

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

Regional reports

ASIA

The attached report has been submitted by Mr Suharsono Soemorumekso, regional representative for Asia^{*}. As it was received by the Secretariat after the deadline for submission of documents, it is provided herewith in English only, the language in which it was submitted.

^{*} *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

1. General information

- a. AC membership : Regional representative on the AC for ASIA are Mr. M. Pourkazemi from Iran, Mr. Suharsono Soemorumekso from Indonesia and Mr. Choo Hoo Giam from Singapore (alternate member). Mr. Nobuo Ishii from Japan (alternate member).
- b. Parties in the region : 34
- c. Parties responding to communications until July 2011 (8 countries) : China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore).
- d. National, regional or international CITES meetings or events :
 - The 5th meeting of the ASEAN wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), was held in Nay Pyi Myanmar, 18 – 19 May 2010.
 - The Philippine organized workshop on CITES Implementation capacity to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non detrimental trade, in Makati City, The Philippine, 15 – 17 June 2010.
 - Thailand organized workshop ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) Expert Group on Building a strong and effective network for the future in Bangkok, Thailand, 19 – 20 July 2010.
 - The CITES Secretariat co-sponsored by China, European Union and United State held a Workshop on CITES ASIAN Snake Trade in Guangzhou, China 11-14 april 2011. The workshop was hosted by The CITES management authority of China and attended 63 participants from 18 parties and 10 inter-governmental organization and NGO. The aim of this workshop is to know the current status, trend and issue related to the trade in snakes and their conservation management in ASIA countries.
 - Brunei organized the 8th meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group for CITES (AEG-CITES) in Brunei Darussalam, 8 -10 February 2011.
 - The 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN – WEN), was held in Manila, The Philippines, 25 -27 May 2011.

2. CITES activities in the region, in respect to :

a. Review of significant Trade :

- **India** submitted report on shark trade and implementation of national Plan of Action for sharks or regional plans and other available relevant data and information.(annex 1.)
- **Japan** submitted Report on Trade in Shark species and implementation of the National Action Plan for conservation and management of shark. (Annex 2).
- **Mongolia** submitted report about the development of the NDF- Sakker Falcon (Falco cherrug) and forthcoming review by the 25th AC in 18-22 July 2011 hopefully will determine wheter continued wild Saker Falcon export from Mongolia or will be sanctioned in 2011.
- **Indonesia** Animal species from Indonesia has been reviewed by Secretariat are :
 - *Amyda cartilagenia*, the quota of this species has stagnant and tend to declined after 2008. Indonesia has conducted several research and survey regarding the population in the wild and the trade to support the NDF report. EU in cooperation with CITES Secretariat has agreed to give the small grant for doing the population survey in West Sumatera to assist Indonesia improve the quota setting

- *Hippocampus spp.* Since 2008 CITES MA of Indonesia has regulation that all exports of *Hippocampus spp.* must be live and from captive breeding or zero quota from the wild.
- Shark : Concerning the proposal to include several species of sharks into appendix II, CITES MA Indonesia need to be assisted doing the population survey and capacity building to recognize and differentiate the species of sharks when they traded in their fins since Indonesia has about 80 species of sharks. However Indonesia has a NPOA as a guide to improve the management plan to conserve the sharks. For two years recently Indonesia has also conducted several survey of landing point of sharks caught.

b. Implementation of CITES including conservation, legislation and law enforcement :

