schemes.

Recommendations:

- Human/tiger conflict is increasing, and mitigation plans are necessary to address the root causes
- Governments should implement integrated conflict mitigation strategies.
- If countries wish to use capture and translocation of problem tigers, that must be done with careful monitoring, planning, and tracking
- Voluntary relocation of human communities from core tiger habitat areas has been effective in some countries, and is encouraged when appropriate
- Compensation schemes should be simplified, and payments expedited
- **GTF should be asked to help countries explore alternative compensation and insurance schemes.**
- **GTF should be asked to assemble available reviews of various compensation and insurance schemes, to assist range states in their planning and implementation efforts.**

Session V: Updated and costed tiger action plans

Lead presentation: Vivek Manon, International Fund for Animal Welfare/Wildlife Trust of India: *Costed Tiger Action Plans*.

Other paper: Mr Jhamak Karki, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal: *Costed Tiger Action Plan of Nepal*.

Session Chair: Mr K.C. Poudel, Nepal

The lead paper summarized all the 10 out of 14 National Tiger Action Plans whose copy was deposited to the GTF Secretariat. Except India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, all the remaining tiger range states have prepared/ implemented the plans in some or other forms. China has incorporated its tiger action plans into its broader national forestry plan. India reported it will provide details of its action plan at later dates. Myanmar prepared its plan in 2003. Malaysia has been implementing their plan. Phoenix (an NGO working on tiger conservation in the Russian Far East) reported that no action plan has yet prepared by the Russian government. Most countries have indicated costs required to implement their plan for the period of 5-6 years whereas others have committed to put the cost in them later.

In overall the approach to the preparation and implementation of national tiger action plans was a welcoming one and encouraging towards taking initiatives for the tiger conservation.

Nepal presented its draft National Tiger Action Plan in details with a tentative cost of \$US 1.15 million for five

years. The overall goal of the draft action plan is “to preserve, recognize, restore, and increase the effective land base that supports the Royal Bengal tiger in Nepal, in order to maintain a viable tiger population.” Five specific objectives are in the plan: Tiger and prey Information, habitat management, conflict resolution, antipoaching and anti- trafficking operations and transboundary cooperation are proposed. The plan is now under government’s consideration for approval.

All the 12 country delegates took part in the discussion / interventions in a very constructive and responsible manner. The Chair informed all the participants that the copies of all the 10 + 1 tiger action plans are available from the GTF Secretariat.

Recommendations:

- **Countries who have not updated and prioritized their costed tiger action plans are urged to do so, by the end of 2008 (GTF should work to assist them to do so).**
- Countries are asked to reconsider their action planning—and in particular to reconsider and update any plans that are more than 5 years old

Session VI: Trans-boundary Tiger Conservation Protocols and Programs

Lead presentation: S.C. Dey, GTF Secretary General: *Transboundary cooperation*

Other presentations:

- Dr Yury Darman, WWF Russia: *The Amur tiger on the Russia-China-North Korea border*
- Li Bing, WCS-China: *China-Russia border issues regarding tiger*

Session Chair: Grace Gabriel, International Fund for Animal Welfare

There was excellent discussion on the benefits of trans-boundary bilateral and trilateral protocols and agreements, to enhance the conservation of shared tiger populations. The first presentation highlighted elements of these protocols and agreements, noting the signed bilateral resolutions/protocols between: India and China; China and Nepal; India and Nepal; and the Russian Federation and China. The second paper highlighted the distribution of the Amur tiger (*P.tigris altaica*) in the Russian Federation and China, with about 450 tigers in the Russian Federation, and very small populations in China. The paper highlighted that the number of tigers and their range in China has been increasing recently, due to a number of factors, including the long-term hunting ban, new protected areas, and enforcement efforts; with continued trans-boundary cooperation, these populations will continue to increase, in particular in China. The third paper highlighted the conservation of Amur tiger in North-East China along the Russian border and various steps taken to conserve it, with the observation that success will require persistence commitment from the government, cooperation between Russian and Chinese government and support from local people and NGOs.

Recommendations:

- It is very important that range states with trans-boundary tiger populations increase collaboration to jointly design and implement trans-boundary conservation plans.
- Range countries should share information about the nature of their signed bilateral or trilateral protocols and agreements.
- Trans-boundary conservation activities should be included in country action plans • Any other potential areas for trans-boundary cooperation in the future should be explored.
- It is recommended that governments to harmonize the census period between range countries sharing a common border, in order to avoid duplication.

