

CONVENCIÓN SOBRE EL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPECIES
AMENAZADAS DE FAUNA Y FLORA SILVESTRES



Septuagésima séptima reunión del Comité Permanente
Ginebra (Suiza), 6–10 de noviembre de 2023

Comercio ilegal y observancia

Grandes felinos asiáticos (*Felidae* spp.)

GRANDES FELINOS ASIÁTICOS EN CAUTIVIDAD

1. Este documento ha sido preparado por la Secretaría.
2. En su 14ª reunión (CoP14, La Haya, 2007), la Conferencia de las Partes adoptó la Decisión 14.69 sobre *Grandes felinos asiáticos*, que sigue en vigor. La decisión dice lo siguiente:

Dirigida a las Partes, particularmente a los Estados del área de distribución de los grandes felinos asiáticos incluidos en el Apéndice I

14.69 *Las Partes con establecimientos intensivos de cría de tigres a escala comercial deberán aplicar medidas a fin de restringir la población en cautividad a un nivel que redunde en pro de la conservación de los tigres silvestres; no deberían criarse tigres para comercializar sus partes y derivados.*

3. En su 19ª reunión (CoP19, Ciudad de Panamá, 2022), la Conferencia de las Partes adoptó las decisiones 18.102 (Rev. CoP19), 18.108 (Rev. CoP19) y 18.109 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Grandes felinos asiáticos (Felidae spp.)*, como sigue:

Dirigida a las Partes

18.102 (Rev. CoP19) *Se invita a las Partes en cuyos territorios existen establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad a los que se hace referencia en la Decisión 18.108 (Rev. CoP19), párrafo a) a acoger una misión de la Secretaría para visitar esos establecimientos.*

Dirigida a la Secretaría

18.108 (Rev. CoP 19) *La Secretaría deberá*

- a) *sujeto a la disponibilidad de financiación externa, emprender una misión antes de la 77ª reunión del Comité Permanente a las Partes identificadas en el documento SC70 Doc. 51 y en cuyos territorios existen establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad y pueden ser motivo de preocupación, con la finalidad de entender mejor su funcionamiento y las actividades que realizan; e*
- b) *informar al Comité Permanente, en su 77ª reunión, acerca de la aplicación de la Decisión 18.108 (Rev. CoP19), párrafo a), y sobre los progresos realizados con respecto a las misiones concernidas, y formular recomendaciones para someterlas a la consideración del Comité Permanente.*

Dirigida al Comité Permanente

18.109 (Rev CoP19) *El Comité Permanente, en sus reuniones 77ª y 78ª, deberá examinar el informe y las recomendaciones de la Secretaría con respecto a la aplicación de las Decisiones 19.109, 18.100, 18.101, 18.102 (Rev. CoP19), 18.103 (Rev. CoP19), 18.105, 18.106, 18.107 (Rev. CoP19) y 18.108 (Rev. CoP19) y determinar si se requieren otras medidas específicas para cada país y sujetas a plazos concretos para reforzar la aplicación de la Convención, de la Decisión 14.69 y del párrafo 1 h) de la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19).*

Aplicación de las decisiones relacionadas con las Partes que tienen establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad

4. La Secretaría resume a continuación el trabajo realizado que dio lugar a las misiones emprendidas de conformidad con la Decisión 18.108 (Rev. CoP 19).
5. En el documento [SC70 Doc. 51](#) considerado por el Comité Permanente en su 70ª reunión (SC70; Sochi, octubre de 2018), se incluía una revisión del número de establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad y el número de grandes felinos asiáticos mantenidos en estos establecimientos. La Secretaría también explicó en ese documento que había llegado a la conclusión de que los establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad podrían ser “motivo de preocupación” por las dos razones siguientes:
 - a) Las Partes que desarrollan operaciones intensivas de cría de tigres a escala comercial y que podrían no estar aplicando medidas para restringir la población en cautividad a un nivel adecuado que redunde en pro de la conservación de los tigres silvestres; no deberían criarse tigres para comercializar sus partes y derivados [Decisión 14.69].
 - b) Las Partes que podrían no estar asegurando la aplicación de prácticas de gestión y controles adecuados para evitar que partes y derivados de grandes felinos asiáticos ingresen en el comercio ilegal desde esos establecimientos o a través de ellos [párrafo 1 g) de la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) – actualmente párrafo 1 h) de la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19)].
6. En lo que respecta a la Decisión 14.69, sobre la base de la información obtenida en relación con las prácticas de los miembros de la Asociación Mundial de Zoológicos y Acuarios (WAZA) –el principal órgano que reúne a los zoológicos del mundo–, y como línea de base a falta de otros parámetros de referencia, la Secretaría concluyó que los establecimientos que tienen 50 o más tigres serían motivo de preocupación, ya que esta cantidad supera el número más alto de ejemplares mantenidos por cualquier miembro de la WAZA con fines de conservación.
7. En lo que respecta a los establecimientos desde o a través de los cuales partes y derivados de grandes felinos asiáticos podrían estar ingresando al comercio ilegal, la Secretaría ha recurrido a su experiencia con casos que ha tenido ante sí en el transcurso de su labor ordinaria, consultas con asociados del Consorcio Internacional para Combatir los Delitos contra la Vida Silvestre (ICCWC), exámenes de la documentación existente y una solicitud directa a todas las organizaciones observadoras de la CITES que han abordado este tema en reuniones de la CITES.
8. Los resultados de estos dos ejercicios combinados dieron lugar a la identificación de establecimientos que mantienen especies de grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad que pueden ser motivo de preocupación. Estos establecimientos se encontraban en China, los Estados Unidos de América, la República Checa, la República Democrática Popular Lao (RDP), Tailandia, Sudáfrica y Viet Nam, y se presentó información al respecto en el párrafo 12 del documento SC70 Doc. 51.
9. En la 75ª reunión del Comité Permanente (SC75; Ciudad de Panamá, noviembre de 2022), la Secretaría proporcionó información de las siete Partes sobre la situación de los establecimientos que pueden ser motivo de preocupación antes de una posible misión a los establecimientos (véase el documento [SC75 Doc. 9](#)). Las respuestas de los Estados Unidos de América, la República Democrática Popular Lao, Sudáfrica y Tailandia se resumieron en el Anexo 1 del documento SC75 Doc. 9. China no completó el cuestionario, pero proporcionó información en un mensaje de correo electrónico, de fecha 25 de octubre de 2022, en relación con los establecimientos mencionados en el documento del Comité Permanente y las disposiciones legislativas aplicadas para conservar los tigres. Se recibieron respuestas adicionales a las que figuran en el Anexo 1 del documento SC75 Doc. 9 de la República Checa y Viet Nam, así como una

respuesta actualizada de la República Democrática Popular Lao. Para facilitar las referencias, en el Anexo 1 del presente documento se incluye un resumen de todas las respuestas recibidas.

10. La Secretaría compartió el mandato para las misiones con las Partes concernidas en la 75ª reunión del Comité Permanente (véase el Anexo 2 del documento [SC75 Doc. 9](#)); este se utilizó para las misiones que se llevaron a cabo en 2023.
11. En los párrafos 13 a 19 a continuación, la Secretaría presenta un resumen de las misiones emprendidas en 2023 de conformidad con la Decisión 18.108 (Rev. CoP19). En los párrafos 20 a 78 se presenta un resumen de los establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad visitados por la Secretaría, junto con las observaciones de la Secretaría.
12. Cuatro de las Partes concernidas (China, Estados Unidos de América, Sudáfrica y Tailandia) presentaron respuestas a la Notificación a las Partes [No. 2023/091](#) sobre *Grandes felinos asiáticos (Felidae spp.)*. El informe sobre las respuestas a la notificación figura en el documento SC77 Doc. 41.1 sobre los *Grandes felinos asiáticos*. La Secretaría tuvo en cuenta las respuestas a la notificación que contenían información pertinente para los establecimientos de cría en cautividad y las Partes concernidas por la Decisión 18.102 (Rev. CoP19) en la preparación del presente documento, y hace referencia a esas respuestas en los casos en que se ha incluido información.

Resumen de las misiones emprendidas por la Secretaría

13. Utilizando fondos proporcionados por el Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte, la Secretaría llevó a cabo misiones para visitar establecimientos de tigre que son motivo de preocupación en Tailandia (5 a 8 de febrero de 2023), la República Democrática Popular Lao (8 a 12 de febrero de 2023), Viet Nam (12 a 14 de febrero de 2023), Sudáfrica (8 a 11 de mayo de 2023) y la República Checa (29 a 31 de mayo de 2023):

Parte	Número de establecimientos que pueden ser motivo de preocupación	Número de establecimientos visitados en 2023	Número de tigres en los establecimientos visitados según la información facilitada por la autoridad en el momento de la misión	
			Establecimiento (el código corresponde al código que figura en el Anexo 1)	Número de tigres
República Checa	2	2	CZ*	4
			CZ1	3
RDP Lao	6	3	LA4	91
			LA9	36
			LA5	53
Sudáfrica	4	4	ZA1	78
			ZA2	31
			ZA3	7
			ZA4	42
Tailandia	13	3	TH1	182
			TH4	26
			TH12	116
Viet Nam	7	2	VN4	25
			VN5	11
Total	32	14		705

14. La delegación de la Secretaría estuvo compuesta por un funcionario responsable de las cuestiones científicas, un funcionario a cargo de cuestiones de observancia y un experto en tigres cuya participación

* No se visitó un establecimiento que era motivo de preocupación, pero se incluyó en la misión un establecimiento alternativo propuesto por la República Checa.

fue amablemente facilitada por la Asociación Mundial de Zoológicos y Acuarios (WAZA) como parte del Memorando de Entendimiento entre la Asociación y la Secretaría CITES. La Secretaría desea expresar su agradecimiento a las autoridades de las cinco Partes por facilitar la misión de la Secretaría y por su compromiso activo, así como a la WAZA por su apoyo experto y al Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte por su generoso apoyo financiero.

15. La Secretaría mantuvo reuniones en línea con las cinco Partes para preparar las misiones. El formato de las misiones propiamente dichas fue similar en las cinco Partes: una reunión introductoria con representantes de todos los departamentos gubernamentales pertinentes y una sesión informativa con los interesados locales y organizaciones no gubernamentales, seguidas de visitas sobre el terreno a los establecimientos seleccionados. Los establecimientos visitados fueron seleccionados por la Secretaría de manera de garantizar la viabilidad logística dentro del plazo y los fondos disponibles, y de abarcar varios tipos de establecimientos en las Partes visitadas. Entre estos se incluyeron establecimientos tanto públicos como privados, así como aquellos que albergaban un mayor o menor número de tigres, en función de las diferentes preocupaciones.
16. Al momento de redactar el presente documento (septiembre de 2023), no se habían realizado misiones a los Estados Unidos de América o a China. Los Estados Unidos de América cursaron una invitación a la Secretaría para llevar a cabo la misión relativa a los tigres en el último trimestre de 2023. La Secretaría mantuvo consultas oficiosas con China en forma paralela a la 32ª reunión del Comité de Fauna (AC32; Ginebra, junio de 2023). Sin embargo, al momento de redactar el presente documento, la Secretaría no había recibido una invitación de China.
17. En su respuesta a la [Notificación a las Partes nº 2023/091](#), Estados Unidos de América informó de que el 20 de diciembre de 2022 se había promulgado la [Ley de Seguridad Pública de Grandes Felinos \(BCPSA\)](#) (Pub. L. 117–243). La finalidad de la BCPSA es modificar las enmiendas a la Ley Lacey de 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371-3378) para aclarar las disposiciones promulgadas por la Ley de Seguridad de la Fauna Silvestre en Cautiverio (CWSA) y fomentar la conservación de determinadas especies silvestres, lo que incluye poner fin a la propiedad privada de grandes felinos como animales de compañía y prohibir que los expositores permitan el contacto directo del público con los grandes felinos, incluidos los cachorros. La BCPSA tiene como objetivo garantizar la salud y el bienestar de los grandes felinos, proteger al público de los peligros asociados a la propiedad privada de grandes felinos y reforzar la capacidad del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de EE.UU. (USFWS) para combatir el tráfico de especies silvestres. La Ley introduce nuevas restricciones al comercio, la cría, la posesión y el uso de determinadas especies de grandes felinos. A fin de poseer legalmente grandes felinos de propiedad privada, los particulares o entidades deben registrar en el USFWS los grandes felinos que estuvieran en su posesión antes de la fecha de promulgación, a menos que se aplique otra excepción de la Ley. Para más información, véase el documento *What You Need to Know About the Big Cat Public Safety Act* (Lo que debe saber sobre la Ley de Seguridad Pública de los Grandes Felinos) que puede consultarse en el sitio web del USFWS: <https://www.fws.gov/what-you-need-know-about-big-cat-public-safety-act>.
18. En un mensaje de correo electrónico de fecha 25 de octubre de 2022 (incluido en el Anexo 1 del presente documento), China facilitó información sobre las disposiciones legislativas vigentes para conservar las especies de grandes felinos asiáticos, incluidos los tigres. En su respuesta a la Notificación a las Partes No. 2023/091, China indicó que ha tomado medidas estrictas para el control de los tigres y sus productos. En 1993, China prohibió el uso de hueso de tigre con fines medicinales. Desde 2018, ha endurecido aún más las medidas de control y ha prohibido la venta, compra, entrega, porte, transporte, importación y exportación de tigres y sus productos. China también informó de que no existen establecimientos de cría comercial de tigres en China.
19. En los párrafos 20 a 79 ofrecen breves resúmenes de establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad y de las observaciones realizadas por la Secretaría durante sus misiones. Las observaciones de la Secretaría fundamentan las recomendaciones que se proponen en el párrafo 92 para consideración del Comité. La Secretaría recopiló información sobre las disposiciones legislativas aplicadas por las Partes visitadas y las medidas de observancia adoptadas por ellas; esta figura en el Anexo 2 del presente documento.

República Checa

Establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad visitados por la Secretaría

20. La Secretaría llevó a cabo la misión a la República Checa en mayo de 2023. En el momento de la misión, la República Checa contaba con un número total de 145 tigres vivos cautivos registrados, frente a los

177 ejemplares de 2018. Estos tigres se encontraban distribuidos entre varios establecimientos, incluidos 15 zoológicos que albergaban 47 tigres, 17 establecimientos privados que albergaban 69 tigres y 7 circos con 29 tigres. Se ha notificado un descenso continuo del número de tigres nacidos y criados en cautividad en la República Checa, con 21 en 2020, seguido de una disminución a 10 en 2021, y una nueva disminución a 5 en 2022.

