

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-first meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 20-25 May 2005

Regional reports

ASIA

1. This report has been prepared by Ms Siti Nuramaliati Prijono, the regional representative for Asia.
2. General information
  - a) AC membership: At the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13, 2-14 October 2004) in Bangkok, the Parties from Asia selected Ms Siti Nuramaliati Prijono from Indonesia as regional representative on the AC. Others regional representative on the AC for Asia are Mr Mohammad Pourkazemi from Iran, Mr Nobuo Ishii from Japan (alternate member) and Mr Choo-Hoo Giam from Singapore (alternate member).
  - b) Parties in the region: 37
  - c) Parties responding to communications in March 2005: 6
  - d) National, regional or international CITES meetings or events
    - The ASEAN-SEAFDEC (SEAFDEC = Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center) Regional Technical Consultation on Fish Trade & Environment from 1-3 February 2005, Bangkok (Thailand). The Consultation focussed on several important issues related to fish trade and fisheries management such as fisheries subsidies, eco-labelling, guidelines to reduce sea turtles mortality in fishing operations, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Fisheries and Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). With respect to CITES issues, member countries discussed the possible listing of the sea cucumber in CITES and its impact on the trade in commercial marine products. The participants agreed that proper management of the sea cucumber would support sustainable utilization of the species. Therefore, the Member Countries confirmed they would start gathering relevant information for the monitoring and management of sea cucumbers and SEAFDEC was requested to continue to provide the regional framework and initiatives for the management and conservation of species such as sea cucumbers, sharks, sea turtles and sea horses;
    - The Technical Workshop on the Conservation of Sea Cucumbers in the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae, organized by CITES Secretariat and hosted by Malaysia on 1-3 March 2004;
    - A tri-national (Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore) workshop on the conservation of and trade in ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) was organized by TRAFFIC South East Asia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15 to 16 April 2004. The workshop aimed to find solutions to the problem of illegal trade which occurs in these three countries. This workshop also discussed the recommendations made by previously held national workshops (in Indonesia and in Malaysia). One of the recommendations made in this tri-national workshop was the formation of a taskforce which consists of officials from the three countries to deal with enforcement on ramin timber trade;

- Bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and the Philippines on bird trade. A meeting between the Government of Indonesia and the Philippines was held and facilitated by Haribon Foundation (Philippines) and BirdLife Indonesia in Davao City the Philippines on 24-25 June 2004. This meeting was aimed to find solutions on the problem of illegal trade which occurs in this two countries to find solutions on the problem of illegal trade in bird species which occurs in this two countries. A number of solutions were agreed upon, including: increased dialogue between two countries; further CITES training for enforcement personnel; follow-up meetings to address problems as they arise; and repatriation of Indonesian birds confiscated in the Philippines. A detailed agreement and action plan will be developed, and the next meeting will be organized in Indonesia (probably in Manado, North Sulawesi).
- NEASPEC (North-East Asia Sub-regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation), which is composed of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, and managed by UN-ESCAP as the secretariat, held the third Working Group Meeting from September 30 to October 1, 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand, and the 10th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 27 November in Okinawa, Japan. Two-year nature conservation project which would target the conservation of threatened large feline mammals and migratory birds was agreed at the 10th SOM.
- ASEAN Joint Efforts to Curb Illegal Trade in Wildlife. Indonesia has initiated to proposed joint effort to curb illegal trade in wildlife among ASEAN member countries. The proposal has already endorsed by ASEAN members during the ASOF Meeting in Brunei.
- Special ASEAN Expert Group on CITES meeting will be held in first week of May 2005 to consider ASEAN Regional Action Plan on trade in wild fauna and flora from 2005 to 2010.
- Indonesia held a workshop to discuss the Indonesian position on the species listing proposals to be considered at CoP13 on 22 June 2004. The participants discussed the proposals which are of direct relevant to Indonesia and provided preliminary position of the Republic of Indonesia. The workshop involved a wide range of stakeholders, including Governments, the wildlife industry and NGOs in order to present a more transparent position to the public.
- Indonesia participate in CITES CoP 13 in Bangkok, 2-14 October 2004 , where it had submitted the following proposals of the amendment of the Appendices to be considered at the COP 13:
  - i) *Cacatua sulphurea*, lesser sulphur-crested cockatoo, yellow crested cockatoo. Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I;
  - ii) *Malayemis subtrijuga* (and *Malayemis* spp. co-proponent with the United States of America), Malayan snail-eating turtle, Ricefield turtle. Inclusion in Appendix II;
  - iii) *Notochelys platynota* (and *Notochelys* spp. co-proponent with the United States of America), Malayan flat-shelled turtle. Inclusion in Appendix II;
  - iv) *Carettochelys insculpta* (and *Carettochelys* spp. co-proponent with the United States of America), Malayan flat-shelled turtle. Inclusion in Appendix II;
  - v) *Chelodina mccordi* (co-proponent with the United States of America), Roti island snake-necked turtle. Inclusion in Appendix II;
  - vi) *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp. agarwood. Inclusion in Appendix-II;
  - vii) *Gonystylus* spp. ramin. Inclusion in Appendix II.