Session VII: Towards a global coalition between tiger range states, non-range states, NGOs, and donors

Lead presentation: Hilary Thompson, UK Government (DEFRA)

Other presentations:

- Sarah Christie, Zoological Society of London: Investments in tiger conservation 1998-2005, with particular reference to tackling the tiger trade.
- Dr Urs Breitenmoser and Dr Christine Breitenmoser-Würsten, co-Chairs, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group; Kristin Nowell, Red List Authority, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group; DR Holly Dublin, Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission: *Strategic Planning in Species Conservation*

Session Chair: Hilary Thompspon, UK Government (DEFRA)

This session focused on how tiger range states, non range states, NGOs and donors can work together to deliver a cohesive programme of tiger conservation. The presentations outlined the role of the Global Tiger Forum and how it could deliver more for tigers; the focus on funding for different aspects of tiger conservation and the importance of scientific information, appropriate planning and a long term common goal.

The second paper provided useful information on funding provided by NGOs, and where that funding is directed (by country, and by type of project). The third paper highlighted the process of species conservation planning, the need for careful strategic planning, and the necessary process. A good discussion ensued, and participants agreed that such a participatory planning process to develop a range-wide action plan (see last recommendation, below).

In discussion, concern was raised at the need to ensure that local livelihoods and poorer peoples' needs are taken into account. Funding should be targeted to programmes that integrate benefits to local populations with benefits to tigers and their habitats (as is already happening in many countries, and for many international donors). Donors need to consider how best their funds should be focused to deliver tiger conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Recommendations:

- Local, national, regional and global cooperation is essential if tigers are to be conserved.
- **GTF should work in partnership with other leading players (treaties, etc.) to promote tiger conservation via its unique role as champion of the tiger.**
- Long-term commitment is needed – sustained funding and expertise are needed to deliver benefits to local populations, tigers and their habitats; and local communities and sustainable livelihoods should always be fully considered
- Delivery of tiger conservation requires proper a scientific base upon which to build, and a stepped up, staged approach to achieve common goals;
- **GTF should work with the IUCN (SSC and Cat Specialist Group) to convene an international workshop to develop a global tiger conservation strategy in a participatory process, involving range countries and other stakeholders—non-range states, international and national NGOs, and local communities as appropriate and feasible.**

Annexure IV

India's Intervention on Agenda Item 52: Asian Big Cats (Based on transcripts)

Thank you, Chairman for the floor. I will make a brief intervention and introduce the information document COP14 inf.50.

We commend and thank the excellent work done by the CITES Secretariat in preparing Doc 52 and Annex 7. We endorse the recommendations in Annex 7, and the information document reflects the same.

India agrees that enforcement is crucial for the survival of tigers and other Asian big cats. In order to make the enforcement effective in a professional and collaborative manner, India has notified the establishment of a multi-agency enforcement unit to combat wildlife crime, targeting the organised networks of criminals involved in illicit trafficking of wildlife. India has taken several other milestone initiatives as well for tiger conservation, which include: Strengthening antipoaching activities, amendment of the Wildlife (protection) Amendment Act, 1972 and creation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority. The tiger habitat in the country has been assessed in the GIS domain at the amplification of the administrative sub division of a district. In the last 150 years, tigers have disappeared from almost 80 of our districts. The forest cover status of tiger reserves and their outer periphery has been assessed using remote sensing for protecting the corridors, and the tiger estimation processed has been improved. The assessment highlights the vulnerability of our source populations in tiger reserves and protected areas due to habitat loss and poaching. Instances of trafficking of tiger body parts across borders are alarming. The demand for tiger body parts is depleting our wild tigers, undoing all our efforts. The chances of tiger surviving in the wild are bleak unless and until the demand for its body parts is curbed .

