

State Forestry Administration
State Ethnic Affairs Commission

Lin Hu Fa [2007] No.206

To all provinces, autonomous regions, forestry departments (administrations) of municipalities directly under the Central Government, ethnic (religious) affairs (departments, bureaus); Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Longjiang; Daxing'anling Forestry Industry (Forestry) Holdings, The Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, ethnic and religious affairs administrations:

Comment [ck1]: Unsure of actual name.

To plan as a whole and give consideration to ethnic traditions, legal rights and interests of the masses, local legal economic-cultural activities, as well as the multi-aspect needs of tiger and leopard protection on the international level, pursuant to the “Administrative License Law of the People’s Republic of China”, “Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Wildlife” and other laws and statutes, and upon approval by the State Council, the decision is made to implement identification management on tiger and leopard pelts to further standardise business and utilisation activities. The notice of relevant requirements is hereby set forth below:

- I. Conduct overall investigation, verification and registration work on tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof from legal origins such as long-term conservation and breeding.

After this Notice is issued, all forestry and ethnic working departments must organise joint investigations as soon as possible to notify via the proper ways – based on the local area’s actual situation – the entities or individuals that keep tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof to declare in a timely manner such articles currently in their possession, and verify their origins. Where the tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof are obtained before the implementation of “Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Wildlife”, by legal breeding or via other legal means, registration can be made based on the legal origins. Where the tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof are found to have been obtained illegally, they will be handled pursuant to the law. Where the tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof whose origins are hard to check, if the owner of the abovementioned articles undertakes in writing legal liability for the authenticity of the information of such articles declared, the information declared can be accepted tentatively. After the abovementioned investigation, verification and registration are completed, the provinces, autonomous regions, responsible forestry departments of municipalities directly under the Central Government are requested to compile the reports to be handed up to the State Forestry Administration.



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II. Implement special identification management and site-specific processing/selling system.

Starting 1 Jan 2008, owners of tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof that have been verified and registered to be from legal origins may apply to the State Forestry Administration via the local provincial responsible forestry department for the relevant administrative permits pursuant to the law and the indication of the “Special Mark for Business Operations, Utilisation and Management of China Wild Animals” (hereinafter known as “special mark”) for their tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof from legal origins. For tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof approved with the “special mark”, the owners of such articles can sell within the applicable range based on the administrative permit with the mark. With no exception, those without the “special mark” must not be sold, and must not be displayed or exhibited in public.

III. Launch extensive publicity to educate the public to consciously boycott tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof from illegal origins.

While pushing for the management of standardised business operations and utilisation of tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof, all localities must realistically step up positive publicity, strive for the understanding and support of the society. Especially in ethnic regions, the ethnic working departments must work with the forestry management departments with the protection of ethnic traditions and legal economic activities in mind to launch deep-reaching and detailed publicity and education to gain the understanding of the communities in the ethnic regions to gain their support for the policies and measures of the business operations and utilisation activities concerning the tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof under the State’s standardised management. In the work of extensive publicity, spread the message of not buying tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof that are not tagged with the “special mark”; not wearing clothes and accessories that are not tagged with the “special mark” in public or grand ethnic events; consciously participating in activities to crack down on illegal trafficking and selling of tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof; and creating a positive social environment conducive for the relevant work.



IV. Enhance understanding, bolster leadership, strengthen law enforcement and control, centralise statements made to the public.

In view of the current international trend of protecting wildlife, further standardising of the management of operations and utilisation activities concerning tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof is needed to plan as a whole and give consideration to ethnic traditions, legal rights and interests of the masses, local legal economic activities, as well as the multi-aspect needs of tiger and leopard protection on the international level. The forestry and ethnic working departments at all levels must fully recognise the importance of steadily advancing this task; report the situation to the local party committees and governments in a timely manner; step up inter-department coordination and communication of information under the leadership of the local party committees and governments; and pay close attention to and make timely reports on the various possible situations and problems. Especially in the ethnic regions, conflicts and disputes involving the ethnic groups due to the masses' lack of understanding must be prevented. At the same time, step up joint law enforcements, inspections and special crackdowns jointly launched by several departments; put special personnel in charge; study and formulate the strict management system of our department and entity; prevent the occurrence of inadequate control and other circumstances that will damage the reputation and image of China in wildlife protection. With regards to publicity internally and externally, relevant information must not be disseminated without authorisation. Under special circumstances where explanation is required, there should be positive publicity on the stand of the State and the tremendous efforts it has put in to boost the protection of tigers and leopards and the crackdown on illegal trafficking and the business operations and utilisation of tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof; explanation that the wearing of tiger and leopard pelt clothing and accessories is one of the historic ethnic traditions; explanation that the display, exhibition and wearing of traditional clothing and accessories made of tiger and leopard pelts in long-term conservation is fundamentally different from illegal selling and trafficking activities, and hence they are not comparable; emphasis that the measures of standardised management further taken on the business operations and utilisation activities of tiger pelts, leopard pelts and the products thereof are yet another indication of China's show of responsibility towards world tiger and leopard protection, thereby extensively strive for the understanding and support of the international community, to continually push for the creation of a conducive international environment for wildlife protection and the coordination and sustainable development of ethnic traditions.



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