All the submitted proposal were adopted at the CoP13.

- Indonesia held meetings of the Napoleon Wrasse Working Group on 17th March and 22nd March 2005. In these meetings participants discussed several important issues on development of fisheries management tools for trade in humphead wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus*, in compliance with Article IV of CITES.

### 3. CITES activities in the region, in respect to:

- a) Review of Significant Trade

– Indonesia

Indonesia has been preparing a procedure to make non-detriment findings for trade in *Aquilaria malaccensis* and other agarwood-producing species on its territory in accordance with the Review of Significant Trade.

b) Review of the Appendices

– China

Several species of tortoises and freshwater turtles endemic to China had been listed in CITES Appendix III by the Chinese Government. This decision will provide better legislation basis for conservation and management of these fragile species.

– Indonesia

Inclusion of *Scleropages jardinii* into Appendix III. Population of *Scleropages jardinii* in the wild is thought to have declined, Therefore, The Government of Indonesia decided to place this species as a protected species. However the species is declining rapidly owing to intensive collection from the wild for illegal trade. Therefore, it is important to control the international trade in this species and it is for this reason that the Government of Indonesia is considering to include *Scleropages jardinii* in CITES Appendix III.

– Singapore

The Schedules to the Singapore ESA were amended to reflect the changes to the Appendices, adopted at CoP13, as well as the inclusion of 18 freshwater turtle species in Appendix III by China. The amendments came into effect on 12 January and 17 February 2005 respectively. The changes would now require trade in species such as the Asian soft-shelled turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*), pig-nosed turtle (*Carettochelys insculpta*), great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), etc., through Singapore, to be accompanied by proper CITES permits. Among others, commercial trade in the Appendix-I lesser sulphur-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*) and lilac-crowned amazon (*Amazona finschi*) are now prohibited.

c) Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes

– Indonesia

21 companies are registered with the CITES Secretariat as operations that breed *Scleropages formosus* in captivity for commercial purpose in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP13), and one company is still in application to be included in the register.

– Malaysia

Malaysia registered 3 more captive breeding operations that breed CITES Appendix I species in the year 2004 and now Malaysia has 13 CITES Appendix I Captive Operations in the country which 5 out of 13 operations breed *Crocodylus porosus* whereas the rest breed *Scleropages formosus*.

– Singapore

An application to register Mandai Bird Sanctuary, a bird farm' as a captive-breeding operation for the Black Palm cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*) is pending until receipt more information from the applicant. Singapore has also submitted to the CITES Secretariat, two applications to register Tropical Water Industries Pte Ltd and DreamFish Incorporated Singapore Pte Ltd to breed Dragon fish (*Scleropages formosus*) in captivity for commercial purposes. The two applications are pending.

d) Others

– Malaysia

Maysia successfully intercepted an attempt to smuggle 756 heads of Indian Star Tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*) from India to Malaysia via KLIA (Kuala Lumpur International Airport). The Indian Star Tortoise were concealed in two baggage hand carried by an Indian citizen, the specimen were confiscated and repatriated back to India on 26.08.04 in accordance to Article VIII and RC 10.7 CITES. As for domestic enforcement, about two-third of the cases are related to pangolins and all of the offenders were charged in court with a fine from RM 1,000 to RM 9,000.

