

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 70  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** Tiger importation - ZooDoo Tasmania – Private Ownership  
**Hansard Page:** n/a  
**Question Date:** 31 October 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Rhiannon, Lee asked:**

Given that declining wild populations are targeted to reinvigorate breeding stocks for export to the international market and private facilities, why is the Department fueling that demand by allowing the importation of animals for private ownership with little oversight?

**Answer:**

The wildlife species most threatened by trade, including big cat species, are listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the import of CITES Appendix I listed live animals by zoos is generally only permitted as part of a cooperative conservation program.

A cooperative conservation program is a breeding and/or management program that aims to conserve a species (in the wild or in captivity, or both) and applies best practice to the management of husbandry, genetics, biology and behavioural needs of the species. The program's objectives must be based on the conservation status and needs of the species, and the program must not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. Cooperative conservation programs aim to make captive populations sustainable to limit the need to obtain animals from the wild.