Our experience in implementing Project Tiger for more than 35 years has adequately demonstrated that in-situ conservation has brought back tigers from the brink of extinction. We strongly feel that ban on trade in body parts and derivatives of wild animals has helped the species for survival. There are numerous examples – In India itself ban on tiger hunting and sale of its trophies has helped the species; ban on ivory trade has helped elephants. Therefore we cannot imagine tiger conservation in a scenario where ban on trade in its body parts is lifted or relaxed. Likewise, we strongly oppose any proposal to farm wild carnivores like tiger, which are easy to breed in captivity but difficult to release in the wild. Promoting farming to satiate the demands of oriental medicine would lead to laundering of wild specimens. Further, the crave for wild body parts would deplete the insitu population under the garb of farmed ones.

The logic being extended by some people that satiating the demand for tiger body parts through supply of farm bred tiger body parts is dangerous. Can we advocate free production and sale of narcotics to satiate the demand for drugs to stop such crimes? We cannot imagine such a situation.

Open sale of tiger body parts through farmed specimens is detrimental to the survival of an umbrella species like tiger, which is symbolic of the well being of an ecosystem. Therefore we strongly urge the Parties to desist from the idea of captive breeding of tigers, and phase out all such programs in the interest of wild tigers.

There has been a decline in some markets for Asian big cat skins due to awareness. We welcome intervention made yesterday from the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, that traditional medicine no longer needs tiger bone, and that they have been actively promoting proven and acceptable substitutes. India supports the strengthening of these efforts to build on this progress.

We feel, that without facilitation from CITES, and without the commitment from Parties to eliminate *all* trade in *all* tiger parts and derivatives at domestic levels, it would not be possible to save wild tigers and other Asian big cats.

For saving wild tigers from extinction, we have to stop all such activities, which foster a demand for tiger parts and derivatives.

We learn that China is committed to its tiger trade ban. We welcome this , and appeal to China to take the exemplary step of phasing out its tiger farms and consolidating and eliminating the stockpiles of Asian big cat body parts and derivatives. Even though this is an internal issue, it has ramifications beyond the borders by having a huge impact on wild tiger conservation in other tiger range States. Therefore, we once again urge the Parties to phase out ex-situ tiger breeding centers on a priority basis to save the remaining population of tigers in the world.

We have submitted an information document jointly with Nepal , China and the Russian Federation ,which I would now introduce .

Annexure V

China's Intervention on Agenda Item 52: Asian Big Cats (Based on transcripts)

Mr. Chairman,

China appreciates the efforts of CITES Secretariat, Parties and other organizations for tiger conservation. Along with the international community, China has also made considerable efforts for conservation of the tiger. In 1993, based on the global status of wild tigers and captive populations, China voluntarily prohibited the use of tiger bone in domestic trade.

But recently, numerous NGO papers and reports say that China is planning to lift this ban. The fact is, China is still maintaining the ban on tiger bone and undertaking policy review aimed at achieving more effective conservation of global wild tiger population.

In China tiger breeding is very successful. Research shows that hospitals could provide tiger bone from captive facilities. Most patients won't buy from underground markets. This would effectively cut down on profits of poachers, smugglers and illegal traders. Meanwhile, utilization could become a stable way for fund raising to support protection of global wild tiger populations.

Although this seems an attractive way to proceed, the Govt. of China adopts a cautious attitude and has commenced a legal process to evaluate advice and has adopted a fundamental principle that the Current policy won't change unless it can be demonstrated that such change will have a positive benefit for wild tiger populations internationally.

This position and fundamental principle were provided to the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee in our fact sheet, also distributed by the Chinese delegation attending the International Tiger Symposium in Nepal, and also in our national report on implementation of Res. Conf. 12.5 submitted to the CITES Secretariat.

But Mr. Chairman, all this advice seems to have been forgotten conveniently or intentionally disregarded. China takes its responsibility for conservation of global wild tigers very seriously, and intends to have scientific evaluation of its present policy.

We have invited international experts and NGO representatives to undertake visits to China for comments and suggestions, and plan an international strategy workshop. The workshop was originally planned to be held in May, but in response to a request from the International Tiger Coalition the workshop was postponed until July.

This policy review will be based on rational analysis and scientific evaluation. There are lots of information and data. We don't know how long the policy review will last and what outcome will be obtained.

But I can guarantee it will be transparent and open and demonstrated positive benefit to global wild tiger population will be the basis.