21. La Secretaría visitó dos establecimientos en la República Checa, ambos de propiedad del mismo individuo. Un tercer establecimiento, también propiedad del mismo individuo y situado dentro de la residencia privada del propietario, no pudo visitarse. Según la información facilitada, este era el establecimiento principal donde el propietario criaba tigres antes de la promulgación de las nuevas disposiciones legislativas en enero de 2022.
22. Ninguno de los establecimientos visitados por la Secretaría cría tigres y el propietario confirmó que los tigres estaban esterilizados. El propietario expresó su preocupación por la pérdida de ingresos debido a las nuevas disposiciones legislativas (prohibición de la cría en establecimientos privados; véase la información indicada en el Anexo 2).
23. Ambos establecimientos exponen tigres e indicaron que los establecimientos tienen fines educativos y de concienciación. Sin embargo, hay poca información disponible para los visitantes en cuanto a señalización, carteles, etc.
24. Los establecimientos son inspeccionados por las autoridades CITES pertinentes o por la Administración Veterinaria Estatal (dependiente del Ministerio de Agricultura) al menos dos veces al año.
25. La disposición de los especímenes de estos establecimientos se realiza de acuerdo con el protocolo para la destrucción de despojos de animales en las plantas de destrucción, y se debe proporcionar documentación a la planta cuando se entregan los despojos para su destrucción.
26. Los establecimientos deben obtener la aprobación de la Administración Veterinaria Estatal regional competente para trasladar tigres de un establecimiento a otro y se expiden certificados veterinarios para estos traslados.

Observaciones de la Secretaría

27. En lo que respecta a la Decisión 14.69 y las disposiciones de la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19), las disposiciones jurídicas vigentes prohíben la cría de tigres en cautividad en establecimientos de propiedad privada y solo los zoológicos registrados pueden estar autorizados a criar tigres. Las disposiciones jurídicas también exigen un registro preciso de los tigres en cautividad y establecen directrices para la disposición de los despojos cuando los tigres mueren en cautividad. Entre las principales disposiciones figuran las siguientes:
 - a) registro de los tigres individuales que se mantienen en el establecimiento,
 - b) autorización y notificación de movimientos de especímenes (especímenes vivos o muertos),
 - c) se requieren muestras de ADN (tanto para especímenes vivos como muertos) y microfichas para los especímenes vivos individuales,
 - d) inspecciones periódicas de los establecimientos para garantizar el cumplimiento de las disposiciones jurídicas,
 - e) restricciones a la cría para limitar la población en cautividad, salvo en el caso de los zoológicos autorizados; y
 - f) un protocolo obligatorio para incinerar todos los despojos, junto con la obligación de informar de dichas incineraciones a la autoridad competente (Administración Veterinaria Estatal).
28. La aplicación de la Ley n.º 501/2020 que modifica la Ley n.º 246/1992 sobre la protección de los animales contra la crueldad, que entró en vigor en febrero de 2021, puede haber dado lugar a una mayor necesidad de centros de rescate y puede requerirse capacidad adicional para hacer frente a la situación.

29. Puede ser necesario prestar más atención a la supervisión de la transferencia de despojos a los taxidermistas para garantizar que las partes y derivados no ingresen en el comercio ilegal a través de estos profesionales.
30. La colaboración reforzada y formalizada entre las autoridades pertinentes resulta esencial para mejorar la eficacia del proceso de disposición y garantizar la destrucción completa de los despojos de acuerdo con los requisitos reglamentarios (verificación de que se destruyen los despojos completos). Puede ser necesario reforzar los protocolos relativos a la destrucción de los despojos por parte de las plantas de destrucción, especialmente en lo que respecta al traslado y la disposición de especímenes en estos establecimientos. Esto incluye la formalización de la presentación de informes y el intercambio de información entre la Administración Veterinaria Estatal y la Dirección de Inspección Ambiental checa.
31. Puede ser necesario realizar inspecciones más frecuentes para garantizar el cumplimiento de las disposiciones jurídicas, en particular la prohibición de la cría, especialmente en el establecimiento que no pudo ser visitado por la Secretaría (el establecimiento donde se mantienen tigres).
32. El sistema electrónico de permisos y presentación de informes parece facilitar la supervisión, principalmente porque el Ministerio de Agricultura tiene acceso al sistema y puede informar directamente en él cuando se produce la destrucción de especímenes.

República Democrática Popular Lao (RDP Lao)

Establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad visitados por la Secretaría

33. La Secretaría recuerda que la República Democrática Popular Lao está sujeta al proceso de cumplimiento en virtud del Artículo XIII y que el Comité Permanente ha adoptado varias recomendaciones relativas a la supervisión de las granjas de cría de especies silvestres y el comercio relacionado que son pertinente para la tenencia de tigres. Esto incluía la realización de un inventario y una auditoría de los tigres mantenidos en cautividad en las granjas, junto con un plan de marcado y análisis genético de los animales para determinar con certeza su origen y a los efectos de la trazabilidad.
34. La Secretaría llevó a cabo la misión a la República Democrática Popular Lao en febrero de 2023. Durante la misión, se informó a la Secretaría de que había seis establecimientos que mantenían tigres en cautividad en la República Democrática Popular Lao, con un total de 447 tigres.
35. Durante la misión, el Departamento de Bosques indicó que se había completado la auditoría preliminar de los tigres mantenidos en cautividad para las granjas de tigres en dos provincias en abril de 2018 y en una tercera provincia en mayo de 2018.
36. En 2019 y 2020 se completaron auditorías completas de seis establecimientos. En estos establecimientos se recogieron muestras de ADN y, en la medida de lo posible, fotos y vídeos de tigres individuales para su identificación (no se recogieron muestras de hembras preñadas, y en un establecimiento los ejemplares juveniles se mantenían juntos y no estuvieron accesibles para la auditoría). La auditoría de los tigres mantenidos en cautividad se llevó a cabo en respuesta a una recomendación relativa a la supervisión de las granjas de cría especies silvestres y el comercio relacionado, adoptada por el Comité Permanente en el contexto del proceso del Artículo XIII para la República Democrática Popular Lao.
37. La Secretaría visitó tres establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad en la República Democrática Popular Lao. Inicialmente, el plan consistía en visitar cuatro establecimientos. Sin embargo, se denegó el acceso a uno de los establecimientos de tigres debido a que el propietario estaba enfermo. En otro establecimiento, propiedad del mismo individuo, la Secretaría no pudo acceder a una parte importante de las instalaciones.
38. La mayoría de los establecimientos visitados se utilizaban anteriormente para actividades de cría con fines comerciales. Se informó a la Secretaría de que los establecimientos están en proceso de transformación a operaciones orientadas al turismo. En lo que respecta a los establecimientos que declararon estar abiertos al público, los propietarios facilitaron a la Secretaría información sobre el número de visitantes y las tarifas de ingreso. Esta información indicaba que los ingresos generados por estas actividades parecían insuficientes para cubrir los gastos relacionados con la gestión y el mantenimiento de los establecimientos, incluido el cuidado de los tigres. Algunos propietarios indicaron que contaban con fuentes de ingresos alternativas (por ejemplo, plantaciones de coco, textiles).

39. Los establecimientos deben registrarse ante la autoridad competente. Los tigres no llevan microfichas, pero algunos establecimientos disponen de fotos para facilitar la identificación individual. También se tomaron muestras de ADN en algunos establecimientos como parte de la auditoría mencionada en el párrafo 36 para ayudar a la identificación individual. Los tigres no están esterilizados, pero los machos y las hembras se mantienen separados en algunos establecimientos para limitar la reproducción. Los funcionarios locales realizan inspecciones cada dos o tres meses. No existe ningún procedimiento para gestionar la disposición de los tigres muertos, pero un establecimiento indicó que la muerte de un tigre debe notificarse a la autoridad competente.
40. Al parecer, los establecimientos no guardan existencias de partes y derivados de tigre, pero no resultó claro cómo se eliminan de forma segura para evitar su ingreso en el comercio ilegal.

Observaciones de la Secretaría

41. La Secretaría formuló las siguientes observaciones relativas a los establecimientos y a la aplicación, la supervisión del cumplimiento y la observancia de las disposiciones reglamentarias:
- a) Como se indica en el documento SC77 Doc. 33.10, la legislación nacional de la República Democrática Popular Lao, incluido el Código Penal, cumple ahora algunos, aunque no todos, los requisitos mínimos de la CITES en el marco del Proyecto de legislación nacional.
 - b) En relación con la Decisión 14.69, aparentemente la mayoría de los tigres alojados en los establecimientos visitados por la Secretaría carecen de valor inherente para la conservación; la cría no está restringida en todos los establecimientos; y no existe ningún procedimiento para gestionar la disposición de los tigres muertos y las partes y derivados de tigres. Se espera que la auditoría de las granjas de tigres recomendada por el Comité Permanente en el marco del proceso del Artículo XIII para la república Democrática Popular Lao resulte útil para determinar cualquier posible importancia para la conservación.
 - c) Se están llevando a cabo actividades de cría en algunas granjas de tigres de la República Democrática Popular Lao. Sin embargo, los detalles relativos a la finalidad y la viabilidad financiera de estas actividades de cría siguen sin estar claros. Esto suscita preocupación sobre la sostenibilidad a largo plazo de estos establecimientos y el posible riesgo de que los especímenes de tigre puedan entrar en el comercio ilegal.
 - d) Parece existir un malentendido común entre los establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad en la República Democrática Popular Lao visitados en el sentido de que la Secretaría CITES cubriría los gastos para convertir los establecimientos de cría en zoológicos.
 - e) La Secretaría señala que se estima que solo quedan 220 ejemplares de *Panthera tigris corbetti* (tigre de Indochina) en el medio silvestre. Por lo tanto, los esfuerzos debían centrarse en identificar cualquier ejemplar puro de esta subespecie autóctona y alentar a los poseedores a participar en la cría colectiva/coordiinada para la conservación de estos animales.
 - f) Para limitar el número de tigres mantenidos actualmente en cautividad a un nivel adecuado que redunde en pro de la conservación de los tigres silvestres, las autoridades podrían considerar las siguientes medidas:
 - i) restringiendo la cría de tigres en cautividad (mediante la esterilización o la separación entre machos y hembras), excepto en el caso de los especímenes de *Panthera tigris corbetti*, que es una subespecie nativa que puede beneficiarse de iniciativas coordinadas de cría para la conservación;
 - ii) no permitiendo que se sigan importando especímenes vivos de tigre, excepto en el caso de *Panthera tigris corbetti* para la cría con fines de conservación;
 - iii) prohibiendo el establecimiento de cualquier instalación nueva que tenga previsto albergar tigres;
 - iv) aplicando reglamentos más estrictos para la cría de tigres a fin de mejorar los cuidados y desalentar la expansión de los establecimientos de cría en cautividad.

42. La denegación de acceso de la Secretaría a uno de los establecimientos donde se mantienen tigres y a una zona importante de otro establecimiento del mismo propietario plantea serias dudas sobre el alcance de las facultades de las autoridades de la República Democrática Popular Lao para llevar a cabo inspecciones de los establecimientos donde se mantienen tigres.
43. Los funcionarios locales podrían beneficiarse de más formación, recursos y supervisión para garantizar que dispongan del contexto, la experiencia y los fondos necesarios para llevar a cabo inspecciones con eficacia.
44. La aplicación de prácticas de gestión deficientes y controles inadecuados para regular las actividades de estos establecimientos, incluida la disposición de los especímenes de tigres que mueren en cautividad, es motivo de preocupación por la posibilidad de ingresen en el comercio ilegal partes y derivados de tigre. Las recomendaciones dirigidas a la República Democrática Popular Lao al respecto figuran en el documento SC77 Doc. 33.10.

Sudáfrica

Establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad visitados por la Secretaría

45. La Secretaría llevó a cabo la misión a Sudáfrica en mayo de 2023. Según la información facilitada a la Secretaría por Sudáfrica, hay 73 establecimientos que albergan tigres en Sudáfrica y, en conjunto, albergan más de 460 tigres.
46. Tres de los cuatro establecimientos visitados durante la misión de la Secretaría están abiertos al público con fines educativos y de concienciación, pero también están registrados como establecimientos de cría que participan en el comercio internacional con fines no comerciales (principalmente con fines zoológicos). Uno de los establecimientos no está abierto al público y está registrado únicamente para el comercio nacional (venta/compra).
47. Tres de los cuatro establecimientos indicaron que los tigres muertos se incineraban, aunque en algunos casos los cachorros muertos eran retirados por una “empresa de retiro” para su disposición, o bien los despojos se enviaban a taxidermistas para ser procesados. Uno de los establecimientos ha notificado una mortalidad muy baja teniendo en cuenta el número de animales en cautividad en un establecimiento que opera desde hace más de una década.
48. Ninguno de los centros restringía la cría y todos confirmaron que debían llevarse y actualizarse registros con información relativa a nacimientos y defunciones, que se presentaban a las autoridades provinciales. Tres de los cuatro establecimientos indicaron que los registros se actualizan y se comparten con la autoridad provincial, pero un centro no cumplía este requisito. La información detallada recogida en los registros no parece estar normalizada en todas las provincias.
49. Los tigres de tres de los cuatro establecimientos visitados están marcados con microfichas, mientras que un establecimiento no cumplía los requisitos de marcado y los tigres no llevan microfichas.
50. Se realizan inspecciones regularmente (mensuales en algunas provincias y trimestrales en otras) y todos los establecimientos indicaron que no disponen de existencias de especímenes de tigre debido a que todos los despojos deben incinerarse.

Observaciones de la Secretaría

51. Las disposiciones jurídicas aplicadas para regular las actividades de los establecimientos de cría de tigres parecen abordar en cierta medida las principales actividades de estos establecimientos y permiten a las autoridades nacionales y provinciales controlar los establecimientos, los tigres que crían y el comercio internacional. Las disposiciones abordan el registro de los establecimientos, el mantenimiento y notificación de los registros, el marcado con microfichas de ejemplares individuales, las inspecciones y la incineración de todos los despojos.
52. Sudáfrica está estudiando varias opciones para reforzar las disposiciones legislativas (es decir, disposiciones para garantizar que toda la tenencia de tigres esté regulada en todo el país mediante disposiciones legislativas nacionales; disposiciones normalizadas en las nueve provincias; y aplicación efectiva de normas de bienestar). Además de estos aspectos, podrían considerarse los siguientes:

- a) requisitos reglamentarios para el movimiento/transporte y posesión de especímenes de tigre; esto abordará las preocupaciones relacionadas con la disposición de especímenes por personas/establecimientos distintos del establecimiento donde se albergan los tigres (por ejemplo, taxidermistas, empresas de retiro, veterinarios);
 - b) la elaboración de un procedimiento operativo estándar/protocolo relativo a las inspecciones, que incluya la frecuencia de estas;
 - c) la elaboración de un procedimiento operativo estándar/protocolo relativo a la destrucción de los especímenes muertos;
 - d) la elaboración de una plantilla estándar para el registro que debe llevarse y para garantizar que se incluya toda la información relevante, especialmente información relativa traslados, importación, exportación, comercio nacional y disposición de especímenes de tigre;
 - e) pruebas de ADN obligatorias para confirmar el linaje parental y mejorar la capacidad de controlar que los animales hayan sido criados en el establecimiento; y
 - f) abordar las deficiencias legislativas en cuanto a la reglamentación de las actividades relacionadas con especies exóticas incluidas en el Apéndice I.
53. Se observó que supervisión de las condiciones de los permisos era inadecuada en el caso de uno de los establecimientos y, durante la visita, se señalaron a la atención de la Secretaría asuntos de incumplimiento de larga data. Los representantes del gobierno indicaron que se seguirán los procesos necesarios para abordar esta situación.
54. La información sugiere que se separa a los cachorros de sus madres a una edad temprana con fines de comercio internacional y nacional (entre 3 y 8 meses) y para maximizar la producción en algunos de los establecimientos, por lo que deben llevarse a cabo inspecciones periódicas para garantizar que los registros se actualicen y se presenten según se requiera.
55. Se están ratificando los permisos en el puerto de salida y los propietarios de los establecimientos indicaron que las autoridades realizan múltiples inspecciones, antes del envío y en el puerto de salida.