4. Regional priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES (e. g. priority species and taxa; research projects being carried out, new developments in identification methods, research needs; population management priorities; emerging issues; species listing needs).

– China

- i) The Management Authority of China published the Chinese version of New Appendices enacted after 12 January 2005, and delivered it to all Forestry and Fishery Bureaus at provincial level, as well as the Customs officials.
- ii) The Custom Bureau General and the CITES Management Authority of China revised and publicized the HS Code concerning wild fauna and flora commodities at 1 January 2005. These codes are more detailed and easier to implement than earlier versions.
- iii) The CITES Ivory Verification Mission composed by representatives from the Secretariat and the World Custom Organization visited China from 6 to 12 March 2005. The mission visited four cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Guangzhou), which acted as the main processing and selling sites of ivory products in China. The mission is satisfied that China had complied with most provisions of the concerning resolutions. They are now preparing their evaluation reports for the Standing Committee.
- iv) In order to control epidemic diseases diffused from wildlife, the State Forestry Administration approached to set up monitoring system on epidemic diseases. A national meeting on this issue was held on 15 March 2005. The Government plans to carry out a national field survey aimed at identifying key species and key sites of epidemic diseases, monitors the migration routes' breeding sites' etc. of birds, develops information gathering, complying and analysing system, and encourage scientific research. This plan will promote conservation of and disease control of wild animals.

– Indonesia

- i) The Ministry of Forestry has just enacted a Ministerial Decree No. 447/Kpts-II/2003 dated 31 December 2003 concerning Administration Directive for the Harvest or Capture and Distribution of Specimens of Wild Plants and Animals. This decree, which is one of the implementing regulations under the Government Regulation No. 8 of 1999, concerning Species Utilization, endeavours to cover as much CITES provision as it can decree possibly accommodate. Currently Indonesian legislation has been placed in category 1, meaning that the legislation has met all the requirements to implement CITES.
- ii) The Indonesian CITES Management Authority has published a series of two guide books for identification manual for the trade in certain species (Reptile). The Indonesia version of the CITES Handbook is be published.
- iii) Development of Rhinoceros and Tiger Anti-Poaching Units  
Projects on conservation and protection of Sumatran tiger and Sumatran Rhinoceros are in progress. Among the activities of the projects is development of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Protection Units. The units, which are developed for simultaneously undertaking law enforcement (patrolling and investigation), population and habitat monitoring and community awareness activities, have shown effectiveness in combating poaching.

– Malaysia

With the listing of most of the Asian tortoises and fresh water turtles during the CoP 12 and CoP 13, Malaysia has taken various steps to further enhance the conservation efforts in these species. The steps are to cooperate with China (including Hong Kong S.A.R.) in verifying all CITES Export Permits that are issued by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), because China (including

Hong Kong S.A.R.) has found some fake permits for export of tortoises and freshwater turtles issued by Malaysia in the last few months. In term of domestic measure, Malaysia set a management quotas for all the fresh water turtles and tortoises found in the country and put a ban on trade of fresh water turtles such as *Cyclemys dentata* and *Malayemys subtrijuga* that never appeared in trade for a long period. This is to ensure that the protection on commonly traded species does not put pressure on species that are not traded and regulated.

– Singapore

Implementation of CITES controls for up-listed fauna species prior to 12 January 2005, circulars were sent to traders / trade associations dealing in reptile skin, seafood, shark fin, humphead wrasse, freshwater turtles, ornamental birds and fish and traditional Chinese medicine, to inform and prepare them for the up-listing of the species and changes in the trade regulations. The relevant traders were also advised to declare existing stock of up-listed species and/or their parts and products, to allow AVA to issue permits for their re-export after 12 January 2005.