In 2005, China has undertaken a series of law enforcement activities including special crackdown and public education. We are now happy to see significant decline in illegal trade. Remember many traditional tiger skin clothes are pre convention and owned for long time. To address this problem, the Government will establish an amnesty period for registration and labeling of private owned skins. It will be better for law enforcement to identify illegal tiger and leopard skin clothes.

As the tiger skin issue shows, we pay special attention to international cooperation. Last year, top leaders of China and India have expressed political will to enhance cooperation on wildlife conservation, especially for tigers. Two delegations of China have visited India to discuss how to improve cooperation mechanisms.

China also held a technical workshop to exchange information and discuss law enforcement with India and Nepal, and started evaluation of joining some international organizations.

We sincerely hope effective cooperation between parties will positively push forward tiger conservation and international cooperation will enhance law enforcement – so China has joined India, Nepal and Russia to submit the proposal to this CoP.

Mr Chairman, let me take this opportunity to respond to the Secretariat's mention of the tiger meat case. In this case, the China delegation got official information during the International Tiger Symposium in Nepal. The meat from the restaurant at Xionsen Bear and Tiger Garden was unofficially confirmed by DNA analysis to be tiger meat. Immediately, the owner of the Garden who had rented the restaurant to another person, who was still in Nepal, was contacted and the restaurant was searched by the police. Staff was interviewed to assist the investigation, but it turns out the waitress on the news video Miss Wang had resigned before the program was aired. Did she know there was a camera and it wasn't really hidden? She said those things that it was tiger meat, and then she resigned. The police are seeking her because her whereabouts were unknown. Another thing is that the reporters were served cooked meat but the meat shown on the video looked to be fresh.

The Police asked the Dept of Wildlife Conservation to convene a meeting with the reporter so as to get more details. The officer telephoned and sent email but the reply was still awaited.

I also want to address an issue of some concern: a document circulated by the Tiger Coalition discrediting China and to confuse public as to what China's intentions really are.

To start with, there is no proposal to reopen trade in tigers. In addition, they question why China convenes a workshop after the CoP. The answer is quite simple: because it was at their request. The workshop in question was originally planned for May but was postponed according to a letter of 23 March received from the very same NGOs. Mr. Chairman, it is the NGOs who are confused, not China.

I wish to stress again that China will firmly continue efforts to enhance law enforcement and international cooperation – we seek to assure parties that China will not bring any change in its exiting policy on domestic use of tiger bone unless it can be demonstrated to have positive effect on conservation of wild tigers internationally.

Thank you.

Annexure VI

Bhutan's Intervention on Agenda Item 52: Asian Big Cats (Based on transcripts)

Mr. Chairman, Bhutan is taking the floor for the first time, and I would congratulate you and the Chair of Committee I for having appointed to this post of CoP14, at the Hague. Further, the delegate from Bhutan very much appreciates the generous hospitality of the Kingdom and the Government of the Netherlands.

Recognizing Asian Big Cats in peril, Bhutan supports the Secretariat draft proposal CoP14 doc.52 and the subsequent document CoP14 Inf.50, the negotiated document submitted by China, India, Nepal and Russia. **Having** supported above documents, delegation from Bhutan would like to put on record the following submissions:-

Mr. Chairman, Bhutan would want to make the following *statement through the minds and eyes of the Asian Big Cats or Tiger*, as the eyes of the world are watching.

Mr Chairman, this is the tiger speaking:

- **Recognizing**, Bhutan is my range country, her delegate is speaking for me and for my survival and conservation. Her leaders have political will and government is committed to Tiger and Biodiversity Conservation of the country.
- **Respecting**, territorial markings and home ranges of my colleagues in Bhutan, I know that protected areas network in Bhutan conserves various ecosystems at landscape level, encompassing subtropical to alpine meadows and snow-covered mountain habitats. These protected areas covers 28 percent of her total land. I also know that she is involved in establishing Kanchenjunga landscape conservation efforts to create trans-boundary corridor for wildlife.
- **Respecting**, my movement and dispersal of my young ones, I know that Bhutan has declared network of biological corridors connecting the protected areas. The biological corridor covers 9%.
- **Recognizing**, me as the 'Banner Species', the concept and design of protected areas and her biological corridor have been based on my territories, home range, dispersal and movement.
- **Recognizing** my rarity and population decline, I enjoy total legal protection and I am rewarded with my place in Schedule I of the Forest and Nature Conservation Act.
- **Recognizing** my ordeal, Bhutan has her Tiger Action Plan in place, and activities being implemented (on going activities include education and awareness, surveys involving camera trapping method, anti-poaching strategy in place).

Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates, this is a reminder that the tiger is speaking:

- While Bhutan has estimated conservative population size of 120-150 tigers based on pugmark survey method in mid 1990s, Bhutan is not sure where my population size is at present. I know, Bhutan has initiated a survey using camera-trapping method, and I hear the success stories in capturing our pictures in camera traps. I believe Bhutan would get fairly a precise population estimate.
- Although, I enjoy legal protection, and Bhutan claims no poaching, I am afraid sneakers or poachers will find me in Bhutan, if policies in my range countries change. I am in deed afraid to quote William Blake's poem '*tiger tiger burning bright, in the forest of the night*', with all the existing threats (habitat destruction, poaching, use in traditional medicine, illegal or legal trade, retaliatory killing, poor enforcement), my population has dwindled. With my current status, it would be correct to annotate me as '*tiger tiger burning faint, in the forest of the light*'. I plead not to push me beyond the limelight of this annotation. Therefore, I could only wish and ask my range countries, '*let tiger trade ban be in place and further ge me chance to be the part of ecosystems, to harmonize dynamics of the ecosystem operations, to continue to show magics of wildlife management in all the future times to come, and i think i have my right to live on earth*'
- *The way forward* for my survival and conservation in the wild will be only possible respecting and implementing gaps identified by the CITES Secretariat, range countries and other global IGOs, NGOs and

global communities, and with your concerted efforts. I need your *passion, patience* and *persistent efforts* for my survival.

Mr. Chairman and delegates, Tiger is speaking for Bhutan:

- Bhutan is a country with her economy at transition. Human wildlife conflict is one of the major problems faced by the rural agrarian and pastoral populations. Only 8% percent of the land is cultivable. Crops have been damaged by wild ungulates (elephants, wild pigs, deer species), and big cats predate on live stock disharmonizing our relationship. As the eyes of the world are watching, ears of the world must also hear the plights of human wildlife conflicts. Bhutan has been compensating for live stock killed by me (TIGER) and Snow Leopard through a donor assisted funding. Bhutan and my range countries need help. In deed a HELP for my SURVIVAL.
- Since 2002-2006, livestock depredations in Bhutan by large cats have reached to 1518. This is pinching Bhutan's rural human population.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

Annexure VII

Nepal's Intervention on Agenda Item 52: Asian Big Cats

(Based on transcripts)

As the Chair of the Global Tiger Forum, Nepal would like to congratulate the Government of the Netherlands for hosting this important meeting and inviting us to participate.

GTF appreciates and supports the document COP 14 Doc.52 prepared by the Secretariat. Nepal hosted the International Tiger Symposium and Global Tiger Forum meeting in Kathmandu in April this year. The Symposium identified habitat fragmentation, depletion of prey base, illegal trade, and human-tiger conflict as major threats to tiger conservation.

Nepal appreciates the efforts made by tiger range countries and other non-tiger range countries and international organizations for their contribution in implementing Resolution Conf.12.5 in conserving tigers.

Realizing weak enforcement capacities, porous borders, and organized tiger poaching, we fear of losing a significant population of tigers and other Asian big cats from the wild.

In order to protect tigers in the wild from any possible threats including commercial captive breeding facilities, we encourage parties to improve or establish necessary regional networks for effective trans-boundary cooperation and enforcement implementation. We request parties with commercial captive tiger breeding facilities, to critically evaluate the impact of such breeding programme and regulate the captive population to a level supportive only for conserving tigers in the wild.

We request the Secretariat to facilitate necessary technical and financial support for capacity building, control tiger trade, and effective implementation of the Convention.

In addition to poaching and illegal trade, the future of wild tiger is linked with habitat degradation, decline in prey base, tiger-human conflict and absence of public support for conservation which are outside the mandate of CITES. Therefore, in the best interest of tiger conservation globally, I invite tiger range countries and non-range countries interested in tiger conservation to join the Global Tiger Forum.

Thank you.

