

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF FORESTRY

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FOREST DEPARTMENT

Annex 5

Nay Pyi Taw

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Date . 28<sup>th</sup> December 2006

To

Mr. John M. Sellar

Chief

Anti-smuggling, Fraud and Organized Crime

Secretariat

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)  
Geneva

Subject: **Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species**

Reference: JMS/tigers dated 17 October 2006

Myanmar acceded to CITES in the year 1997 and since then has been collaborating with the Secretariat and its member countries in the implementation of Convention Text particularly control of trade of CITES Appendix listed wild animal species including that of tigers and other Asian big cats. Myanmar is a range state of tigers (*Panthera tigris*), and other Asian big cat species such as Leopard, Clouded Leopard and Leopard cat. All of these species are protected by the Protection of Wildlife and Conservation of Natural Areas Law in Myanmar.

Myanmar seriously considers as did Standing Committee at its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting in Geneva from 2 to 6 October the conservation of tigers and other Asian big cat species and concerns the long term survival of these endangered species as their populations are declining due to several factors which include poaching and habitat loss across their range states. As such, Myanmar has established a 6371 sq km large Hukaung Wildlife Sanctuary for the tigers in the north of the country, which shares border with India in the west and connects the Northern Forest Complex extending the Chinese border in the east. With the financial support of Wildlife Conservation Society, a Wildlife Police Force was formed to effectively patrol and protects the tigers and other wildlife in the sanctuary along with Forest Department.

The staff from the Hukaung Wildlife Sanctuary and Wildlife Police Force carry out surprise search of tiger and other wildlife parts from house to house in villages near the sanctuary and bring those who committed the crimes. Besides, search and arrests of tiger parts and offenders are made at checkpoints along the roads going to the border areas in collaboration with Customs and Police Force. Myanmar, as attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties, fully support its Resolution Conf. 12.5 and has been trying to implement it with her best of technical, financial and human capacities available within the country. However, such crimes involving wildlife trade are rather complicated, complex and well organized and for the enforcement authorities require a great deal of efforts to investigate and eradicate these crimes. At present resources to eliminate the illegal wildlife trade particularly tiger parts are limited in Myanmar and Myanmar needs all kinds of support from the CITES Secretariat to combat the illegal wildlife trade. Nevertheless as the CITES Management Authority of Myanmar I would like to assure you that Myanmar will continue to eliminate the organized crime in illegal trade of tiger and Asian big cat species in collaboration with CITES Secretariat.



(Soe Win Hlaing)

Director General and CITES Management Authority

Forest Department

Ministry of Forestry

Myanmar