Tailandia

Establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad visitados por la Secretaría

56. A la fecha de la misión de la Secretaría a Tailandia en febrero de 2023, había 105 tigres en posesión privada, 1.270 tigres en zoológicos públicos y 170 tigres en establecimientos gubernamentales.
57. Hay 36 ejemplares propiedad del gobierno de la subespecie *Panthera tigris corbetti* (tigre de Indochina) que se mantienen en siete zoológicos gubernamentales, y 17 ejemplares son propiedad de un zoológico privado en Tailandia. La subespecie *Panthera tigris corbetti* podría beneficiarse de un programa de cría para la conservación utilizando esta población cautiva.
58. La Secretaría visitó tres establecimientos en Tailandia. Dos de los establecimientos estaban abiertos al público, mientras que la otra aún no lo estaba por estar en construcción.
59. Uno de los establecimientos había esterilizado a los tigres machos en 2019 para evitar la reproducción, pero los otros dos establecimientos no han esterilizado a machos o hembras, pero estos se mantienen separados para evitar/limitar la cría. Si no se separan a tiempo, se registran casos de reproducción accidental.
60. En los tres establecimientos se confirmó que se implanta a todos los tigres una microficha para la identificación y que se fotografían sus patrones de rayas, que se archivan en el Departamento de Parques Nacionales (DNP).
61. Según se informa, Tailandia aplica las siguientes prácticas y controles de gestión para evitar que los especímenes de tigre ingresen en el comercio ilegal desde o a través de establecimientos: En caso de que se produzca un cambio en la población de tigres, se debe notificar inmediatamente al DNP en un plazo de 24 horas a través de una línea directa. También debe enviarse una notificación oficial al DNP en un plazo

de 60 días. Los tigres recién fallecidos deben guardarse para que sean inspeccionados por los funcionarios. No se permite trasladar los despojos fuera del establecimiento hasta que los funcionarios los inspeccionen para verificar la causa de la muerte y la marca de identificación del tigre y recoger muestras de ADN. En caso de custodia del espécimen, deberá presentarse una solicitud al funcionario para su aprobación, junto con una declaración de intenciones y los detalles de los especímenes. Todos los especímenes que se mantengan deben llevar una marca de identificación. La conservación de biopsias, esqueletos, órganos o pieles de un tigre muerto debe registrarse adecuadamente, incluyendo información sobre la especie, el sexo, la fecha de muerte del animal y el número de identificación (microficha) de los especímenes conservados, y deben llevarse registros en el laboratorio. Las muestras deben guardarse en una sala sellada, cerrada con llave, y todas las extracciones y depósitos deben quedar registrados. Si el establecimiento no desea conservar los despojos, estos se incineran en presencia de funcionarios de las autoridades locales.

Observaciones de la Secretaría

62. Las disposiciones jurídicas utilizadas para regular las actividades de los establecimientos parecen abordar las actividades mínimas necesarias para que el gobierno supervise los establecimientos y los tigres que se mantienen en ellos.
63. Tailandia desempeña un papel esencial en el mantenimiento de las poblaciones silvestres restantes de *Panthera tigris corbetti* (tigre de Indochina) (se calcula que existen entre 148 y 189 tigres silvestres en Tailandia) y es uno de los últimos reductos de estos tigres en la región del Gran Mekong.
64. Existe la oportunidad de que los seis establecimientos de la Organización de Parques Zoológicos (ZPO) de Tailandia, que al parecer albergan actualmente especímenes de *Panthera tigris corbetti*, colaboren en la gestión de esta subespecie en cautividad. Debería hacerse hincapié en dar prioridad a las pruebas genéticas para la subespecie *Panthera tigris corbetti*. Además, es imperativo establecer un programa de cría bien organizado y coordinado para esta subespecie. A pesar del limitado número de individuos que se mantienen en cautividad, cabe destacar que *Panthera tigris corbetti* posee una importante diversidad genética de alelos, lo que subraya su papel esencial como un recurso genético clave para los esfuerzos de conservación del tigre. Este enfoque estratégico ofrece potencialmente la oportunidad de mejorar y complementar las poblaciones silvestres en el futuro.
65. La Secretaría formuló observaciones similares a aquellas para la República Democrática Popular Lao con arreglo a la Decisión 14.69: la mayoría de los tigres que se mantienen en los establecimientos de Tailandia visitados por la Secretaría no parecían tener un valor de conservación intrínseco y no se utilizan actualmente con fines educativos más amplios. Para limitar el número de tigres mantenidos actualmente en cautividad a un nivel adecuado que redunde en pro de la conservación de los tigres silvestres, deberían considerarse los pasos indicados en el párrafo 41 f) del presente documento.
66. También se mantienen ejemplares de *Panthera pardus delacouri* (leopardo de Indochina) en dos establecimientos de Tailandia, y es esencial realizar pruebas genéticas de estos animales. Estos leopardos están al borde de la extinción en el medio silvestre, y solo quedan pequeñas poblaciones en Tailandia, Myanmar y Malasia.
67. La coordinación entre la sede central y las oficinas locales del Departamento de Parques Nacionales, Vida Silvestre y Conservación de las Plantas (DNPWPC) se basa actualmente en informes de inspección impresos. Sería deseable disponer de una base de datos en línea a la que todos los miembros del personal puedan acceder y actualizar.

Viet Nam

Establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad visitados por la Secretaría

68. A la fecha de la misión de la Secretaría a Viet Nam (febrero de 2023), había 21 granjas de cría de tigres en el país, con un total de 372 tigres. Entre estas se incluían dos centros de rescate con 43 tigres, tres zoológicos nacionales con 32 tigres, 12 zoológicos privados y zonas turísticas con 238 tigres, dos establecimientos piloto de cría (mantenimiento) con 42 tigres y dos hogares con 17 tigres. La mayoría de los establecimientos que albergan tigres son de propiedad privada. Se pide a los propietarios de los establecimientos que firmen un compromiso de no realizar las siguientes actividades: compra, venta y uso de tigres y productos de tigre. En Viet Nam, la cría de tigres con fines comerciales no está permitida.

69. La Secretaría visitó dos establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad en Viet Nam. Uno de los establecimientos está abierto al público y otro alberga animales confiscados y entregados al gobierno por los tribunales, pero como parte de la sentencia el delincuente condenado debe cuidar de los tigres. Ese establecimiento no está abierto al público.
70. Ninguno de los tigres de los dos establecimientos fue esterilizado. Los propietarios de las instalaciones llevan registros con información relativa a los animales del establecimiento y a cualquier nacimiento o muerte, junto con los informes de inspección emitidos por el Departamento de Protección Forestal y el Instituto de Ecología y Recursos Biológicos. El propietario del establecimiento debe informar al Departamento de Protección Forestal cualquier nacimiento o muerte de tigres en sus instalaciones y, según se informa, todos los despojos de tigres son incinerados.
71. En el establecimiento que está abierto al público, todos los tigres llevan microfichas. Sin embargo, el establecimiento no cuenta con un escáner de microfichas. Como alternativa, el establecimiento utiliza fotos de tigres para su identificación. Se informó a la Secretaría de que el Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza se había comprometido a recoger muestras de ADN e imágenes del patrón de rayas en el futuro. Los tigres del otro establecimiento no estaban marcados.

Observaciones de la Secretaría

72. Las disposiciones jurídicas de Viet Nam utilizadas para regular las actividades de los establecimientos proporcionan aparentemente una base mínima para que el gobierno supervise los establecimientos y los tigres que se mantienen en ellos. Las disposiciones abordan el registro de las instalaciones, el mantenimiento y la notificación de los registros, las inspecciones y un proceso para notificar los especímenes muertos con el fin de informar sobre su disposición (incineración). Aunque no es un requisito, algunas establecimientos han tomado medidas para identificar y rastrear a los tigres cautivos, como el uso de microfichas para los tigres importados.
73. Debería alentarse a Viet Nam a centrarse en la identificación de cualquier espécimen puro de la subespecie *Panthera tigris corbetti* (tigre de Indochina) nativa. Si se descubre que algún establecimiento mantiene esta subespecie, debe alentarse su participación en programas coordinados de cría para la conservación de estos animales, con aportaciones y orientación de las asociaciones zoológicas pertinentes.
74. La Secretaría formuló observaciones similares a aquellas para la República Democrática Popular Lao y Tailandia con arreglo a la Decisión 14.69: la mayoría de los tigres que se mantienen en los establecimientos visitados por la Secretaría no parecían tener un valor de conservación intrínseco, no se restringía la cría y uno de los establecimientos no se utiliza actualmente con fines educativos más amplios. Para limitar el número de tigres mantenidos actualmente en cautividad a un nivel adecuado que redunde en pro de la conservación de los tigres silvestres, deberían considerarse los pasos indicados en el párrafo 41 f) del presente documento.
75. Parece existir cierta demanda de partes y derivados de tigre en Viet Nam, y el refuerzo de los programas de reducción de la demanda podría abordar este asunto de manera eficaz.
76. Los funcionarios locales podrían beneficiarse de más formación, recursos y supervisión para garantizar que dispongan de los conocimientos especializados y los fondos necesarios para llevar a cabo inspecciones de los establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad con mayor eficacia.
77. La verificación de la identificación de animales individuales mediante microfichas plantea ciertas dificultades, principalmente debido a la falta de lectores de fichas o a las dificultades y costos asociados a la recolección de muestras de ADN y la aplicación de las microfichas bajo anestesia. El uso de fotos de los patrones de rayas para los controles de identidad parece ser una opción más factible. Esta tarea podría estar a cargo de cualquier funcionario local facultado por la legislación para realizar inspecciones. Los resultados podrían transmitirse rápidamente a la sede central para su verificación.
78. Podría resultar útil llevar a cabo un examen de las prácticas de gestión y controles actuales relativos a la disposición de especímenes confiscados de grandes felinos asiáticos [véase la Resolución Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Disposición de especímenes comercializados ilegalmente y confiscados de especies incluidas en los Apéndices de la CITES*] y de especímenes que mueren en cautividad [véase la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Conservación y comercio de tigres y otras especies de grandes felinos asiáticos incluidos en el Apéndice I*] a fin de garantizar que sean adecuadas para evitar que especímenes de estas especies ingresen en el comercio ilegal a través de o desde esos establecimientos.

Conclusiones

79. Se informó que se mantenían en los establecimientos o se observó la presencia de subespecies de tigres en peligro crítico [*Panthera tigris amoyensis* (Sudáfrica) y *Panthera tigris corbetti* (República Democrática Popular Lao, Tailandia y Viet Nam)] y leopardo (*Panthera pardus delacouri*) (Tailandia), y estos especímenes podrían ser importantes desde el punto de vista de la conservación y podrían beneficiarse de programas de cría para la conservación.
80. En lo que respecta a la aplicación de la Decisión 14.69, la Secretaría señala que, en las cinco Partes con poblaciones de tigres en cautividad, siguen existiendo establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad y que no están contribuyendo directamente a la conservación de los tigres en el medio silvestre. La Secretaría no encontró pruebas de que los establecimientos visitados criaran tigres por sus partes y derivados, y la mayoría de los países cuentan con procedimientos de destrucción de despojos. Sin embargo, la Secretaría no pudo visitar todos los establecimientos y, en algunos casos, no se le permitió el acceso a establecimientos que tenía previsto visitar. Además, la información proporcionada por organizaciones no gubernamentales a la Secretaría indica que, en Asia Sudoriental, sigue habiendo disponibilidad de productos que afirman contener especímenes de tigre, lo que plantea preocupación en cuanto a que se sigan produciendo esos especímenes.
81. Existe una falta general de comprensión de lo que constituye la cría para la conservación, y la mayoría de los establecimientos visitados creían que las actividades de educación y concienciación del público contribuyen a la conservación de los tigres silvestres y la apoyan. Aunque este podría ser el caso, solo algunos de los establecimientos visitados disponían de material educativo adecuado, señalización y visitas guiadas para apoyar tales esfuerzos.
82. Se observó que la mayoría de los establecimientos visitados aplican restricciones como la esterilización o la separación de tigres machos y hembras para controlar la reproducción. Sin embargo, algunos establecimientos se dedican activamente a la cría para el comercio de especímenes vivos, principalmente con fines zoológicos, sobre todo en Sudáfrica.
83. Aparentemente, existen disposiciones legislativas para regular las actividades de los establecimientos que mantienen tigres, que incluyen registro de los establecimientos, mantenimiento y notificación de registros, colocación de microfichas en especímenes individuales (excepto en Viet Nam), inspecciones y destrucción de despojos. Es necesario aplicar, supervisar y hacer cumplir estrictamente estas disposiciones, aplicar una política de tolerancia cero y sancionar estrictamente cualquier irregularidad.
84. La línea telefónica nacional de Tailandia para que los establecimientos declaren los nacimientos y muertes de tigres podría servir de modelo para su reproducción en otros lugares.
85. La Decisión 14.69 recomienda que la población en cautividad se restrinja a un nivel adecuado que redunde en pro de la conservación de los tigres silvestres y que no deberían criarse tigres para comercializar sus partes y derivados. A este respecto, la Secretaría recuerda que la Decisión 14.69 y la cuestión de la restricción del comercio de especímenes de grandes felinos asiáticos ha generado considerables debates desde que se adoptó la decisión en la CoP14[†].
86. En el caso de varios de los establecimientos visitados, especialmente en la República Democrática Popular Lao y Tailandia, que albergan un gran número de tigres, encontrar un uso alternativo para estos tigres cautivos, como transformar las granjas de cría de tigres en zoológicos, puede resultar complicado debido a su ubicación remota y a los costos relacionados.
87. Los establecimientos con un gran número de tigres y sin ingresos sostenibles requieren medidas rigurosas de vigilancia y control para reducir el riesgo de que los especímenes de tigre ingresen en el comercio ilegal.
88. En el caso de que algunos establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad se vean obligados a cerrar, puede ser necesario tomar medidas para hacer frente a la probable necesidad inminente de centros de rescate y santuarios. En casos extremos que afecten a un gran número de animales, puede ser necesario considerar otras medidas de disposición, incluida la eutanasia.
89. Las Partes con establecimientos que crían un gran número de tigres y establecimientos que albergan un gran número de tigres podrían beneficiarse de la adopción de un enfoque más metódico con respecto a

[†] Véanse los párrafos 22 a 26 del documento [CoP17 Doc. 60.1](#) y los párrafos 26 a 35 del documento [SC66 Doc. 44.1](#)

estos establecimientos para mejorar su valor de conservación y educativo, así como para poner fin a las actividades de los establecimientos que no tienen valor de conservación o educativo, no cumplen las normas y suponen el riesgo de que las partes y derivados de estos animales ingresen en el comercio ilegal.