What is CITES

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Widespread information nowadays about the endangered status of many prominent species, such as the tiger and elephants, might make the need for such a convention seem obvious. But at the time when the ideas for CITES were first formed, in the 1960s, international discussion of the regulation of wildlife trade for conservation purposes was something relatively new. With hindsight, the need for CITES is clear. Annually, international wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars and to include hundreds of millions of plant and animal specimens. The trade is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including food products, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber, tourist curios and medicines. Levels of exploitation of some animal and plant species are high and the trade in them, together with other factors, such as habitat loss, is capable of heavily depleting their populations and even bringing some species close to extinction. Many wildlife species in trade are not endangered, but the existence of an agreement to ensure the sustainability of the trade is important in order to safeguard these resources for the future.

Because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. CITES was conceived in the spirit of such cooperation. Today, it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 species of animals and plants, whether they are traded as live specimens, fur coats or dried herbs.

CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The text of the Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington DC., United States of America, on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force. The original of the Convention was deposited with the Depositary Government in the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, each version being equally authentic.

CITES is an international agreement to which States (countries) adhere voluntarily. States that have agreed to be bound by the Convention ('joined' CITES) are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties in other words they have to implement the Convention it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.

For many years CITES has been among the conservation agreements with the largest membership, with now 172 Parties. India has been a signatory to CITES since 1976.

How CITES works

CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. All import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention has to be authorized through a licensing system. Each Party to the Convention must designate one or more Management Authorities in charge of administering that licensing system and one or more Scientific Authorities to advise them on the effects of trade on the status of the species.

The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need.

Appendices I and II

- Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.
- Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.

The Conference of the Parties (CoP), which is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention and comprises all its member States, has agreed in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP13) on a set of biological and trade criteria to help determine whether a species should be included in Appendices I or II. At each regular meeting of the CoP, Parties submit proposals based on those criteria to amend these two Appendices. Those amendment proposals are discussed and then submitted to a vote. The Convention also allows for amendments by a postal procedure between meetings of the CoP (see Article XV, paragraph 2, of the Convention), but this procedure is rarely used.

Appendix III

This Appendix contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. Changes to Appendix III follow a distinct procedure from changes to Appendices I and II, as each Party's is entitled to make unilateral amendments to it.

A specimen of a CITES-listed species may be imported into or exported (or re-exported) from a State party to the Convention only if the appropriate document has been obtained and presented for clearance at the port of entry or exit. There is some variation of the requirements from one country to another and it is always necessary to check on the national laws that may be stricter, but the basic conditions that apply for Appendices I and II are described below.

Appendix-I specimens

1. An import permit issued by the Management Authority of the State of import is required. This may be issued only if the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes and if the import will be for purposes that are not detrimental to the survival of the species. In the case of a live animal or plant, the Scientific Authority must be satisfied that the proposed recipient is suitably equipped to house and care for it.
2. An export permit or re-export certificate issued by the Management Authority of the State of export or re-export is also required.

An export permit may be issued only if the specimen was legally obtained; the trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species; and an import permit has already been issued.

A re-export certificate may be issued only if the specimen was imported in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and, in the case of a live animal or plant, if an import permit has been issued.

In the case of a live animal or plant, it must be prepared and shipped to minimize any risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

Appendix-II specimens

1. An export permit or re-export certificate issued by the Management Authority of the State of export or re-export is required.
2. An export permit may be issued only if the specimen was legally obtained and if the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.
3. A re-export certificate may be issued only if the specimen was imported in accordance with the Convention.
4. In the case of a live animal or plant, it must be prepared and shipped to minimize any risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.
5. No import permit is needed unless required by national law.

In the case of specimens introduced from the sea, a certificate has to be issued by the Management Authority of the State into which the specimens are being brought, for species listed in Appendix I or II. For further information, see the text of the Convention, Article III, paragraph 5 and Article IV, paragraph 6.

Appendix-III specimens

1. In the case of trade from a State that included the species in Appendix III, an export permit issued by

the Management Authority of that State is required. This may be issued only if the specimen was legally obtained and, in the case of a live animal or plant, if it will be prepared and shipped to minimize any risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.