- **India :** The government of India has implemented the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) and National Biodiversity Action Plan. Both action plan cover the protection and conservation measures for marine species including shark.
- **Indonesia.** The government of Indonesia is on going to review and amendment :
 - Review and amendment of existing Wild Animal and Plant Preservation Act No. 7/1999.
 - Review and amendment of existing Wild Animal and Plant Utilization Act No. 8/1999
 - Review and amendment of existing Ministry of Forestry Decree on Wildlife Animal and Plant administration No. 447/2003.
- **Malaysia:** wildlife conservation Act 2010 act 716 has been gazetted on 4 November 2010 to replace the wildlife protection act 1976 (act 72) and has been enforced by Department of Wildlife and National Park from 28-12-2010.
National task force on Wildlife and Forestry enforcement, starting 2011 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Malaysia has established a National level task force which combined Malaysian Wildlife Enforcement Network (My WEN) and National Task force in combating illegal logging to integrate all related enforcement authorities into large scale and more effective network to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources. National Task Force is coordinated by NRE and consist of CITES MAs and SAs, forestry department, Malaysian Royal Police and Customs, Anti smuggling unit, Maritime Enforcement Agency, Port and airport Authorities, state government, anti corruption commission and also related NGO. The International Trade in Endangered Species Malaysian act 2008 was gazetted to come into force on 28-12-2009. With three regulation : International Trade in Endangered species regulations 2009. International Trade in Endangered Species (permit, Certificate and Fees) regulations 2009. International Trade in Endangered species (compounding of offence) regulations 2010.
- **Mongolia:** Ministerial order of Nature Environment and Tourism of Mongolia has been gazette for : “Rule to follow in actions to harvest, transport, care and export of Saker Falcon in Mongolia” and “Sample sticker to be stick on vehicle that is used for harvesting Saker Falcon” are approved respectively by the Ministerial order # A205. All Aimag and Soum Governors of Saker Falcon harvesting location must improve registration of foreign citizens to the country and organize actions to harvest Saker Falcon appropriately in their territory and intensify their inspection on the mentioned actions. Director, Department of Environment and Nature Resources of the Ministry Mr. Enkhbat. D is assigned to organize implementing this order and to provide overall coordination, guidance and methodology to all related Aimag and Soum Agencies for Nature, Environment and Tourism, related stakeholders and civil servants. It is also sanctioning to Directors of related all Aimag and Soum Agencies for Nature, Environment and Tourism to organize actions to harvest Saker Falcon in their territory in accordance to Mongolian legislation.
- **Singapore.** The following were gazetted to align the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Schedules with the revised CITES Appendices:

- Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 1) Notification 2009. on 22 May 2009.
- 22 June 2010 - Endangered Species (Import and Export) (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2010 to give effect to the new CITES Appendices which entered into effect on 23 Jun 2010. Amendments to the new CITES Appendices were adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties to CITES, March 2010, in Doha (Qatar).
- Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 1) Notification 2010 to reflect amendments to the listing of some animal and plant species in CITES Appendix III. on 14 October 2010
- Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 1) on 27 April 2011 Notification 2011 to reflect amendments to the listing of some animal and plant species in CITES Appendix III.

AVA implemented the CITES regulations for the trade of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) following its listing on CITES Appendix II on 13 March 2009. CITES permits would be required to trade in live eel fish and the parts and products in frozen, chilled, canned or processed forms of the fish. Traders were informed to make a declaration to AVA if they had existing pre-Convention stocks of the eel.

c. Registration of operations breeding appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes

- **Singapore** On 23 July 2010, the CITES Secretariat published a Notification to the Parties regarding the application from Singapore for inclusion in the CITES Register as commercial captive breeding operations for Asian arowanas. The applicant was Singapore Dragon fish Farm on 23 July 2010.
- **Indonesia** has registered of operation breeding appendix I for commercial of *Scleropages formosus* for 41 units and 2 units under progress to register in this year, Mina Unggul Aquatic and Tirta Kapuas.

d. Others:

