

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

TIBETAN ANTELOPE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13) (*Conservation of and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope*), in which it directs the Standing Committee to:

undertake a regular review of the enforcement measures taken by the Parties in eliminating the illicit trade in Tibetan antelope products on the basis of the Secretariat's report, and to report the results at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. The Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group intends to arrange a training work on the subject of illegal trade in specimens of Tibetan antelope. However, a venue and date have yet to be established.
4. The Secretariat has seen media reports suggesting that traders in the State of Jammu and Kashmir in India are, once again, pressing to be allowed to trade in Tibetan antelope wool. It notes that some of these reports have included misinformation, claiming that such wool is collected from the high plains where these animals live and that no Tibetan antelopes are killed to obtain their wool. The Secretariat has previously supplied the Government and Supreme Court of India with details of the findings of its mission to western China to examine illegal trade in this species. These findings demonstrated clearly the significant poaching and illegal trade affecting Tibetan antelopes.
5. The Secretariat has also seen a report of Tibetan antelope horns being offered for sale in China. It is not clear whether this was for medicinal or decorative purposes. The Secretariat is aware that there was, in the past, some demand for horns for traditional medicine, but it is also aware that the current motivation for the poaching of this animal is almost exclusively to obtain its wool.
6. The Secretariat has nothing further to report on this subject. It suggests that, should any new information come to hand, it would report on the Committee's behalf to the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat believes that illegal trade in specimens of Tibetan antelope is well-known in the CITES community and it has been unable to identify any specific additional measures that need to be taken. However, it continues to encourage Parties to be alert to illegal trade and it hopes to assist Interpol's Wildlife Crime Working Group in any training that is undertaken.
7. The Standing Committee may wish to consider how regularly it reviews this subject in future. The Secretariat suggests that it report to the Committee once between each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, rather than the current practice of reporting at each meeting of the Standing Committee.