90. La República Democrática Popular Lao está sujeta actualmente al proceso en virtud del Artículo XIII y el Comité Permanente ha adoptado en reuniones anteriores recomendaciones relativas a la supervisión de las granjas de cría de animales silvestres y el comercio relacionado. Por lo tanto, las recomendaciones surgidas de las misiones relativas a los tigres realizadas en la República Democrática Popular Lao se incluyen en el documento SC77 Doc. 33.10, para su debate más a fondo en relación con ese punto del orden del día.
91. La Secretaría también aprovecha esta oportunidad para llevar a la atención de las Partes el [documento final](#) de la reunión del Grupo especial CITES sobre grandes felinos, en particular el párrafo 2 del documento final, en el que se hace hincapié en la necesidad de reforzar la regulación de los establecimientos de cría en cautividad de grandes felinos para prevenir y detectar cualquier comercio ilegal procedente de esos establecimientos y aplicar medidas de observancia reforzadas. El informe acerca de la reunión del Grupo especial CITES sobre grandes felinos se presenta en el documento SC77 Doc. 39.3, sobre *Grupo especial CITES sobre grandes felinos (Felidae spp.)*.

Recomendaciones

92. Se invita al Comité Permanente a:

- a) alentar a todas las Partes en cuyos territorios existen establecimientos que mantienen grandes felinos asiáticos en cautividad a:
- i) aplicar el párrafo 1 h) de la Resolución Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) sobre *Conservación y comercio de tigres y otras especies de grandes felinos asiáticos incluidos en el Apéndice I*; y
 - ii) reforzar la supervisión del cumplimiento y la aplicación de las disposiciones legislativas relativas a las instalaciones que mantienen tigres en cautividad mediante la aplicación estricta de requisitos reglamentarios que garanticen que se mantengan registros precisos; que la identificación de los tigres individuales sea un requisito obligatorio (mediante microfichas, análisis de ADN e imágenes de identificación de rayas, según proceda); que se realicen inspecciones con regularidad; que la disposición se realice con los controles y la supervisión necesarios; y que cualquier irregularidad se sancione de forma estricta;
- b) alentar además a las todas Partes en cuyos territorios existen establecimientos que crían un gran número de tigres y establecimientos que albergan un gran número de tigres a considerar la adopción de un enfoque más metódico con respecto a estos establecimientos para mejorar su valor de conservación y educativo, así como para poner fin a las actividades de los establecimientos que no tienen valor de conservación o educativo, no cumplen las normas y suponen el riesgo de que las partes y derivados de estos animales ingresen en el comercio ilegal. Ese enfoque podría incluir:
- i) identificación de los establecimientos que mantienen tigres de valor genético y de conservación y participación de esos establecimientos en la cría coordinada para la conservación de esos animales;
 - ii) identificación de establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad que estén convenientemente situados para garantizar el acceso del público y que cumplen las condiciones de cría y bienestar basadas en directrices nacionales e internacionales, y aplicación de programas de apoyo cuando sea necesario (por ejemplo, proporcionando orientación sobre la elaboración de material educativo, señalización y carteles), para que estos establecimientos se transformen plenamente en establecimientos con valor educativo que aumenten la concienciación en beneficio de la conservación de los tigres en el medio silvestre, lo que incluye llevar a la atención del público el comercio ilegal y la necesidad de combatirlo;
 - iii) aplicar y hacer cumplir medidas para reducir el número de tigres en establecimientos que no contribuyen a la conservación de los tigres en el medio silvestre o que tengan un valor educativo limitado, restringiendo la cría de tigres (por ejemplo, separando a los tigres machos de las hembras, esterilizándolos o aplicando otras medidas de disposición, incluida la eutanasia) dentro

de esos establecimientos, así como restringiendo la adquisición de nuevos animales por estos establecimientos;

- iv) teniendo en cuenta la Decisión 14.69, que encarga a las Partes que restrinjan la población en cautividad a un nivel que redunde en pro de la conservación de los tigres silvestres y establece que no deberían criarse tigres para comercializar sus partes y derivados, prohibir la creación de nuevos establecimientos que mantengan tigres en cautividad, con exenciones limitadas cuando estén justificadas;
 - v) evaluar si se requieren centros de rescate, santuarios u otras medidas de disposición, incluida la eutanasia, etc., que puedan resultar necesarias debido a la eliminación progresiva de las operaciones intensivas con tigres; y
 - vi) examinar las prácticas de gestión y los controles para regular las actividades de los establecimientos que mantienen tigres en cautividad con el fin de garantizar que son adecuados para evitar que los especímenes de tigre ingresen en el comercio ilegal desde o a través de esos establecimientos, lo que incluye la concesión de licencias a esos establecimientos, el mantenimiento de registros precisos de los tigres individuales, inspecciones periódicas y la disposición adecuadamente regulada de los tigres que mueren en cautividad.
- c) alentar también a todas las Partes en las que exista una demanda de partes y derivados de tigre a redoblar sus esfuerzos en las actividades de reducción de la demanda relacionadas con el comercio ilegal de grandes felinos asiáticos, de conformidad con la Resolución Conf. 17.4 (Rev. CoP19) *Estrategias de reducción la demanda para combatir el comercio ilegal de especies incluidas en la CITES*, tomando en consideración las *Orientaciones sobre estrategias de reducción de la demanda para combatir el comercio ilegal de especies incluidas en la CITES*;
- d) alentar a todos los gobiernos, organizaciones intergubernamentales, organismos internacionales de ayuda y organizaciones no gubernamentales a que proporcionen urgentemente fondos y otro tipo de asistencia a las Partes con establecimientos que crían un gran número de tigres y a las que albergan un gran número de tigres, para apoyar la aplicación del párrafo 92 b) *supra*;

además de las recomendaciones que figuran en los apartados a), b) y c) del párrafo 92, dirigidas a todas las Partes:

- e) alentar a la **República Checa** a:
- i) seguir colaborando con la Administración Veterinaria Estatal para reforzar los procedimientos relativos al proceso de disposición, incluida la mejora de la supervisión para garantizar la destrucción completa de los despojos; y
 - ii) realizar una inspección del establecimiento que la Secretaría no pudo visitar durante su misión y presentar un informe sobre sus conclusiones a la Secretaría a más tardar 30 días antes de la fecha límite de presentación de documentos para la SC78 (es decir, el 5 de noviembre de 2024).
- f) alentar a **Sudáfrica** a:
- i) normalizar y reforzar las disposiciones legislativas relativas a las actividades de mantenimiento, cría, comercio internacional y disposición de tigres;
 - ii) normalizar los procesos relativos a los registros que deben llevar los establecimientos, las inspecciones de los establecimientos y la destrucción de los despojos mediante la elaboración de procedimientos operativos estándar u otros mecanismos similares;
 - iii) desarrollar materiales educativos y exposiciones para aumentar el valor educativo y de concienciación del público asociado a la exposición de tigres;
- f) iniciar un proceso para abordar las deficiencias legislativas en cuanto a la reglamentación de las actividades relacionadas con especies exóticas incluidas en el Apéndice I (incluidos los tigres);

- iv) abordar el control del cumplimiento y la aplicación de las condiciones de los permisos existentes para todos los establecimientos, con especial atención a los establecimientos con problemas de incumplimiento a largo plazo;
- g) alentar a **Tailandia y Viet Nam** a:
 - i) identificar cualquier espécimen de la subespecie *Panthera tigris corbetti* y alentar a los establecimientos a participar en la cría coordinada para la conservación de estos animales y otras medidas apropiadas;
 - ii) reforzar las medidas para:
 - A. restringir la cría de tigres en establecimientos en cautividad y la importación de tigres a estos establecimientos a niveles que redunden en la conservación de los tigres;
 - B. realizar un seguimiento individual de los tigres que se mantienen en los establecimientos mediante el uso de microfichas, identificación del patrón de rayas y análisis de ADN, según proceda;
 - C. prohibir la creación de nuevos establecimientos que mantengan tigres en cautividad, con exenciones limitadas cuando estén justificadas; y
 - D. restringir las partes y derivados cuya posesión está autorizada para evitar que estos especímenes ingresen en el comercio ilegal;
 - iii) desarrollar materiales educativos y exposiciones para aumentar el valor educativo y de concienciación del público asociado a la exposición de tigres;
 - iv) mejorar los procedimientos operativos estándar para las inspecciones y la disposición de especímenes (incluida la destrucción de los despojos tras la verificación del individuo que ha muerto) y capacitar a los funcionarios para que realicen inspecciones y supervisen la disposición de los despojos, cuando sea necesario.

RESPONSES FROM PARTIES

China

Monday, September 18, 2023 at 23:01:28 Central European Summer Time

Subject: Re: CHINA FW: Implementation of Decisions 17.229 and 17.224: Facilities keeping Asian big cat species in captivity

Date: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 at 03:04:26 Central European Summer Time

From: 李林海

To: David Morgan

CC: David Morgan, cites_chinama@163.com, surui8423@sina.com, UNOG-UNEP-CITES Info, 何语霏

Attachments: image002.png

Dear Mr. David Morgan,

By this opportunity, on behalf of China CITES Management Authority, I would like to express our appreciation for your work in CITES implementation and close communication with China, and to sincerely apologize for not being able to complete the questionnaire by September 15th, taking into consideration that more than 30 captive breeding facilities in China were mentioned and that a lot of time has been taken to collect the information and it has not been completed yet.

Regarding your questionnaire on Asian big cats captive breeding facilities, which involved dozens of captive breeding facilities in seven Parties, including China, and came from some documents that were presented and noted at relevant CITES meetings in the past. Regard this, it is noted that according to the results of the questionnaires showed in the SC75 Doc.9, many facilities for education, conservation, rescue, etc., which are not related to breeding in commercial scale, are also included. This reflects some existing problems that should be given more attention. For example, the identification of facilities in each country listed is not supported by scientific and reliable data and information. Some information are collected from the Internet, and has neither been officially confirmed by the Parties, nor generally accepted by globally recognized experts. Besides, there is an obvious duplication in the list (20 and 21 are both "Yichang Sanxia Forest and Wildlife Zoo").

Despite the above mentioned, we are committed to fulfill the decisions of CITES and provide the following information for your reference regarding the

conservation and management of Asian big cats.

China has enacted and amended the Wildlife Conservation Law to strengthen the conservation of wildlife, including the Asian big cats. Many wild animals, including tiger, leopard, snow leopard, are all listed as species under Grade I state protection. Under the law, it is prohibited to hunt, catch and kill wildlife under the state key protection except for such purposes as scientific researches, population control, epidemic sources and epidemic monitoring, or for other special purposes. For selling, purchasing, or utilizing wildlife under the state key protection and its derivative products, there are similar provisions in this law. Even in special cases, the approval of competent authorities in charge of wildlife conservation under the State Council is required.

The import and export of wildlife under the state key protection and their products shall, in accordance with the law, be subject to the approval of competent authorities in charge of wildlife conservation under the State Council or the State Council, and a permit issued by China CITES Management Authority. Regarding this, China has further adopted a series of measures stricter than CITES, such as the requirement of import permit for all CITES appendice-listed species and no exemption for personal or household effects, to strengthen the management of wildlife and its import and export. Every year, China organizes special supervision and inspection on hunting, selling, purchasing, using, importing and exporting of wild animals and their products, and urges relevant captive breeding facilities to strictly comply with all Chinese laws and regulations and CITES regulations.

Regard tigers and their products, China has implemented the most stringent control measures in the world, prohibiting the sale, purchase, delivering, carrying, transporting, importing and exporting, as well as medicinal use. Currently, there are no facilities breeding tigers for commercial purpose in China.

China has continued to promote the construction of a nature reserve system

with national parks as the mainstay. Five national parks and tens of thousands of nature reserves have been established, with a total area of over 170 million hectares, accounting for 18 percent of the country's land area. We have further strengthened patrol guards and promoted the recovery and restoration of wildlife habitats, to create a better habitat for wildlife. In particular, the Northeast Tiger and Leopard National Park and the Sanjiangyuan National Park were established, and the populations of tigers, leopards, snow leopards and other big cats have steadily increased.

China has established Inter-Ministerial Joint Conference on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade, consisting of 27 ministries and National Inter-agency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group, consisting of 12 departments and bureaus, with tigers, leopards, snow leopards and other large cats as priority species of concern. Regular meetings are held to summarize the progress of work, analyze the problematic situation, and determine the next step of work, covering all aspects of law and regulation revision, deployment of special enforcement actions, publicity and education, promotion of international cooperation, and all links of wildlife and its products such as field patrol and guarding, captive breeding, trading, transportation, import and export, and utilization.

China organizes a large number of public awareness and education activities every year, and at specific time points such as World Wildlife Day and Wildlife Protection Publicity Month, thematic publicity activities are organized to raise public awareness of wildlife protection and refusing illegal trade.

International cooperation has been continuously strengthened. China has participated in the Global Tiger Forum, the Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation, and the Steering Committee meetings of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Project to strengthen communication with other range States and promote cross-border conservation actions. China has taken the lead in or participated in international joint law enforcement operations such as the "Thunder" series, and promoted a chain of crackdown on

illegal trade in wildlife and its products in source, transit and destination countries. Training courses are organized annually for relevant developing countries to strengthen communication on wildlife conservation management in their country.

We would appreciate it if you could take the above information and concerns into consideration and report to SC75 in an appropriate manner.

