

Decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress relating to a total prohibition on illegal wildlife trade, eliminating the bad habit of excessive eating of wildlife, and effectively safeguarding the lives and health of the public

(Passed by the 16th meeting of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress on 24 February 2020)

In order to fully prohibit and punish illegal trade in wildlife, eliminate the bad habit of excessive eating of wildlife, support biosafety and the safety of ecosystems, effectively guard against major public health risks, safeguard the lives and health of the public, strengthen the establishment of ecocivilisation, and encourage harmony between humans and nature, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress made the following decisions:

- 1) All hunting, trade, transport and eating of wildlife that is prohibited by the Wildlife Protection Law of the People's Republic of China and other relevant laws must be strictly prohibited.

Any behaviour that is in contravention of the paragraph above shall be punished more severely, building upon the provisions in the current law.

- 2) All consumption of "terrestrial wildlife of important ecological, scientific or social value" and other terrestrial wildlife as food, including captive bred terrestrial wildlife, shall be totally prohibited.

All hunting, trading or transporting terrestrial wildlife that has naturally bred in the wild for the purposes of consumption as food shall be prohibited.

Any behaviour that is in contravention of the previous two paragraphs shall be punished in accordance with penalties stipulated by relevant regulations in applicable existing laws.

- 3) Animals that are added to the catalogue of livestock and poultry genetic resources shall be regarded as livestock and poultry, and the regulations of the Animal Husbandry Law of the People's Republic of China shall be applicable.
The department responsible for administration of livestock husbandry and veterinary medicine under the State Council shall draw up and publish the catalogue of livestock and poultry genetic resources in accordance with the law.
- 4) Where there is a need to utilise wildlife for special purposes other than consumption as food, such as scientific research, medicine or display, this shall be

subject to strict supervision and approval, quarantine and inspection in accordance with relevant national regulations.

The State Council and its relevant responsible departments shall draw up and improve regulations relating to supervision, approval, quarantine and inspection of wildlife utilisation for non-food purposes in a timely manner, and shall strictly implement these regulations.

- 5) All elements of society including the People's Government and people's groups at all levels, social organisations, schools and news media shall all actively engage in education, dissemination and guidance in ecological and environmental protection and public health and safety. All members of society shall conscientiously improve their awareness of ecological protection and public health and safety, shall change customs and habits, shall eliminate the bad habit of excessive eating of wildlife, and shall cultivate a scientific, healthy and civilised lifestyle.
- 6) The People's Government at all levels and relevant departments shall robustly enforce management mechanisms; clearly define entities responsible for enforcement; effectively carry out their management responsibilities; strengthen coordination; increase the intensity of efforts in supervision, inspection and investigation; and stringently investigate and handle any behaviour in contravention of these decisions and relevant laws and regulations. Any trade locations or traders engaged in illegal trade shall be banned, or sealed and closed down in accordance with the law.
- 7) The State Council and its relevant departments along with the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities shall draw up and amend relevant lists and ancillary regulations in accordance with these decisions and relevant laws.

The State Council and local People's Governments shall take necessary measures to provide corresponding assurances for the implementation of these decisions. Relevant local People's Governments shall support, guide and help affected households to adjust and transform their production and business activities, and shall provide certain compensations in accordance with the real situation.

- 8) These decisions are in effect from the date of publishing.

Link to original Chinese document:

<http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/c30834/202002/c56b129850aa42acb584cf01ebb68ea4.shtml>