2. In the case of export from any other State, a certificate of origin issued by its Management Authority is required.
3. In the case of re-export, a re-export certificate issued by the State of re-export is required

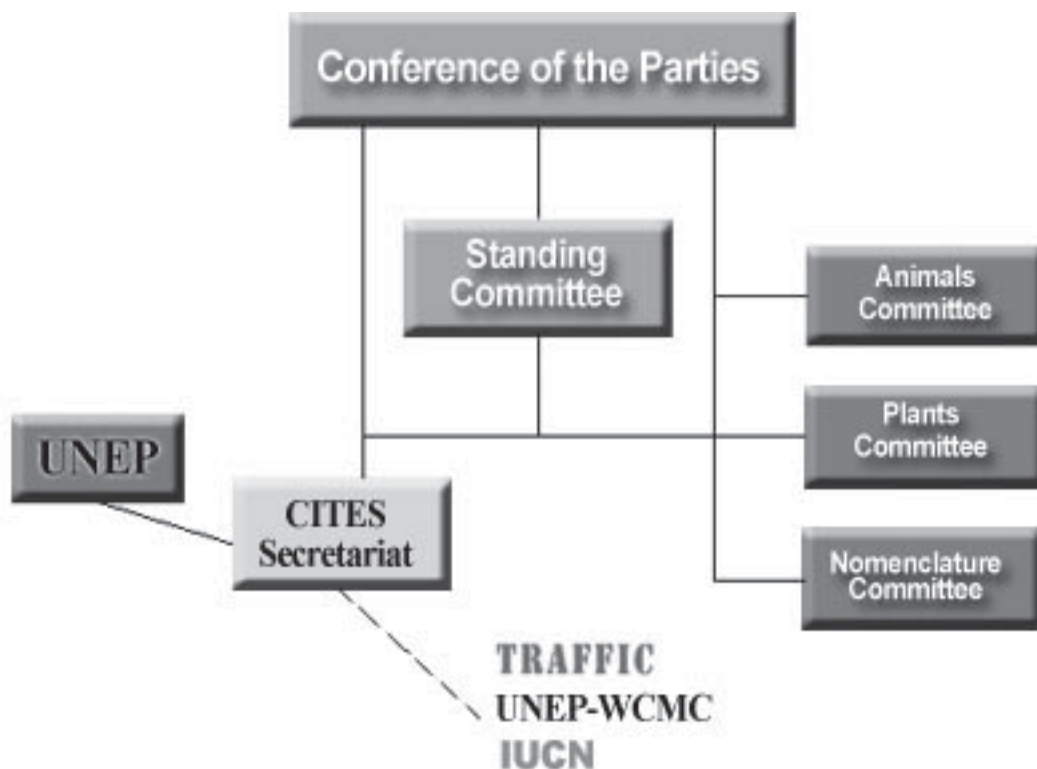
In its Article VII, the Convention allows or requires Parties to make certain exceptions to the general principles described above, notably in the following cases:

- for specimens in transit or being transhipped [see also Resolution Conf. 9.7 (Rev. CoP13)];
- for specimens that were acquired before CITES provisions applied to them (known as pre-Convention specimens, see also Resolution Conf. 13.6);
- for specimens that are personal or household effects ([see also Resolution Conf. 13.7);
- for animals that were 'bred in captivity' [see Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.)];
- for plants that were 'artificially propagated' [see Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP13)];
- for specimens that are destined for scientific research;
- for animals or plants forming part of a travelling collection or exhibition, such as a circus.

There are special rules in these cases and a permit or certificate will generally still be required. Anyone planning to import or export/re-export specimens of a CITES species should contact the national CITES Management Authorities of the countries of import and export/re-export for information on the rules that apply.

When a specimen of a CITES-listed species is transferred between a country that is a Party to CITES and a country that is not, the country that is a Party may accept documentation equivalent to the permits and certificates described above.

The structure of CITES





A challenging, constructive, science-based organization, WWF-India is engaged in wildlife and nature conservation in the country since 1969. Part of WWF global network, the organisation has made its presence felt through a sustained effort not only towards nature and wildlife conservation, but sensitizing people by creating awareness through capacity building and enviro-legal activism.

For further information visit: www.wwfindia.org

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. It has offices covering most parts of the world and works in close co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

In India, the TRAFFIC Division of WWF India carries out research and provide analysis, support and encouragement to efforts aimed to ensure that wildlife trade is not a threat to the conservation of nature in India

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