In addition, it seems that there are some language problems in SC75 Doc.9. In the second line of paragraph 4 "captive facilities for Asian big cats" are mentioned. In fact, not all the facilities proposed according to the b) standard are captive facilities, e.g. some are taxidermy companies.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Li Linhai (Mr.),

Director,

Fauna Conservation and Management Division, China CITES Management Authority

 李林海

citeszh@126.com

Czech Republic

Background

Implementing Decision 14.69?	Yes
Implementing paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18)?	Yes
Implementing Decision 17.226?	Yes
Received copies of national legislation applies these management practices and controls?	Details relating to provisions received
Management practices and controls reviewed in accordance with Decision 17.226?	Yes
Competent authority for ensuring that provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226 are complied with	Czech CITES Enforcement Authorities – Czech Environmental Inspectorate, Customs Authorities, Police
Actions taken during the past 5 year to ensure compliance with these provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226, including the number of inspections of facilities breeding tigers and measures taken by the authorities as follow up on inspections.	Czech Environmental Inspectorate conducted 58 inspections of the facilities breeding tigers and other Asian big cat species
Illegal trade of tiger specimens linked to tiger facilities detected during the past 5 years? (If yes, number of seizures, arrests and prosecutions made and convictions and penalties imposed).	As a result of inspections of breeding facilities conducted by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate in past five years, 12 cases of violation of the Czech CITES National legislation or the EU Wildlife Trade regulations concerning tigers and other Asian big cat species were revealed by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate. These violations included e.g. not following the rules for registration of the specimens according to the CITES national legislation, offering tiger specimens for trade without the permission, not proving legal origin of the specimens kept etc. and the offenders were punished by fines with total amount of 120 000,- CZK. Detailed information about the individual cases are available upon request. Criminal investigation of several cases concerning suspicion of illegal handling with Tiger carcasses in the years 2021 and 2022 based on the findings of the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, Customs Authorities and Police have been initiated. Seizures: In 2019, two live specimens of white tigers were seized and confiscated because the specimens were not marked with microchips. In the same year, a tiger skeleton (without a skull), and a separate tiger skull were confiscated and a stuffed tiger body, without proof of legal origin, was seized. A live female tiger cub was seized in August 2022 without marking by microchip and proof of legal origin and placed into the rescue center (zoo) in the Czech Republic

Facilities which may be of concern

Question	Facility	
	CZ1	CZ2
Is the facility still open/operational?	Yes, open for public from May to September (tourist season)	Yes
If not, where are the tigers that were previously housed in it?	-	-
How many tigers are presently at the facility?	3 females (12/09/2022)	21 tigers
How many tigers have been bred in the facility in each of the last 5 years?	0 - Exhibition (no breeding)	2017 (8), 2018 (4), 2019 (0), 2020 (3), 2021 (6), 2022 (1)
Is the facility open to the public?	Yes	No
Who is the owner of the facility?	Provided	Provided
Why are tigers being kept at the facility? – what is its purpose?	Exhibition	Keeping without breeding since strengthened conditions according to the amended National Veterinary legislation came into force in 2022, exhibition for public in other facilities (during tourist season from April to September)

What records of tiger presence and breeding are kept by the facility?	Records kept by the owner in written form and all tigers are also registered in accordance with the Act No. 100/2004 Coll. (on Trade in Endangered Species) and the relevant National Veterinary legislation	Records kept by the owner in written form and all tigers are also registered in accordance with the Act No. 100/2004 Coll. (on Trade in Endangered Species) and the relevant National Veterinary legislation
Are the tigers sterilized and/or are the sexes kept apart?	No, only females in the facility	Tigers are not sterilized, nor kept apart, tigers receive contraception (<i>Covinan</i>)
Are the tigers marked or individually identified?	All specimens marked by microchips	All specimens marked by microchips
How are the carcasses of tigers which die at the facility disposed of?	No deaths of tigers recorded, no disposal of tiger carcasses.	No disposal of carcasses, carcasses are immediately sent to the rendering plant.
Do any stockpiles of tiger carcasses or parts and derivatives from the facility exist?	No	No
What kind of management practices and controls are in place regarding the disposal of specimens from tigers that die in captivity?	There are strengthened veterinarian measures focused on the check of tiger carcasses in rendering plants before they are further processed. The protocols for destruction of tiger carcasses issued by veterinarians after the death of the tigers are duly checked with respect to the weight, age and sex of the dead specimen sent for processing in order to be assured that no parts of carcasses have been misused for illegal trade. If missing parts of carcasses are identified relevant CITES enforcement bodies are informed by veterinarians for further check of the owner of the tiger	Same as for other facility

Lao PDR

Background

Implementing Decision 14.69?	Yes
Implementing paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18)?	Yes
Implementing Decision 17.226?	Yes
Received copies of national legislation applies these management practices and controls?	List of legislation used to implement the decisions and resolution provided
Management practices and controls reviewed in accordance with Decision 17.226?	Yes
Competent authority for ensuring that provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226 are complied with	- Lao PDR's CITES MA—Department of Forestry under Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - Lao PDR's Lao WEN agencies: Department of Forest Inspection, Police, Customs, Prosecutors, Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Corruption, and Military.
Actions taken during the past 5 year to ensure compliance with these provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226, including the number of inspections of facilities breeding tigers and measures taken by the authorities as follow up on inspections.	From 2018 to 2023, the Department of Forest Inspection—in collaboration with Lao PDR's CITES MA—conducted 05 inspections of tiger facilities. Measures taken include: - The inspections were conducted based on the MAF Decision No. 0188 (2019) on Establishing and Managing Zoos, Farms, Rehab and Breeding Centers - Registration and listing of all captive species of tiger
Illegal trade of tiger specimens linked to tiger facilities detected during the past 5 years? (If yes, number of seizures, arrests and prosecutions made and convictions and penalties imposed).	From 2018 to 2023, there has not been illegal trade of tiger specimens linked to tiger facilities in Lao PDR been detected

Facilities which may be of concern

Question	Facilities							
	LA1 + 2	LA3	LA4	LA5	LA6	LA7	LA8	LA9
Is the facility still open/operational?	Open and operational	Open and operational	Open and operational	Open and operational	Not existing	Not existing	Open and operational	Open and operational
If not, where are the tigers that were previously housed in it?	--	-	-	-			-	-
How many tigers are presently at the facility?	63	149	146	53			None	36
How many tigers have been bred in the facility in each of the last 5 years?	No evidence of breeding found	No evidence of breeding found	No evidence of breeding found	No evidence of breeding found			None	No evidence of breeding
Is the facility open to the public?	In process of upgrading for public visits	In process of upgrading for public visits	In process of upgrading for public visits	Open for public visit			Yes	Yes
Who is the owner of the facility?	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided			Provided	Provided
Why are tigers being kept at the facility? – what is its purpose?	Tourism	Previously for commercial breeding purposes, now turning into zoo for tourism and scientific purposes	Previously for commercial breeding purposes, now turning into zoo for tourism and scientific purposes	Previously for commercial breeding purposes, now turning into zoo for tourism and scientific purposes			Rescue center	Previously for commercial breeding purposes, now turning into zoo for tourism and scientific purposes
What records of tiger presence and breeding are kept by the facility?	Registration Species-listing	Registration Listing of tiger species	Registration Listing of tiger species	Registration Listing of tiger species			None	Registration Listing of tiger species

Are the tigers sterilized and/or are the sexes kept apart?	No sterilization, but sexes are separated	No sterilization, but the sexes are separated	No sterilization, but the sexes are separated	No sterilization, but the sexes are separated			None	No sterilization, but the sexes are separated
Are the tigers marked or individually identified?	Not yet	No	No	No			None	No
How are the carcasses of tigers which die at the facility disposed of?	Buried in the designated area approved by DAFO and the facility	No evidence of dead tigers	No evidence of dead tigers	No evidence of dead tigers			None	No evidence of dead tigers
Do any stockpiles of tiger carcasses or parts and derivatives from the facility exist?	No	No evidence of dead tigers	No evidence of dead tigers	No evidence of dead tigers			None	No evidence of dead tigers
What kind of management practices and controls are in place regarding the disposal of specimens from tigers that die in captivity?	None	None	None	None			None	None

South Africa

Background

Implementing Decision 14.69?	No
Implementing paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18)?	Yes
Implementing Decision 17.226?	No
Received copies of national legislation applies these management practices and controls?	-
Management practices and controls reviewed in accordance with Decision 17.226?	-
Competent authority for ensuring that provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226 are complied with	-
Actions taken during the past 5 year to ensure compliance with these provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226, including the number of inspections of facilities breeding tigers and measures taken by the authorities as follow up on inspections.	Details provided
Illegal trade of tiger specimens linked to tiger facilities detected during the past 5 years? (If yes, number of seizures, arrests and prosecutions made and convictions and penalties imposed).	Four cases. Details provided

Facilities which may be of concern

Question	Facility			
	ZA1	ZA2	ZA3	ZA4
Is the facility still open/operational?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If not, where are the tigers that were previously housed in it?	-	-	-	-
How many tigers are presently at the facility?	65	30	13	41
How many tigers have been bred in the facility in each of the last 5 years?	35	40	13	75
Is the facility open to the public?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Who is the owner of the facility?	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Why are tigers being kept at the facility? – what is its purpose?	Enhance property's economic productivity and for personal effects	Exhibition and breeding	Education, awareness-raising and export of offspring to zoos	Conservation, breeding and export of live specimens
What records of tiger presence and breeding are kept by the facility?	Captive breeding register submitted quarterly	Stock sheets/records	Register	Records kept
Are the tigers sterilized and/or are the sexes kept apart?	Not routinely	No	Sexes normally kept apart	Sometimes kept apart
Are the tigers marked or individually identified?	No	Some microchipped	Microchipped	Microchipped.
How are the carcasses of tigers which die at the facility disposed of?	Consumptive use of meat by themselves. Skins tanned for own use.	Burned	Small animals burned or buried; larger ones stuffed.	Incinerated
Do any stockpiles of tiger carcasses or parts and derivatives from the facility exist?	No	No	No	No
What kind of management practices and controls are in place regarding the disposal of specimens from tigers that die in captivity?	Deaths to be declared to authorities and logged in breeding register.	Burning	Authorities notified. Veterinarian assessment of cause of death.	Self-regulation.

Thailand

Background

Implementing Decision 14.69?	Yes
Implementing paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18)?	Yes
Implementing Decision 17.226?	Yes
Received copies of national legislation applies these management practices and controls?	Details and copies provided
Management practices and controls reviewed in accordance with Decision 17.226?	Yes
Competent authority for ensuring that provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226 are complied with	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation
Actions taken during the past 5 year to ensure compliance with these provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226, including the number of inspections of facilities breeding tigers and measures taken by the authorities as follow up on inspections.	In case of a tiger's death and the facility wishes to keep the carcass, the facility should state its desire to preserve the carcass to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation within 60 days of the tiger's death. Sor Por 26 (สพ.๒๖) report form with information and the objective of keeping the carcass stated should also be submitted. The carcass will then be marked for identification purposes. In case the facility does not wish to preserve the carcass, the carcass should be disposed of in the presence of officers from local authorities. The Wildlife Conservation Office, the Protected Area Regional Office 1-16, and relevant local branches are to monitor and inspect the permit holders regarding actions related to protected species and their carcass (tiger) at least once every 30 days. If the permit holders are found to violate the law, they will be strictly punished accordingly
Illegal trade of tiger specimens linked to tiger facilities detected during the past 5 years? (If yes, number of seizures, arrests and prosecutions made and convictions and penalties imposed).	One case recorded in November 2020 that might be linked to tiger facilities for possessing protected species (tiger) without permission, not for illegal trade. Officers from Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation investigated the facility implicated and seized five tiger cubs and a cub carcass of which the DNA did not link to any tigers in the zoo, and a tiger skin with a stripe pattern that was not matched with recorded photo. The officer charged the zoo committing the crime in violation of section 17 of the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2562 (2019), as the zoo possesses those tiger specimens without license. The seized tigers were brought into the care of a DNP facility. At the Prosecutorial stage, the criminal proceeding has been abated upon the death of the offender (zoo owner) in 2023. Legally possessed tigers will be transferred to other captivities in response to revocation of the zoo permit. Cooperation with and regular meetings with neighbouring countries to address concerns relating to illegal trade in wildlife including tigers.

Facilities which may be of concern

Note: Three of the 16 facilities identified as facilities of concern are not operational anymore and were therefore not included in the tables below. Tigers from these facilities were transferred to other facilities – Thailand indicated that the transfer procedures were legally conducted in accordance with the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2562.

Question	Facility					
	TH1	TH2	TH3	TH4	TH5	TH6
Is the facility still open/operational?	Yes	Currently under maintenance	Yes	Yes	No. (Permit revoked on 20 July 2021)	Yes
If not, where are the tigers that were previously housed in it?	-	-	-	-		-

How many tigers are presently at the facility?	181 live tigers	209 tigers as of 31 August 2022	54 live tigers	26 tigers	37 live tigers are still housed at the facility, as the case is currently undergoing legal proceeding.	27 live tigers
How many tigers have been bred in the facility in each of the last 5 years?	97 cubs in 2018 60 cubs in 2019 22 cubs in 2020 12 cubs in 2021 15 cubs in 2022	54 cubs in 2018 55 cubs in 2019 51 cubs in 2020 23 cubs in 2021 0 cubs in 2022	10 cubs over the span of 5 years	An average of 1 newborn cub per year.		A total of 13 tiger cubs were born over the span of 5 years.
Is the facility open to the public?	Yes.	Not at the moment, (under maintenance).	Yes	Yes	No.	Yes.
Who is the owner of the facility?	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Why are tigers being kept at the facility? – what is its purpose?	For business purposes as a public zoo.	For business purposes as a public zoo.	To attract tourists	For visitors' study purposes.	Formerly for business purposes, with a permit legally issued by DNP.	For business purposes as a zoo. Visitors can look forward to educational and exciting experiences with tigers.
What records of tiger presence and breeding are kept by the facility?	Record of the estrus period of tigers, breeding cycle, and female breeders are recorded, including numbers of cubs given birth to and behaviour toward the cubs.	Records of captive tigers are being kept. Increases and decreases of tigers are also being recorded in Sor Por 26 (สป.26) report form.	Record of their birth, health, death, serial number, and parents' history are being kept.	A database recording their information and characteristics is established in compliance with DNP's regulation. Breeding of tigers occurs in a large natural open area.	Record of DNA samples and stripe patterns were recorded.	Information regarding tigers' behaviors and health, including blood check results, weight, Body Condition Score, disease/sickness and the cures, and so forth.
Are the tigers sterilized and/or are the sexes kept apart?	After 2019, sterilizing male tigers is a norm in the facility. Those of different sexes are also being kept apart.	Tigers of different sexes are kept apart.	Tigers of different sexes are being kept apart. Some of them are sterilized.	None of the tigers is sterilized. All of them are being kept together in a very wide and open natural area.	Tigers of different sexes were kept apart.	No tigers were sterilized. Tigers of different sexes are being kept apart, in separated cages.
Are the tigers marked or individually identified?	The tigers are implanted with a microchip for identification purposes. All of them are registered by the authorized officer, in compliance with regulations of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation.	The tigers are implanted with a microchip for identification purposes and registered in captive tiger database.	All tigers are marked for identification purposes.	All of them are marked and had their stripe patterns photographed in compliance with DNP's regulation.	All tigers were marked and can be identified from their stripe patterns.	All the tigers are implanted with an identification microchip and have their stripe patterns photographed. Every single one of them can be identified individually.
How are the carcasses of tigers which die at the facility disposed of?	The carcasses are preserved in cold storage while waiting for the authorized officer's arrival. They will then be verified by the forensic officer to find the cause of death, and be properly disposed of later on.	The carcasses are preserved in cold storage while waiting for the authorized officer's arrival. They will then be properly disposed of in the presence of the officer later on.	Incineration	Tiger's death is reported to authorities via the 1362 hotline. The carcass will be inspected and properly disposed of if in accordance with DNP's regulations.	When a tiger dies, its death would immediately be reported to DNP via the 1362 hotline within 24 hours. The carcass was preserved for officers to inspect and dispose of later on.	The carcass will be disposed of by incineration in the presence of authorized officers from the Protected Area Regional Office 5. In case the facility wishes to preserve the carcass or any derivative, the facility

						will state its desire to the authority and register the carcass/ derivative to the system.
Do any stockpiles of tiger carcasses or parts and derivatives from the facility exist?	Only carcasses waiting to be disposed of are being preserved in accordance with regulations.	-	Skeletons, bones, and taxidermized carcasses.	No.	2 taxidermized carcasses 1 tiger skin	Currently, there are carcasses and derivatives being kept in the facility for educational purposes as follows: cub carcass preserved in formaldehyde; skulls; claws; and taxidermized skin. All of the carcasses and derivatives are properly registered and acquired legally.
What kind of management practices and controls are in place regarding the disposal of specimens from tigers that die in captivity?	All actions in the facility are strictly following the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation's regulation.	A tiger's death will be immediately reported via hotline 1362. Documents reporting its death will also be sent to the Protected Area Regional Office responsible for inspection and disposal of the carcass.	Find the cause of death and incinerate later on.	In case of a tiger's death, the microchip implanted in its body will be verified. Their death will be reported to the authority via the 1362 hotline, and their body will be preserved in cold storage waiting for official's investigation.	Actions were taken in accordance with the laws and regulations of DNP.	Tiger's death is reported to authorities via the 1362 hotline. The carcass will be inspected in case the tiger suddenly died due to an unknown cause, and properly disposed of in a presence of the authorized officer from Protected Area Regional Office 5.