- **China** The CITES Management Authority of China, together with the line ministries and organizations, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of CITES to China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on April 2011. Over 30 ministries and departments participated in the celebration. Minister Jia Zhibang of the State Forestry Administration of China met Secretary-General Mr. John E. Scanlon at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing during the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of CITES to China. Invited by the China MA, Mr. John E. Scanlon visited the Customs Office in Shenzhen, met the staff of the China MA and representatives from the relevant ministries and departments.
The Endangered Species Museum was launched on the website of the CITES Management Authority of China on April 8, 2011.
The CITES Management Authority of China convened the Third Joint Meeting on the Control of Internet Trade in Endangered Species in May 2011. With such effort, one Chinese website alone removed 37'691 postings on endangered species and penalized 806 traders in 2010
- **Mongolia** submitted a short report on breeding of Sakker Falcon *Falco cherrug* at artificial nests in 2010 and 5000 artificial nest project. This aim of this project is to provide artificial nest sites where few or no suitable nesting sites exist.
- **Kuwait** Participate in the 15th Conference of the Parties CITES CoP14 in Doha, Qatar March 2010, Kuwait has been elected as alternate member in the Plant Committee and member in the Standing Committee for Asia Region.
Attend and participate as the coordinator of CITES Convention for the Arabic speaking countries, in the 11th meeting of Arab Team for The International Environmental Conventions of Biodiversity and Desertification, The Arab League – Cairo – Egypt January 2011. Kuwait Submitted a report regarding the 15th Conference of the Parties CITES CoP15 Doha, Qatar March 2010, and the outcomes of the CITES CoP15 including the Resolutions and Decisions.
Kuwait Participate in the 19th meeting of the Plant Committee in Geneva, Switzerland April 2011 as member for Asia Region.

Kuwait participates in the "Regional workshop for North Africa and the Middle East on updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans" 2 – 7 May 2011 Lebanon, Beirut. The workshop was aimed also to promote the synergies between CBD and CITES targets.

Kuwait Participate in the GCC countries CITES working group, in the period 21 -22 June 2011 to improve CITES implementation in the region.

Participate in the Regional workshop in "Advance Topics for CITES Scientific Authorities", conducted by United States Fish and Wildlife Service and CITES Secretariat. October 2009 (Rabat, Morocco)

- **Indonesia** conducted a workshop on the implementation of Law enforcement of the *Napoleon Wrasse Chelinus undulatus* in Bali 2010. Indonesia also conducted a workshop on the methodology to monitor the population trend of the Napoleon Wrasse in Jakarta, 8 July 2011.
- **Iran** According to the conservation status of Lurestan Newt (*Neurergus kaiseri*) as globally "Critically Endangered" as well as the limited distribution as an endemic species and increasing illegal trade, CITES secretariat in Iran submitted a proposal to COP 15 to include the species in Appendix I. Fortunately, the proposal was accepted by consensus by the countries. This amendment would provide a great support to Iran for the conservation and management of the species.
- **On the Caspian Sea sturgeon issues**, Iran hosted Commission of Aquatic bioresources in 2009 and 2010 and all Caspian littoral states actively participated. Iran also conducted the sturgeon stock assessment every year and its data were presented in the Caspian Sea Bioresources meeting. Iran made a significant progress on Cites implementation to combat illegal catch, communicate the export permits to UNEP data base. Iran also conducted more than 45 research project related to sturgeon conservation and rehabilitation in native ecosystem. Public awareness and participation for sturgeon rehabilitation were conducted in 2010 -2011, through Caspeco project and achieved very useful experience on this issue.
- **Singapore** hosted a study visit by Mr Awang Abdul Hady Bin Hj Samsuddin and Mr Mohammad Qamarul Islam bin Mahmud from the Brunei Museum on 28 July 2010. The 2 officers were given a briefing on how Singapore implements and enforces CITES and shown confiscated wildlife specimens. The study visit ended with a tour to the Singapore Zoo quarantine facilities.

Dr Tim Van Norman, Chief of Permits Branch, US Fish & Wildlife visited Singapore on 23 September 2010 for a meeting with the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority, representatives from Conservation International-Singapore & Cambodia and local Asian arowana breeders to discuss and explore how the Asian arowana breeders could potentially export Asian arowanas commercially to the US market. The meeting recognised the importance of contributions towards conservation of the Asian arowanas and considered a conservation fund for the arowanas.

Singapore submitted its CITES annual report 2009 to the CITES Secretariat on 06 October 2010. The timely submission of a CITES annual report is an obligation of a Party to the Convention. The report recorded the type of permits and certificates granted, quantities, species and types of specimens for that year.