5. Promotion of CITES in the region (of less importance)

– China

Capacity-building activities with help from the Nanning Custom Bureau (Guangxi Province), the Nanning Branch Office of the CITES Management Authority of China co-organized a training course on wildlife control from 11 to 14 March 2005. More than 50 people from root Customs bureaus attended the training course.

– Indonesia

i) A Series of CITES events was carried out by CITES SA and MA in November and December 2004. These events were involved a wide range of stakeholders, including Governments, the wildlife industry and NGOs in order to present a more transparent position to the public.

i) Regular (annual) Training on CITES Law Enforcement for field enforcement officers such as Customs, Quarantine and Provincial Conservation Agencies in November 2004. The training has been undertaken regularly since 1995 to enhance the skill and knowledge of the field officers on CITES in order to implement better control of trade in wild fauna and flora. The training materials include Introduction to Species Conservation, Introduction to CITES, Permit Systems and Procedures, Wildlife Crime and Law Enforcement Procedures, Customs Procedures, Quarantine Procedures and Species and Specimens Identification.

6. Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

– China

The State Forestry Administration and the Custom Bureau General discussed further cooperation in controlling wildlife trade and striking smuggle. A cooperation minutes had been issues in January 2005.

– Indonesia

i) Development of a MoU between the Government of Indonesia and TRAFFIC-SEA.

The Management Authority of Indonesia is developing a formal cooperation with TRAFFIC South East Asia on the matters related to CITES implementation in Indonesia. The cooperation will be focused on, but not limited to, the wildlife trade monitoring and making of non-detriment findings. The draft MoU is being assessed by the State Secretariat for endorsement before signing.

ii) Development of Rescue Centres

Indonesia has now established nine Post-confiscation Rescue Centres for handling confiscated live animals. These are located in Jakarta, Bogor, Sukabumi, Bandung, Yogyakarta, Malang, Bali, Pontianak and North Sulawesi. The centres are developed and run in collaborative partnership by the Government and NGOs. Currently the Government is developing standard operational procedures for the centres and procedures for post-rescue treatments of the animals held in the centres.

iii) Development of coordination with stakeholders.

CITES MA Indonesia in collaboration with CITES SA is developing a coordination with other stakeholders such as Customs, Police, Quarantine, Ministry of Marine Affairs, etc on the matters related to CITES implementation and wildlife trade monitoring in Indonesia. A Memorandum of Understanding between the CITES MA and Customs and Quarantine is in the making.

– Singapore:

- i) The AVA is currently working on a CITES training workshop with TRAFFIC to be conducted in April/May in Singapore. Personnel from national enforcement agencies such as the Singapore Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA), Police Coast Guard, airport police and AVA enforcement and animal quarantine offices are expected to participate in this 1-2 days workshop to have an overview of CITES and learn about permits and identification of CITES species commonly traded through Singapore.
- ii) AVA has granted in-principle support to the Animal Concerns Research & Education Society (ACRES), a national NGO, which has proposed establishment of a wildlife rescue centre in Singapore, to house and provide proper veterinary care for wildlife confiscated by AVA. Singapore welcomes sponsors who are willing to support this endeavour financially.
- iii) AVA, the Nature Society of Singapore (NSS) and Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) have jointly proposed to airport authorities, the setting up of a CITES exhibit at the Changi airport. The exhibit aim is to provide information through interactive and static displays in order to educate travelers about the purpose and requirements of CITES, and their responsibilities with regards to international and domestic laws for the import and export of specimens of wild fauna and flora. Raising public awareness is part of an on-going effort to crackdown on any illegal wildlife trade through Singapore. The project is part of the Singapore Green Plan (SGP) 2012, a Singapore blueprint for achieving environmental sustainability. Singapore welcomes sponsors who are willing to support this project financially.