Question	Facility						
	TH7	TH8	TH9	TH10	TH11	TH12	TH13
Is the facility still open/operational?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If not, where are the tigers that were previously housed in it?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
How many tigers are presently at the facility?	60 live tigers	43 live tigers	4 live tigers	79 live tigers	29 live tigers	116 live tigers	149 live tigers
How many tigers have been bred in the facility in each of the last 5 years?	Since 2014, there is a total of 32 tiger cubs born in this facility over a span of 8 years.	None	Still in the process of compiling information, due to former staff responsible for the data passed away	A total of 15 tiger cubs were born over the span of 5 years, 3 of which have died.	A total of 16 tiger cubs were born from breeding over the span of 5 years.	A total of 35 tiger cubs were born in this facility over the span of 5 years.	None. (No tigers are being bred in this facility.)
Is the facility open to the public?	Yes.	Yes	Yes	Yes.	Yes. The facility is also accepting trainees and volunteers who wish to do internships.	The facility is still under construction and not opened to the public as of now.	The facility is accepting trainees and volunteers who wish to do internships or

							research. The public can experience being a tiger keeper through "Keeper for a Day" event, in collaboration with the volunteers.
Who is the owner of the facility?	Provided	Responsibility of Protected Area Regional Office 3, The DNPWPC	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Why are tigers being kept at the facility? – what is its purpose?	For conservation and study purposes. For business purposes.	Taking care of the confiscated tigers and for education purpose.	For business purposes as a public zoo.	For business, conservation, research, and breeding purposes.	For business purposes as a zoo. Visitors can observe tiger for to education purpose and exciting experiences.	In favorite of care taking and business purpose as public zoo.	To house tigers retired from the other facilities (same owner). The main purposes of this facility are to give the best living environment possible for the retired tigers until their death, and to be an educational research facility that provides the public with knowledge regarding tigers.
What records of tiger presence and breeding are kept by the facility?	In the case of any newborn tiger cub, it will be reported to DNP immediately and will then be photographed, and implanted with microchip.	Records of DNA samples and photographed stripe patterns are being kept. No further breeding has been conducted since 2013.	Records of serial numbers and basic DNA testing are being kept.	Records of tigers' family trees, health, disease/sickness, and causes of death are being kept.	Information regarding tigers' behaviours and health, including blood check results, weight, Body Condition Score, disease/sickness and the cures, and so forth.	All the relevant records are being kept in a computer system of this facility.	Information regarding tigers' behaviours and health, including blood check results, weight, Body Condition Score, disease/sickness and the cures, and so forth.
Are the tigers sterilized and/or are the sexes kept apart?	No tigers are sterilized. Some of the tigers of different sexes are being kept apart, while there are also some that are being kept together.	Tigers of different sexes are being kept apart.	No tigers are sterilized. Tigers of different sexes are being kept apart.	Tigers of different sexes are being kept apart.	No tigers were sterilized. Tigers of different sexes are being kept apart, in separated cages.	No tigers were sterilized. Tigers of different sexes are being kept apart.	No, the tigers were not sterilized, with an exception of 1 female tiger with endometritis. Tigers of different sexes are being kept apart, in separated cages.

Are the tigers marked or individually identified?	All of the tigers are implanted with a microchip and have their stripe pattern photographed for identification purposes.	Tigers can be identified using stripe patterns and microchips implanted in their body.	All of the tigers are implanted with a microchip and have their stripe pattern photographed for identification purposes. DNA data is being collected using fur and blood samples	A database recording each tiger's marks and characteristics is established in this facility. Each of them is also implanted with a microchip.	All the tigers are implanted with an identification microchip and have their stripe patterns photographed. Every single one of them can be identified individually.	All the tigers are implanted with an identification microchip and have their stripe patterns photographed.	All the tigers are implanted with an identification microchip. They also have their stripe patterns photographed and recorded in a tiger database. All of them can be identified individually.
How are the carcasses of tigers which die at the facility disposed of?	All increases and decreases in the tiger number are reported to the Protected Area Regional Office 3 (Phetchaburi branch). The carcass will be inspected by authorized officers and disposed of later on.	The carcass will be inspected by authorized veterinarian officers from DNP to identify the cause of death. It will then be disposed of in the presence of this facility's and Protected Area Regional Office 3's officers.	1. Reported to DNP via the 1362 hotline. 2. Preserve the carcass in cold storage. 3. Wait for the arrival of officers from the Protected Area Regional Office 2 (Sriracha branch) for carcass inspection. 4. After the inspection, the carcass will be incinerated by the authorized officer from DNP.	Incineration	The carcass will be inspected and incinerated at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University. In case the facility wishes to preserve the carcass or any derivative, the facility will state its desire to the authority and register the carcass/derivative to the system.	Preserved in cold storage and disposed of later on.	The carcass will be inspected and incinerated at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University. In case the facility wishes to preserve the carcass or any derivative, the facility will state its desire to the authority and register the carcass/derivative to the system.
Do any stockpiles of tiger carcasses or parts and derivatives from the facility exist?	None.	None.	None.	None.	Currently, there are carcasses and derivatives being kept in the facility for educational purposes as follows: carcass preserved in formaldehyde; skeletons; skulls; claws; and taxidermized skin. All of the carcasses and derivatives are properly registered and acquired legally.	Yes. The carcasses and derivatives being kept here are: Tanned leather; Skulls; Bones; and Skeletons	Currently, there are carcasses and derivatives being kept in the facility for educational purposes as follows: carcass preserved in formaldehyde; skeletons; skulls; claws; taxidermized skin. All of the carcasses and derivatives are properly registered and acquired legally.
What kind of management practices and controls are in place regarding	In case of a tiger's death, it will immediately be	All actions are in compliance with relevant wildlife laws.	All actions are in compliance with DNP's regulations regarding	When a tiger died, its death will immediately be	Tiger's death is reported to authorities via the 1362 hotline.	Incinerated, and taxidermized. The	Tiger's death is reported to authorities via the

the disposal of specimens from tigers that die in captivity?	reported to the relevant officer, and request for carcass disposal, in compliance with the regulations.	Carcasses of dead tigers will become state property.	public zoos establishing.	reported via the 1362 hotline within 24 hours. Authorized officers from DNP will be present at the facility for the inspection and disposal of the carcass.	The carcass will be inspected and properly disposed of in a presence of the authorized officer from Protected Area Regional Office 16.	whole skeletons are preserved.	1362 hotline within 24 hours. The carcass will be inspected and properly disposed of in a presence of the authorized officer from Protected Area Regional Office 16.
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United States of America

Background

Implementing Decision 14.69?	Yes
Implementing paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18)?	Yes
Implementing Decision 17.226?	Yes
Received copies of national legislation applies these management practices and controls?	Details received
Management practices and controls reviewed in accordance with Decision 17.226?	No reply
Competent authority for ensuring that provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226 are complied with	Several agencies mentioned.
Actions taken during the past 5 year to ensure compliance with these provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226, including the number of inspections of facilities breeding tigers and measures taken by the authorities as follow up on inspections.	No reply
Illegal trade of tiger specimens linked to tiger facilities detected during the past 5 years? (If yes, number of seizures, arrests and prosecutions made and convictions and penalties imposed).	Some information on enforcement provided

Facilities which may be of concern

Question	Facility					
	US1	US2	US3	US4	US5	US6
Is the facility still open/operational?	Yes Facility is a sanctuary/rescue and does not allow breeding nor does it sell animals	No Facility has been permanently closed. All of the big cats were seized under court order and transferred to bona fide sanctuaries	Yes Facility is a sanctuary/rescue and does not allow breeding nor does it sell animals	Yes Facility is a sanctuary/rescue and does not allow breeding nor does it sell animals	Yes, but owner has been indicted on federal wildlife trafficking and money laundering charges. Case remains ongoing. For more information, see: https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/doc-antle-owner-myrtle-beach-safari-and-others-indicted-federal-wildlife-trafficking-and	Yes Facility is a sanctuary/rescue and does not allow breeding nor does it sell animals
If not, where are the tigers that were previously housed in it?	-	Transferred to bona fide sanctuaries (not named).	-	-	-	-
How many tigers are presently at the facility?	No information	-	No information	No information	No information	No information
How many tigers have been bred in the facility in each of the last 5 years?	No information	-	No information	No information	No information	No information
Is the facility open to the public?	No	-	Yes	Yes	No information	Yes
Who is the owner of the facility?	No information	-	No information	No information	No information	No information
Why are tigers being kept at the facility? – what is its purpose?	Sanctuary/rescue. Does not sell animals	-	Sanctuary/rescue. Does not sell animals	Sanctuary/rescue. Does not sell animals	No information	Sanctuary/rescue. Does not sell animals
What records of tiger presence and breeding are kept by the facility?	No information	-	No information	No information	No information	No information
Are the tigers sterilized and/or are the sexes kept apart?	No breeding occurs at facility	-	Does not allow breeding	Does not allow breeding	No information	Does not allow breeding
Are the tigers marked or individually identified?	No information	-	No information	No information	No information	No information
How are the carcasses of tigers which die at the facility disposed of?	No information	-	No information	No information	No information	No information

Do any stockpiles of tiger carcasses or parts and derivatives from the facility exist?	No information	-	No information	No information	No information	No information
What kind of management practices and controls are in place regarding the disposal of specimens from tigers that die in captivity?	No information	-	No information	No information	No information	No information

Viet Nam

Background

Implementing Decision 14.69?	Yes
Implementing paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18)?	Yes
Implementing Decision 17.226?	Yes
Received copies of national legislation applies these management practices and controls?	Information provided in response: Criminal Code of Viet Nam in 2015 - Article 234 and Article 244 Investment Law in 2020: Article 6; Decree No.06/2019/ND-CP; Decree No.35/2019/ND-CP
Management practices and controls reviewed in accordance with Decision 17.226?	
Competent authority for ensuring that provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226 are complied with	CITES Management Authority, Forest Protection Department and local Forest Protection Department
Actions taken during the past 5 year to ensure compliance with these provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) and Decision 17.226, including the number of inspections of facilities breeding tigers and measures taken by the authorities as follow up on inspections.	From 2016 to present, Vietnam authorities have implemented: - Regular monthly inspection of tiger breeding facilities and increased weekly inspection during 'stormy' times, to prevent animals from roaming and escaping. - Update the herd increase and decrease data of each establishment, ask the establishment owner to sign a commitment not to carry out the acts of buying, selling, and using tigers and tiger products. - CITES, Forest Protection Department and Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources will take DNA samples from every individual at tiger breeding facilities to verify the origin of these specimens (expected to be completed in early 2023). - Develop a tiger conservation action plan for the period 2022-2034, which is expected to stop the operation of illegal tiger farming facilities in Vietnam.
Illegal trade of tiger specimens linked to tiger facilities detected during the past 5 years? (If yes, number of seizures, arrests and prosecutions made and convictions and penalties imposed).	In 2017 - 2021, state management and enforcement agencies in Vietnam actively investigated, arrested, prosecuted and settled illegal trading and captive cases, for examples: (i) confiscated 07 individual tigers illegally on road from Nghe An to Ha Noi in July 2019. (ii) confiscated 17 individual tigers illegally captivated in Nghe An Province in February 2022; (iii) arrested 3 offenders transporting 1 tiger weighted 200kg in Lai Chau Province in 3/2022; (iv) arrested 3 offenders transporting 7 individual tiger in Ha Tinh Province in 8/2021. All offenders of tiger trade were prosecuted, many of them were sentenced over 5 years of imprisonment, for example: on 05/01/2020 Hanoi Municipal People's Court sentenced 03 offenders of illegal tiger trade with total punishment of 16 years in jail; on 03/3/2022 Nghe An Provincial Court sentenced one offender of illegal tiger raising of 7 years imprisonment.