3. Country priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of implementation of CITES.

- **Japan** The government of Japan has the program to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of the CITES. The Ministry of Environment published manuals on identification of Testudinidae and Varanidae. This manual has distributed to the relevant departments and stakeholder including enforcement authorities.
- **Iran.** The government of Iran has implemented of CITES program (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).

4. Promotion of CITES in the region :

a) Capacity building activities

a.1. Malaysia

- Training course on Trace wildlife Forensic was held in Kuala Lumpur, 2 – 8 august 2010.
- Attending regional Investigation training course (RITC) in Bangkok, Thailand. 24-28 May 2010.
- Malaysia held of Wildlife Forensic Training course in Kuala Lumpur, 2 – 8 August 2010.
- Attending PCU Assistant Senior Officer and Senior officer interview Process in Bangkok, Thailand 09 April 2010.

a. 2. Indonesia.

- Indonesia has conducted training of CITES rules and regulation and identification of CITES species listed which commonly traded from Indonesia in several provinces such as : Central Java Province, Aceh Province, Maluku Province and Papua Province.

a.3 **Iran.** In 4-7 of November of 2010, Tehran was hosting an exhibition named as "First specialized Exhibition of shooting sports and Ecotourism Equipments". According to the participants and the subject, it provided a good opportunity to have a general introduction on CITES, its regulations and implementation in the country. CITES secretariat in Iran have done the needed arrangements to have an effective participation in the exhibition and for the first time publicize CITES to the people. To provide useful details and information, some promotional items such as a brochure, pen and key chain have been prepared for distribution.

-Another initiative was conducting a 1 day workshop for the natural environment experts of DOE provincial offices with participation of 50 experts with the title of "Introduction to CITES". The venue was in West Azerbaijan province.

To increase the capacity for implementation, enforcement and official communication, CITES secretariat in Iran has proposed to expand its official staff and members. We are waiting for the final agreement and approval by Department of Environment and Management and planning organization.

To expand the implementation and capacity building, one expert has been nominated from each of DOE provincial offices as the "CITES Cooperating Expert" who would be in contact with the national secretariat regarding to CITES related issues. It would provide a chance to make more people familiar with CITES regulation and implementation rules

Kuwait Organized National Training course on CITES Law enforcement December 2010, for all the related Authorities in the country.

The CITES Management Authority of Kuwait produce the following publications in Arabic for the Public Awareness:

Booklet on CITES plants.

Poster on major plant groups in CITES

Poster on Agarwood use and CITES.

Poster on CITES Marine Animals in Kuwait.

b) Cooperation with stakeholders, NGO and Private sector.

- As part of our ongoing public outreach program, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority has distributed copies of advisories to retail shops (including jewellery, souvenir or curio shops) about CITES restrictions on sale of prohibited items and CITES requirements. A copy of the advisory is enclosed for reference.

c) Public awareness

c. 1. Indonesia

- Management Authority (MA) has conducted a campaign, socialization and dissemination of national legislation on Plants and Animals Trade and results of 15th meeting of the conference of the Parties CITES.
- Campaign on Plants and Animals Conservation via Radio, Indo-green Expo, International Year of Biodiversity Celebration
- Dissemination of CITES Leaflet, National Legislation Hand book
- Dissemination of Manual on Identifications Protected Plants and Animals
- Campaign on combating illegal trade of wildlife via Billboard

c. 2. Singapore

- released AN ADVISORY NOTE : The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) would like to remind all retail shop owners not to import, export, buy, display or sell parts and products made from wildlife of unknown or illegal origin.
- Some animals such as tigers, rhinoceros, elephants and Asiatic bears are critically endangered and are listed in Appendix I to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This listing prohibits international commercial trade, including its parts and derivatives. Under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 2006, it is an offence for anyone to sell, offer, or display to the public the readily recognizable parts and derivatives of tigers, rhinoceros, gall bladders that have been illegally imported. Anyone who infringes the Act include a fine of up to \$50,000 per scheduled specimen (but not exceeding an aggregate of \$500,000) and/or a jail term of up to 2 years.
- In addition, the domestic trade in tiger and rhinoceros parts and products are also banned. Under Section 2 of the Endangered Species (Import and Export)(Prohibition of Sale) Notification 2006, no person shall sell, offer or display to the public, any tiger or rhinoceros parts and products, whether genuine or fake. Penalties for infringing the domestic trade ban could include a fine not exceeding \$10,000 (but not exceeding an aggregate of \$100,000) and/or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
- If you know of any person engaging in this illegal activity, please contact AVA at Tel: 62270670. All information provided to AVA would be kept strictly confidential. You may also contact AVA if you have any further queries on trade of wildlife parts and products in Singapore.

