

Conf. 11.8 (Rev. CoP13)*

Conservation of and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope

RECALLING the International Workshop on Conservation and Control of Trade in Tibetan Antelope, held in Xining, China, 12-14 October 1999, where a draft resolution on the conservation and control of trade in the Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) was discussed by government representatives from China, France, India, Italy, Nepal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as representatives of the CITES Secretariat and non-governmental organizations;

AWARE that the Tibetan antelope is included in Appendix I, and that all commercial international trade in its parts and derivatives has been regulated by the Convention since 1979;

NOTING that the wild population of the Tibetan antelope continues to be threatened by poaching to supply the market for shahtoosh, the fine wool of the species, and shahtoosh products;

CONSCIOUS that an effective ban on processing of and trade in shahtoosh is a critically important complement to effective *in situ* conservation of the species, including control of large scale poaching;

RECOGNIZING that strengthened technical cooperation between range and non-range States, and financial support, would contribute to more effective conservation of the Tibetan antelope;

COMMENDING the initiatives by Parties to facilitate cooperation in conservation of the Tibetan antelope and to address illegal hunting of the Tibetan antelope, including:

- a) China, which has made a serious effort to stop poaching and smuggling of the Tibetan antelope and has also established nature reserves for the species; and
- b) France, India, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, which have taken steps to protect the species, including enforcement and judicial action to halt the illegal trade in Tibetan antelope parts and derivatives and the development of identification techniques for such parts and derivatives;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOMMENDS that:

- a) all Parties and non-Parties, especially consumer and range States, adopt comprehensive legislation and enforcement controls as a matter of urgency, with the aim of eliminating commercial trade in Tibetan antelope parts and derivatives, especially shahtoosh, in order to reduce demonstrably the illegal trade in Tibetan antelope products;
- b) all Parties treat any product claimed to be 'shahtoosh' or claimed to contain Tibetan antelope specimens as a readily recognizable part or derivative of the Tibetan antelope and therefore subject to the provisions relating to Appendix-I species, as provided for in Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev.), and enact legislation, where it does not exist, to fully implement these provisions for such products;
- c) all Parties adopt penalties adequate to deter illegal trade and measures to enhance public awareness of the actual origin of the products and of the status of the Tibetan antelope; and
- d) all Parties and non-Parties in whose territory stocks of Tibetan antelope parts and raw materials exist, adopt a registration system and national measures to prevent such stocks from re-entering into trade;

* Amended at the 12th and 13th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

DIRECTS:

- a) the Secretariat, with the assistance of interested Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to provide funding and technical assistance to the range States of the Tibetan antelope in order to improve anti-poaching efforts, to carry out population censuses, to formulate a conservation strategy and to prevent trade in Tibetan antelope parts and derivatives; and
- b) 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; and

URGES:

- a) the processing countries of the products of the Tibetan antelope to continue their efforts to ban the processing of Tibetan antelope wool;
- b) all countries and territories with relevant experience and technical capabilities to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information, technology and experience with regard to education and awareness, law enforcement such as smuggling routes and methods, and techniques for the identification of parts and derivatives of the Tibetan antelope; and
- c) relevant Parties to designate a contact point and to provide contact details to the Secretariat in order to establish a network to assist in the control of illegal trade in Tibetan antelope parts and derivatives, particularly shahtoosh, and, where appropriate to make full use of the ECO-MESSAGE of ICPO-Interpol and existing law enforcement networks, including the World Customs Organization.