Facilities which may be of concern

Question	Facility							
	VN1	VN2	VN3	VN4	VN5	VN6	VN7	VN8
Is the facility still open/operational?	No, it is closed	Yes, it is operational	Yes, it is operational.	Yes, it is operational.	Yes, it is operational.	Yes, it is operational.	Yes, it is operational.	Yes, it is operational.
If not, where are the tigers that were previously housed in it?	The tigers are kept in another facility.							
How many tigers are presently at the facility?	0	14 tigers	02 tigers.	25 tigers.	11 tigers.	33 tigers (include 02 imported tigers)	36 tigers	09 tigers
How many tigers have been bred in the facility in each of the last 5 years?	0	14 tigers	31 tigers.	25 tigers.	11 tigers.	31 tigers	36 tigers	09 tigers

Is the facility open to the public?	No	Yes, it is open to the public	No, it is not open to the public.	Yes, it is open to the public	No, it is not open to the public.	Yes	No	No
Who is the owner of the facility?		Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Why are tigers being kept at the facility? – what is its purpose?		The purpose is conservation and tourist.	The purpose is conservation and tourist.	The purpose is conservation	The purpose is conservation	Piloting and exhibition.	The purpose is rescue.	Piloting
What records of tiger presence and breeding are kept by the facility?		There are logbook of animals, inspection report and original files.	There are logbook of animal, inspection report and original files.	There are logbook of animal, inspection report and original files.	There are logbook of animal, inspection report and original files.	There are logbook of animal, inspection report	There are logbook of animal, inspection report and original files.	There are logbook of animal, inspection report
Are the tigers sterilized and/or are the sexes kept apart?		No, they are not	No, they are not.	No, they are not.	No, they are not.	No, they are not.	Yes, they are sterilized and kept apart.	No.
Are the tigers marked or individually identified?		Yes, they are individually identified.	No, they are not.	Yes, they are taken in pictures.	No, they are not.	Yes, they are named	Yes, they are taken in pictures.	Yes, they are taken in pictures.
How are the carcasses of tigers which die at the facility disposed of?		Dead tigers are incinerated.	Dead tigers are incinerated.	Dead tigers are incinerated.	Dead tigers are incinerated.	As dead tigers, they are kept in the freezer house and disposal or hand-over to museum.	The dead tiger will be transported to The Museum of Nature.	As dead tigers, they are kept in the freezer house and disposal or hand-over to museum.
Do any stockpiles of tiger carcasses or parts and derivatives from the facility exist?		Yes, this facility has kept the carcasses (or parts and derivatives) in the freezer house.	Yes, this facility has kept the carcasses (or parts and derivatives) in the freezer house.	No, it does not exist.	No, it does not exist.	Yes	Yes.	Yes.
What kind of management practices and controls are in place regarding the disposal of specimens from tigers that die in captivity?		As tiger die, the owner report to Forest Protection Department to make decision.	As tiger die, the owner report to Forest Protection Department to disposal methods.	As tiger die, the owner report to Forest Protection Department to disposal methods.	As tiger die, the owner report to Forest Protection Department, Police, veterinarian, local committee to make disposal methods.	As tiger die, the owner report to Animal Health Department to make decision (burning or hand-over to museum)	As tiger die, the owner report to Forest Protection Department, Police, veterinarian, local committee to make disposal methods.	As tiger die, the owner report to Animal Health Department to make decision (burning or hand-over to museum)

ASIAN BIG CATS IN CAPTIVITY:
LEGISLATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY PARTIES

A. Czech Republic

Legislative provisions and implementation

1. The Czech Republic indicated that it implements Decision 14.69 and paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on the *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* through various legislative provisions.
2. The current European Union (EU) Wildlife Trade Regulations (Council Regulation 338/97, Commission regulation 865/2006) together with the Czech CITES National legislation (Act 100/2004 Coll.) and Decree No. 210/2010 Coll., [Act No. 501/2020 Coll. amending the Act No. 246/1992 Coll. on the protection of animals against cruelty](#) and national veterinary legislation ([Act No. 166/1999 Coll., on Veterinary Care](#)) are used to implement Decision 14.69 and paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19). These provisions allow for the implementation of strict measures to restrict the captive population of tigers to ensure tigers are not bred for trade in their parts and derivatives.
3. On 1 February 2021, [Act No. 501/2020 Coll. amending the Act No. 246/1992 Coll. on the protection of animals against cruelty](#) came into effect in the Czech Republic. The section §14a of this Act, that came into effect subsequently on 1 January 2022, address animal welfare issues and is directly linked to the implementation of Decision 14.69 because it prohibits the breeding by private breeders (only licensed zoos could be authorized to breed tigers) and the transport / import of individuals of big cat species (including *Panthera tigris*) to the Czech Republic. In terms of section §14a of the Act No. 501/2020 Coll., the only exemption from these prohibitions is with respect to tigers in licensed zoos or imported to licensed zoos (there were 28 licensed zoos at the time the mission took place). Physical contact between the public and tigers and public walking with tigers (and other big cats) are prohibited as is the use of tigers in circuses. Minimum standards for welfare conditions are set in terms of Act No. 501/2020 and compulsory educational courses for breeders have been developed and almost all of the breeders have already undertaken these courses.
4. The Czech Republic national veterinary legislation ([Act No. 166/1999 Coll., On Veterinary Care](#) (§40) places an obligation on owners of tiger-keeping facilities to take tiger carcasses to officially authorized rendering plants after the death of tigers to be disposed of. Violation of this law is classified as an offence with a penalty of a fine of up to 50 000 CZK for physical person (§71) or up to 500 000 CZK for legal entities (§72). A protocol is in place relating to the disposal of tiger carcasses by the rendering plants. This includes weighing the carcass before its destroyed, the submission of documentation (cause of death, registration certificate of the individual that died) and photos are taken. The information is captured on the electronic permit system used by the Ministry of Environment that State Veterinarian Administration has access to.
5. In 2019, measures relating to veterinary provisions were strengthened to focus on the physical verification of tiger carcasses in rendering plants before they are further processed as a part of guidance for veterinarian bodies in the Czech Republic. The protocols for destruction of tiger carcasses issued by veterinarians after the death of the tigers are duly checked with respect to the weight, age and sex of the dead specimen sent for processing in order to be assured that no parts of carcasses have been misused for illegal trade. If missing parts of carcasses are identified, relevant CITES enforcement bodies are informed by veterinarians for further check of the owner of the tiger. Focus is particularly on the cases when parts of tigers (e.g., skins, bones etc.) are given for further processing to taxidermists as there is a risk of their misuse for illegal trade.
6. It is compulsory for the owners of registered specimens to announce all relevant changes concerning the specimens bred including change of ownership or marking, death or loss of the specimen etc. to the competent CITES bodies according to the CITES National Legislation (§23a of the Act 100/2004 Coll, On Trade In Endangered Species). When a tiger's death is reported, the owners should provide copies of the specimen's certificates / permits and, in terms of the protocol for destruction of tiger carcasses, send the carcass to an authorized rendering plant where the carcass is verified by veterinarians, all potential discrepancies are communicated to the CITES enforcement focal points for further investigation. Any violation of the announcement requirements for registered specimens according to the CITES National

legislation is classified as an offence with the fine set up to 500 000- CZK (§34c of the Act 100/2004 Coll, On Trade In Endangered Species).

7. Any unauthorized disposal of tiger specimens including illicit commercial activities can be classified as criminal offence according to the §299 of the [Act No. 40/2009 Coll. \(Criminal Code\)](#) which may carry an imprisonment sentence up to eight years.
8. The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture collaborate to ensure the seamless implementation of the legislative provisions referred to above. The Ministry of Environment is the CITES Management Authority and responsible for the implementation of the EU CITES Regulations (Main National Authority) and the national CITES legislation (Act No 100/2004 Coll.) as well as the regulation of zoological gardens (Act No. 162/2003 Coll.). The Czech Environmental Inspectorate, responsible for CITES enforcement matters, falls under the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for National Welfare legislation (Act No. 246/1992 Coll.) and ordinances related to animal welfare and the National Veterinary legislation (Act. No. 166/1999 Coll.). Enforcement of welfare matters is the responsibility of the State Veterinary Administration.
9. The municipality also has a role to play in terms of engagements with owners / breeders and if animals are seized or forfeited to the state the municipality is responsible to place the animals in rescue centres. The Ministry of Environment must ensure the care of the animals placed in rescue centres [Act No. 2019/2000 Coll. Section 11 (1) (d)]. A temporary solution is to place these animals in zoos or other breeding facilities that have capacity to care for the animals.
10. The capacity of rescue centres is limited and the government has initiated processes to address this. During the process to amend the national welfare legislation (Act No. 246/1992 Coll.) (2018-2020), the Ministry of Environment considered possible solutions to address the insufficient capacity of CITES rescue centres, especially with regards big cats. A case study was prepared for the construction of a central rescue centre for big cats (at two identified sites), but the final decision was to upgrade and/or expand the capacity of the existing CITES rescue centres. In 2020, the National Environment Programme issued a call for submission of proposals and the total budget allocated was CZK 20 million. The intended beneficiaries were licensed zoos and CITES rescue centres. Based on this process, two projects are currently being implemented with the anticipated completion date of 2024. It is expected that the capacity of the facilities will increase to care for at least six big cats. In February 2023, another call for proposals was announced under the EU Operational Programme on the Environment with a total budget allocation of CZK 180 million and the intended beneficiaries are also CITES rescue centres. It is anticipated that, by 2025, CITES rescue centres and zoos will be able to care for big cats.
11. In 2018, the Czech Republic suspended the issuance of CITES permits for (re-)export of live captive bred tigers from the Czech Republic to countries outside of the EU for commercial purposes to prevent captive bred tigers entering the illegal trade in tigers and tiger parts. The Czech Republic only considers applications for the export of tigers from the Czech Republic for breeding in zoos in countries outside the EU. Similarly, the conditions for issuing EU certificates allowing trade in captive-bred tigers within the EU have been strengthened in the Czech Republic and the regional Management Authorities can only issue transaction specific certificates for purposes of breeding, research and education in zoos to minimize the risk of misuse of tigers for illegal trade in parts and derivatives.
12. During the mission, it was found that the total number of live tigers registered in the Czech Republic was 145 compared to 177 specimens in 2018. These tigers were distributed among different facilities, with zoos having 15 facilities with 47 tiger specimens, private facilities having 17 facilities with 69 tiger specimens, and circuses having 7 facilities with 29 tiger specimens. Notably, there has been a continuous decrease in the number of tigers born and bred in captivity in the Czech Republic. In 2020, there were 21 specimens, followed by a decline to 10 specimens in 2021, and a further decrease to 5 specimens in 2022. This decrease reflects the strengthening of national legislation as described above, aiming to implement Decision 14.69.

Enforcement actions

13. The Czech CITES enforcement focal points, i.e., the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, customs authorities, police, supported by the bodies of the State Veterinary Administration enforce the provisions used to implement Decision 14.69
14. Since 2017, inspections have been conducted at all existing breeding facilities of tigers in the Czech Republic. Between 2017 and 2022, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate conducted 58 inspections of the facilities breeding tigers and other Asian big cat species. Facilities of concern are inspected by state veterinary/relevant CITES authorities at least twice a year. During these inspections, the legal origin of tigers bred in the facility was verified. Inspections also verify whether the tiger specimens are duly registered according to the CITES national legislation. The marking of the live tiger specimens is also verified, where

feasible. Additionally, in most cases, samples of hair or excrements have been also taken for DNA analysis and storing in Tiger DNA Database within the project Tigris ID and subsequent For Wild project.

15. The project TigrisID was funded by the Czech Republic and implemented by the Forensic DNA Service Laboratory (FDNAS) between 2018 to 2021. Under the project, two methods have been developed for species identification of tiger biological material in different types of products and for determination of tiger individual profile using STR loci. A report about the results of TigrisID project was reported at SC74 as information document [SC74 Inf. 16](#). The research is ongoing and has been extended also for other Asian Big Cat Species within the For Wild project conducted by the Faculty of Science of the Charles University in Prague.
16. The trial of the case from 2018 relating to the illegal killing of tigers and illegal trade in tiger specimens including tiger parts and derivatives (see details in information documents [SC70 Inf. 23](#) and [SC70 Inf. 24](#)) has been finalized. The three perpetrators, consisting of a breeder of tigers, a taxidermist and a Vietnamese citizen, were found guilty and sentenced to 18 months in prison with 3 years' probation, 18 months in prison with 3 years' probation and 2 years in prison with 4 years' probation respectively.
17. Over the past five years, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, in conjunction with the Customs Authority, conducted inspections of breeding facilities. These inspections resulted in the identification of 13 cases of violation of the Czech CITES National legislation or the EU Wildlife Trade regulations concerning tigers and other Asian big cat species. These violations included failure to comply with the registration rules of the specimens according to the CITES national legislation; offering tiger specimens for trade without the necessary permission; and inability to provide proof of the legal origin of the specimens, among others. The offenders were subsequently fined, with a total amount of CZK 370 000 imposed in penalties.
18. In addition, criminal investigations have been initiated in several cases related to the suspected illegal handling of tiger carcasses in the years 2021 and 2022, based on the findings by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, Customs Authority and the Police. As reported in document SC74 Doc. 36, in 2019, two live specimens of white tigers were seized and confiscated because the specimens were not marked with microchips for identification. In the same year, a tiger skeleton (without a skull), and a separate tiger skull were confiscated and a stuffed tiger body, without proof of legal origin, was seized. In August 2022, a live female tiger cub was seized without proper marking (microchip) and proof of legal origin. It was subsequently placed into a rescue centre (zoo) in the Czech Republic. This tiger cub has been confiscated in April 2023 and transferred to a Wildlife Sanctuary in Germany on 26 July 2023. Another live female tiger cub, also without proof of legal origin, has been seized and is currently kept by the original holder. It is scheduled for confiscation.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)

Legislative provisions and implementation

19. Lao PDR implements Decision 14.69 and paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on the *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* through national and provincial legislation.
20. The following legislation (laws and decrees) is used to regulate tiger-keeping facilities and the keeping of tigers in captivity:
 - a) Wildlife and Aquatics Law No 07/NA, dated 24 December 2007, has been reviewed, revised and subsequently divided into two separate draft laws: the Wildlife Law and the Aquatic Resources Law. The draft Wildlife Law was submitted by the Prime Minister's office for consideration by the National Assembly on 31 April 2023. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Department of Forest's report to the Secretariat regarding the Application of CITES Article XIII in Lao PDR dated 31 July 2023, further consultations were held from May to June 2023 chaired by the National Assembly Law Department to finalize the draft before the review of the National Assembly in July 2023. It is anticipated that the law will be approved by the National Assembly in August 2023, and promulgated by the President in October 2023.
 - b) On 11 November 2022, the Prime Minister of the Lao PDR signed the new Government's Decree No. 348/Gol implementing CITES to regulate international trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna listed in CITES Appendices. At the time of the mission by the Secretariat (February 2023), the CITES Management Authority indicated that the decree will be enacted in due course. In subsequent reporting, the Lao PDR informed the Secretariat that the Government Decree came into effect in January 2023.