Kuwait National Report for the 25th Animal Committee Meeting in July 2011

The report reflects the activities of the state of Kuwait in the period between 24th Animal Committee Meeting in July 2009 to the 25st Animal Committee Meeting in 2011.

Participation in National, regional or International CITES Meetings or events:

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CITES activities in the country:

- The Environment Public Authority revised the modified of the current CITES national legislation “Resolution No.93/2003 regarding Sale and Trading in Endangered Wild Species”, to fulfill the requirement for classification the current legislation to grade I.
- The CITES Management Authority of Kuwait is studying the proposal project to establish rescue center for the confiscated life specimens.
- Kuwait is in the process start 2 projects with the cooperation of IUCN regarding Biodiversity and Coral Reefs Monitoring in Kuwait.

Promotion of CITES in the country

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- The CITES Management Authority of Kuwait produce the following publications in Arabic for the Public Awareness:
 - Booklet on CITES plants.
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 - Poster on Agarwood use and CITES.
 - Poster on CITES Marine Animals in Kuwait.

1. Participation in national, regional or international CITES meetings or events

Iran participated in COP meeting 15th in Doha, Qatar from 13-25 March 2010.

2. CITES activities in the country, in respect to:

- a. Review of Significant Trade
- b. Review of the Appendices
- c. CITES projects
- d. Registration of operations breeding Appendix-I animal species for commerciale. purposes
- f. Others

According to the conservation status of Lurestan Newt (*Neuregus kaiseri*) as globally "Critically Endangered" as well as the limited distribution as an endemic species and increasing illegal trade, CITES secretariat in Iran submitted a proposal to COP 15 to include the species in Appendix I. Fortunately, the proposal was accepted by consensus by the countries. This amendment would provide a great support to Iran for the conservation and management of the species.

3. Country 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).

4. Promotion of CITES in the country (of less importance):

- a. Capacity building activities
- b. The scientific community in the country
- c. Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

1- In 4-7 of November of 2010, Tehran was hosting an exhibition named as "First specialized Exhibition of shooting sports and Ecotourism Equipments". According to the participants and the subject, it provided a good opportunity to have a general introduction on CITES, its regulations and implementation in the country. CITES secretariat in Iran have done the needed arrangements to have an effective participation in the exhibition and for the first time publicize CITES to the people. To provide useful details and information, some promotional items such as a brochure, pen and key chain have been prepared for distribution.

2-Another initiative was conducting a 1 day workshop for the natural environment experts of DOE provincial offices with participation of 50 experts with the title of "Introduction to CITES". The venue was in West Azerbaijan province.

The items that discussed as the training materials were:

- What is CITES
- The structure of CITES
- How CITES works
- Appendices
- The criteria for Appendices Amendment
- CITES implementation
- The regulations and existing legislation at national level
- Deficiencies and problems

The workshop was quite successful in providing basic and preliminary information to the DOE experts to make the more familiar about CITES and its responsibilities and implementation.

3-To increase the capacity for implementation, enforcement and official communication, CITES secretariat in Iran has proposed to expand its official staff and members. We are waiting for the final agreement and approval by Department of Environment and Management and planning organization.

4- To expand the implementation and capacity building, one expert has been nominated from each of DOE provincial offices as the "CITES Cooperating Expert" who would be in contact with the national secretariat regarding to CITES related issues. It would provide a chance to make more people familiar with CITES regulation and implementation rules.

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