

**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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**TIGERS AND OTHER ASIAN BIG CATS**

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Ninth Meeting (Rome 1-5 December 2008)

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

*Conscious* that three subspecies of *Panthera tigris* have become extinct within the last 50 years;

*Concerned* that, despite actions taken by Range States, which have stemmed the decline of some sub-populations, overall, the population of most sub-species of tiger, *Panthera tigris*, continue to decline in the wild;

*Further concerned* that tiger habitats throughout India, Indochina, and Southeast Asia are now 40 percent less than was estimated in 1995, and 90% less than was estimated at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century;

*Acknowledging* that, where wild tigers still exist, their habitat often encompasses national borders, such as the Sundabans between India and Bangladesh, between the far east of Russia, north Korea and northeast China, between southern China and Laos, between Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, between Myanmar and Thailand, between India and Bhutan and between India and Myanmar, but that little is known about their movements across such borders. However, the movement of wild tigers between Nepal and India is well documented in several locations;

*Acknowledging* that tigers and other Asian big cat species depend on contiguous habitat with ample prey species to survive and that at the same time tigers and other Asian big cat species support the integrity of these ecosystems;

*Further acknowledging* that tigers, other Asian big cat species, and the conservation of their habitat are adversely affected by differences between the policies, laws and regulations in adjacent countries;

*Recognizing* that strengthened cooperation between Range States, together with financial support, is expected to contribute to more effective conservation of tigers and other Asian big cat species;

Noting that one Asian big cat species, the snow leopard *Uncia uncia* is listed in Appendix I of CMS;

Further noting that the Central Eurasian Aridland Concerted Action established by the Conference of the Parties at its Ninth Meeting (Rome, 1-5 December 2008) through Recommendation 9.1 includes five Asian big cat species, three, the snow leopard *Uncia uncia*, the Asiatic lion *Panthera leo persica* and the Asiatic cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* over their entire range, and two, the tiger *Panthera tigris* and the leopard *Panthera pardus* over substantial parts of their range;

Also noting that all sub-species of *Panthera tigris* and other Asian big cat species have been listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 1975 (with the exception of the Asiatic lion and the Amur tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*, which were included in 1977 and 1987, respectively) prohibiting commercial international trade in the species and their parts and derivatives;

Recalling Resolution Conf. 12.5, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to CITES at its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, relating to conservation of and trade in tigers and other Asian big cat species listed in Appendix I of CITES;

Further recalling that CITES Resolution Conf. 12.5 states that long-term solutions to the protection, conservation and management of tigers and other Asian big cat species and their habitats require the adoption of bold and innovative actions based on a sound base of information;

Acknowledging the work of the Global Tiger Forum and the actions and reports of members of the Forum in reviewing the threats to the long-term survival of tigers in the wild and the recommended measures to address those threats; and

Commending the positive actions taken by some Range States to address tiger conservation issues and to facilitate cooperation with other Parties, but aware that much more far reaching measures are required;

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. Urges Parties and Range States to enhance mutual transboundary cooperation for the conservation and management of tigers and other Asian big cat species throughout the species' range and potential donor countries to provide or increase financial support for conservation of Asian big cat species;
2. Calls upon the Scientific Council to review, in consultation with international conservation bodies, including the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, the conservation and management of tigers and other Asian big cat species and to propose any appropriate actions required to the Conference of the Parties at its Tenth Meeting;
3. Requests the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to ensure that all means that can effectively contribute to an improvement of the conservation status of Asian big cats and to awareness raising on the threats that they face are taken within the framework of the Central Eurasian Aridland Mammals Concerted Action in keeping with the terms of Recommendation 9.1; and
4. Encourages the Secretariat to explore areas for complementing the ongoing efforts of existing international organisations and Conventions for the conservation of tigers and other Asian big cats, and to report to the Scientific Council and COP10.