- c) The Prime Minister's order No. 05/2018 on strengthening management and inspection of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- d) Ministerial Decision No. 0188/MAF, dated 8 February 2019 on the *Establishment and Management of zoos, wildlife farms, centres for rehabilitation and breeding of wildlife and wild flora farms* serves as the foundation for the annual operating permits that tiger facilities are required to obtain. This decree is intended to undergo review as part of the legislative evaluation process.
- e) Penal Code No. 13/NA (2017)

Enforcement actions

- 21. The Lao People's Democratic Republic reported to the Secretariat on enforcement actions taken as part of the Article XIII process (report dated 31 July 2023)
- 22. The Lao PDR indicated that a Task Force Team, appointed by the Minister, is in the process of developing an Action Plan for wild and captive bred tigers, based on a model of an existing plan for Asian elephants.
- 23. The Task Force Team would appreciate guidance on the reintroduction of tigers into the wild and technical support on conversion of farms to zoo
- 24. The Department of Forests (DoF) has established a partnership agreement with a zoo in Japan and expressed an interest in considering the adoption of their zoo standards.
- 25. Facility inspections are conducted by officials from the District DoF, to whom births and deaths of tigers must be reported. These district officials subsequently report their findings to the provincial DoF, which in turn reports to the headquarters (HQ). HQ holds the authority to review any reports received from the district or provincial DoF. While district officials are responsible for inspections, they often face resource constraints in executing their duties due to limited funds.
- 26. The Department of Forestry Inspection (DOFI), comprised of a law enforcement team consisting of 70 staff members across the country, conducts inspections, including within the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone. Notably, there have been no reported tiger-related crimes committed by facilities thus far.
- 27. The Lao PDR has established law enforcement cooperation with neighbouring countries such as Thailand and Viet Nam. In order to enhance these collaborative efforts, the Lao PDR is preparing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with both Thailand and Viet Nam. However, establishing similar cooperation with China seems to present more challenges.

South Africa

Legislative provisions and implementation

- 28. South Africa indicated that it does not implement Decision 14.69, but it does implement paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on the *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* through national and provincial legislation.
- 29. The tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is not an indigenous species in South Africa. This creates some challenges in terms of the current legislative framework to regulate activities involving tigers (an alien species) in a standardized manner across all nine provinces in South Africa.
- 30. South Africa regulates some activities involving tigers through the CITES Regulations promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No 10 of 2004) (NEMBA). This includes the following:
 - a) All persons wishing to internationally trade specimens of any species listed in Appendix I (*Panthera tigris*) must be registered with the provincial Management Authority.
 - b) All persons wishing to produce captive-bred animals of any species listed in Appendix I for commercial international trade purposes must be registered with the provincial Management Authority and, where required, with the CITES Secretariat (Note: South Africa has not submitted any applications to register captive-breeding facilities for tiger to the Secretariat).
 - c) All persons registered with the provincial Management Authority for captive-breeding of tigers must keep registers of the parental stock and of captive-bred offspring, including markings (microchips) to facilitate identification, monitoring and to prove legal acquisition for future trading purposes. Registers

must be kept and updated with information relating to deaths, births and exports and submitted to the provincial Management Authority on a monthly basis. Records of any transactions involving tigers must be kept for a period of five years. The provincial Management Authority may inspect the premises, registers and records kept at any time.

- d) Specimens of animal species listed in Appendix I (*Panthera tigris*) that have been bred in captivity may not be traded unless they originate from a breeding operation registered by the provincial Management Authority and have been individually and permanently marked in a manner so as to render alteration or modification by unauthorized persons as difficult as possible.
- 31. Provincial legislation (ordinances) is also used to regulate tiger-keeping facilities and activities involving tigers, but the legislation is fragmented (with different requirements in the various provinces and differences in activities regulated). Some aspects covered by provincial legislation include camp sizes (minimum of 5,000m² in the provinces where the facilities were located that were visited by the Secretariat) and other specifications such as fencing, inspection requirements, the requirements relating to the information to be recorded in registers to be kept and timelines for submission of information relating to changes in the registers (deaths, births).
- 32. A permit condition is included in all authorizations relating to the keeping of tigers that specify that all dead specimens must be destroyed through incineration.
- 33. South Africa is considering various options to strengthen the legislative provisions to ensure all keeping of tigers are regulated across the country through national legislative provisions; to standardize provisions across all nine provinces; and to effectively implement the welfare (well-being) mandate that has been included in NEMBA, including the effective regulation / prohibition of certain tourism activities (petting).
- 34. A National Task Team have been established to consider and develop a national regulatory framework on the keeping of dangerous wild animals as pets (including the keeping of tigers).
- 35. In response to Notification to the Parties [No. 2023/091](#), South Africa indicated that, although it has intensive tiger breeding operations on a commercial scale, tigers are not specifically bred for trade in their parts and derivatives because most of these tigers are exported as live animals to zoos, safari parks and exhibition facilities and the live animals are thus imported into those countries for non-commercial purposes.
- 36. South Africa confirmed that a zero annual export quota was established for trade in specimens of bones, bone pieces, bone products, claws, skeletons, skulls and teeth for commercial purposes, derived from captive-breeding operations in South Africa since 2019. A High-Level Panel was also appointed in 2019 to review policies, regulatory measures, practices and policy positions that are related to hunting, trade, captive keeping, management and handling of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros. The panel recommended that South Africa does not captive breed lions, keep lions in captivity, or use captive lions or their derivatives commercially. A consultation process has been initiated through a Ministerial Task Team to consider the implications associated with the implementation of these recommendations, including the fate of the captive lions if no commercial benefit can be derived from these specimens.
- 37. A tiger facility in one of the provinces in South Africa keeps a few specimens of South China tigers (*Panthera tigris amoyensis*), a subspecies that is extinct in the wild (it has not been seen in the wild since 1988) and considered functionally extinct. The status of this population was not clear during the mission but is of potential conservation importance. Subsequent to the mission, South Africa indicated that there are 18 South China tigers in the facility.

Enforcement actions

- 38. Only one case was registered against the previous owner of one of the tiger-keeping facilities. Six Vietnamese nationals and two South Africans were charged under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act for the killing of lions, *Panthera leo*, on the farm. The six Vietnamese nationals were sentenced in 2019 to each pay a fine which varied from R8 000.00 to R50 000.00 or imprisonment which varied from 1 to 6 years. All of them had to return to their country of origin immediately after the case was concluded. The case against the two South African nationals is ongoing.
- 39. In 2019, skins and bones of four tigers were confiscated in North West Province, the case is ongoing. The investigation is complete. The criminal docket is with the Directorate of Public Prosecution for a decision.
- 40. In 2020, live tigers were confiscated among other animals in Mpumalanga Province because the owner did not have the necessary provincial permit for possession and keeping of the animals. The matter is finalised, and the owner paid a fine and was issued with a notice to comply with the provincial and national legislation by applying for a possession permit.

41. In 2020, two tiger skins were seized for possession without a permit in the Western Cape Province. The case was finalised and the items were forfeited to the state

Thailand

Legislative provisions and implementation

42. Thailand indicated that it implements Decision 14.69 and paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on the *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* through various legislative provisions, including the following:
- Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2562 (2019) (WARPA); and
 - Ministerial Regulation (No. 9) B.E. 2540 (1997) concerning establishment of public zoos pursuant to WARPA issued pursuant to the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2535 (1992).
43. Due to the need for effective measures to regulate possession, trade, import, export, and transfer of specimens, the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation enacted the new Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562. The key improvement includes standardized provisions relating to zoos that impose stricter control measures for zoos, particularly limitations on the number of animals (including tigers) that may be kept and requirements relating to animal care and welfare. Penalties have been increased both in terms of imprisonment and fines.
44. The *Guidance to Actions Related to Protected Species and Their Carcass (Tiger)*, (Official DNP Document No. 0909.302/2599 dated 9 February 2016), is being implemented. The guidance is designed to ensure that the public zoo license holders, who are in possession of tigers, are strictly operating in accordance with relevant regulations, laws, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
45. Subsidiary legislation promulgated under the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019) (WARPA) and aimed at addressing pertinent issues relating to tigers in captivity is expected by November 2023. As the majority of the captive tigers in Thailand are kept in zoos, the zoo-related legislation has been prioritized. Ministerial regulations concerning zoo operations and permissions are in the public hearing process. The Ministerial regulations require zoo facilities to follow zoo standards which will be prescribed by the DNP regulations.
46. The DNP regulations include comprehensive requirements ranging from housing, exhibition, care, nutrition, welfare, safety, and education for visitors. The regulation has been approved by the WARPA committee and the public hearing process will be initiated. It is anticipated to be enforced by November 2023.
47. Pursuant to provisions of the Ministerial regulation, the DNP regulations will furthermore specify requirements specific to each species kept in zoos. The DNP will impose restrictions for tigers, for instance breeding limitation, breeding plan, zoo activities and reporting requirements. These requirements are being drafted.
48. Violation of provisions under these legislations shall result in suspension and revocation of zoo permits, as well as punishment by imprisonment, fine or both. Thailand anticipates that a range of legislative enactments will potentially come into effect around March 2024.
49. Tigers are a protected species under WARPA. Possession and use of tigers are not allowed. An exemption was granted for specimens possessed by facilities with zoo licenses, and those obtained prior to WARPA and declared during the registration period (private possession). These zoos and private persons are allowed to keep the animals under strict requirements.
50. According to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, the following actions must be adhered to by public zoo license holders who are in possession of tigers:
- a) Any increase or decrease in the population of tigers must be reported to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation immediately within 24 hours via a hotline for verification by an official. It must also be reported in a specific report form relating to the increase or decrease in Protected Species and submitted within 60 days.
 - b) Any newborn tigers must be implanted with an identification microchip within 90 days of its birth. Samples for DNA analysis will also be collected, and the stripe pattern photographed and registered in the database for identification purposes.

- c) In case of a tiger's death, its carcass must be preserved for officials of the Department to collect and for a veterinarian to verify the cause of death. The tiger will be identified using markings and microchip numbers as well as DNA analysis. The carcass is not to be disposed of or transported outside of the public zoo before being verified by an official of the Department.
51. According to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, the following are implemented by officials:
 - a) All public zoos must be monitored by officials from the Wildlife Conservation Office, Protected Area Regional Office 1-16, and relevant local branches, to ensure that wildlife protection laws and regulations are complied with. Inspections must be conducted at least once every 30 days. The inspection and monitoring results must be reported to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation.
 - b) The Office of Forest Protection and Fire Control must assign officers responsible for the hotline 1362, to ensure the safe and systematic delivery of information concerning increases and decreases in the tiger population in captivity.
 52. In the case of a tiger's death and the facility wishes to keep the carcass, the facility should state its desire to preserve the carcass to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation within 60 days of the tiger's death. The facility should also submit a report form with the reason for keeping the carcass. The carcass will then be marked for identification purposes. In case the facility does not wish to preserve the carcass, the carcass should be disposed of by incineration in the presence of officers from the local authorities.
 53. Thailand indicated that addressing the demand and enforcement concerning the use of and trade in tiger amulets, particular when they are sought for spiritual purposes, presents enforcement challenges. As part of the "Mercy is power" campaign under the GEF-6, Thais were encouraged to take a pledge against purchasing and owning ivory and tiger amulets.
 54. Thailand indicated that education material and information relating to the keeping of tigers will be welcome. After the mission, Thailand invited the representative nominated by WAZA to support the Secretariat during the mission to present information to the Thailand CITES office on the keeping of tigers and other large cats. This information included standards for keeping animals for the purpose of display, minimum requirements for keeping mammals, enclosure size and furnishings, enrichment, feeding, security, signage and education materials.

Enforcement actions

55. Thailand reported one case recorded in November 2020 that concerned tiger facilities possessing protected species (tiger) without permission, but not for illegal trade. Officers from the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and police officers from the Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Division investigated a tiger zoo and farm and seized tigers whose DNA was not linked to any other tiger in the zoo. The seized tigers were brought into the care of a wildlife breeding centre of DNP.
56. At the prosecutorial stage, the criminal proceeding was abated upon the death of the offender (zoo owner) in 2023. Legally possessed tigers will be transferred to other facilities in response to the revocation of the zoo permit.
57. Cooperation with and regular meetings with neighbouring countries take place to address concerns relating to illegal trade in wildlife including tigers.

Viet Nam

Legislative provisions and implementation

58. Viet Nam indicated that it implements Decision 14.69 and paragraph 1 h) of Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP19) on the *Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species* through various legislative provisions.
59. The following legislation is used to implement Decision 14.69 and the provisions in the Resolution:
 - a) According to Decree No. 06/2019) /ND-CP, the commercial use of tigers (listed in Group I-B, List of endangered, precious and rare forest plants and animals) is prohibited in Viet Nam, and the law does not permit the breeding tigers and big cats for commercial purposes.

- b) According to the Investment Law 2020, tigers and wild animals of Group I, CITES Appendix I are prohibited from investing in and trading in specimens from nature.
 - c) Any violations of the law on protection of tigers and wild animals in Group I-B and CITES Appendix I shall be dealt with according to Article 244, Penal Code 2015 (amended in 2017). The penalty can be up to 15 years in prison and a maximum fine of VND 15 billion, depending on the seriousness of each violation.
 - d) Tigers are nationally conserved according to Decision No. 539/QĐ-TTg dated 16 April, 2014 of the Prime Minister on approving the tiger conservation programme for the period of 2014 to 2022.
60. In 2021, Viet Nam issued the National Technical Standard for tigers, lions, and sun bears enclosures, which outlines the necessary conditions for tiger raising facilities. This standard is designed to support management agencies in inspecting and supervising tiger and wild animals raising activities.
61. The CITES Management Authority, the Forest Protection Department and Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, took DNA samples from every individual at tiger breeding facilities to verify the origin of these specimens (expected to be completed in 2023).
62. People's Committees direct local authorities to check, supervise, implement the law on protecting and conserving wild animals. The Forest Protection Sub-department oversees inspection and supervision of breeding and keeping activities, enforces the law and handles violations according to the regulations.
63. All tiger raising facilities are subject to regular monthly inspections by the local Forest Protection Department and must report annually to the Viet Nam CITES MA on the number of tiger stocks, proportion of males and females and changes in tiger stocks.

Enforcement actions

64. Between 2017 and 2021, state management and enforcement agencies in Viet Nam actively investigated, arrested, prosecuted and settled illegal trading, transport and captive cases, for example:
- a) confiscated 7 individual tigers illegally transported on road from Nghe An to Ha Noi in July 2019. In May 2020, Hanoi People's Court sentenced 3 individuals for illegal trade in tigers to 16 years in prison;
 - b) confiscated 7 tigers illegally transferred from Ha Tinli to Nghe An in August 2021. In March 2022, Nghe An People's Court sentenced 2 individuals to 9 years in prison;
 - c) arrested 2 individuals for illegally raising 17 tigers in Nghe An in August 2021. In March 2022, Nghe An People's Court sentenced 1 individual to 7 years in prison and another one to 3.5 years in prison;
 - d) arrested 1 person for keeping a tiger (200 kg) in Thai Nguyen in January 2022. Competent agencies are investigating to solve the case in accordance with the law;
 - e) arrested 3 individuals for illegally transferring a tiger of 200 kg in Lai Chau in March 2022. The competent agencies are investigating to solve the case in accordance with the law; and
 - f) arrested 3 individuals for trading and keeping a frozen tiger and tiger skin in Thanh Hoa in May 2022. In December 2022, People's Court of Thuong Xuan District, Thanh Hoa province sentenced 5 individuals to 9 years in prison.