

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

Forty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Paris (France), 19-22 June 2001

Reports

Reports of Regional Representatives

ASIA

This report has been submitted by China.

REGIONAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CITES FOR ASIA AFTER COP11

Based on extensive communication and sufficient consultation among contracting Parties to CITES in Asia, the status and progress on implementation of CITES for Asia during the period from the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the 45th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee are summarized as follows.

I. National Legislation

China

In the past several years, the Management Authority has been taking the development of a specific comprehensive national legislative framework on effective implementation of CITES as the top priority. With the great efforts taken by the management Authority, the Regulations on Import and Export of Wild Fauna and Flora of the People's Republic of China had been drafted and consultation had also been completed with the related departments at home. At present, the draft regulations are to be submitted to the State Council for imminent review.

On 20 September of 2000, the Explanations on Some Questions Concerning the Concrete Applied Laws on Judging the Criminal Cases for Smuggling was issued by the Chinese Supreme People's Court. The Explanations elaborates on the standards of criminal punishment for smuggling endangered species and their products.

The Supreme People's Court issued the Explanations on Some Questions Concerning the Concrete Applied Laws on Judging the Criminal Cases involving Destroying Wild Animal Resources on 17 November 2000, which makes definite stipulations on the punishment standards for illicit hunting, killing, transporting, selling and purchasing State Key Protected Wild Animals and animal species included in the CITES Appendices I and II.

Japan

An amendment to the Cabinet Order under the Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (LCES) came into effect on 1 April 2000. This amendment

aims to strengthen regulations on domestic trade in tiger parts and derivatives. This is a major action taken by Japan to implement the recommendations of CITES Tiger Mission's Technical Team.

Viet Nam

The Management Authority is doing its best to complete the Draft of CITES Legislation under technical assistance from TRAFFIC Southeast Asia to submit to the government for approval in late June of 2001.

II. Law Enforcement

China

The State Forestry Administration launched a joint intensive crackdown activity on wildlife crimes entitled South No. 2 Action in southern China in early 2000 in collaboration with departments of Public Security, Customs, Industrial and Commerce etc. Many cases on wildlife crimes were investigated and detected, and a considerable number of endangered species and their products were also seized.

In early 2001, the State Forestry Administration, the Ministry of Public Security and the State Customs General Administration jointly issued the Circular on Making Further Efforts for Banning Trade in Tiger Bones, which directed all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities to take effective measures to severely curb illegal activities involving smuggling and selling no matter genuine or counterfeit tiger bones.

The Division of Law Enforcement and Training was officially established in the Headquarters of the Management Authority in 2000, focusing on intensifying law enforcement coordination and training capacity in relation to CITES affairs.

A thorough investigation with regard to the allegation of China's so-called exchange of weapons for ivory with Zimbabwe from foreign media was conscientiously conducted according to the direction of the CITES Secretariat. The findings demonstrated that the related reports are total rumors.

Singapore

The Management Authority, in collaboration with the Management Authority of Brazil, repatriated 2 highly endangered Lear's Macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*) to Brazil on 21 March 2001. The suspect involved was convicted on 2 November 2000 and fined SG\$10,000 and imprisoned for 1 year. Singapore is committed to continue working closely with other Parties to curb violation of CITES and smuggling of endangered species.

Viet Nam

Mobile Patrol Teams have been established in cooperation with Police, Frontier Army Forces and border officials to undertake inspection, investigation and prevention of illegal wildlife trade along the borders with Cambodia and China.

III. Administrative Measures

China

The redesigned CITES permit format in which advanced anti-counterfeit technology was used and newly developed Computer Management System for Permit Issuance have been put into operation since 1 October 2000. In addition, the revised Procedure for the Application and Issuance of Wildlife Import and Export Permits came into force on 1 January 2001. All these measures have greatly standardized and promoted the effective control of trade in species of wild fauna and flora.

After the promulgation of the first batch of the State Key Protected Wild Flora Schedule, their live or dead bodies, parts and products were entirely included in the Harmonized System Codes on the Imported and Exported Wildlife Commodities by the Management Authority and the State Customs General Administration.

The Management Authority decided starting from 2001 to implement quota management for the export of East Asia Tree Fern (*Cibotium barometz*) which is traditionally used for medicinal material and included in CITES Appendix II on the basis of wild population assessment.

The State Customs General Administration issued a official document in early 2001, instructing nationwide Customs at all levels to reinforce the supervision of imported and exported wildlife and severely hit illegal activities involving wildlife smuggling.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam has banned the exploitations, utilization and export of all wild-caught animals and designated plants and only granted export permits for species bred in captivity or artificially propagated since 1 April of 2000.

IV. Conservation and Trade Review

China

Pursuant to the decisions of the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Management Authority completed the reviews on conservation of and trade in Musk Deer (*Moschus* spp.), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and Bear, and the related outcome reports have been submitted to the Secretariat on schedule. Furthermore, the programmes for reviews on conservation of and trade in several species have been included in the working agenda of the Management Authority for 2001, including Indian Cobra (*Naja naja*), Rat Snake (*Ptyas korros*), *Parnassius apollo*, Pangolin (*Manis* spp.) and freshwater turtles and tortoises.

V. Training and Public Awareness

China

In April of 2001, a series of campaigns for commemorating the 20th anniversary of China's acceding to CITES were launched nationwide. The incumbent CITES secretary-general also came to China to attend the celebrating activities at the invitation of the Management Authority.

The Management Authority officially launched the website (www.cites.gov.cn) on CITES affairs in Chinese version in April of 2001, which provides the relevant information on CITES and the management of import and export of wildlife in China.

A training course on CITES implementation for Customs offices jointly organized by the State Customs General Administration and the Management Authority was held in late April of 2001. More than 40 Customs offices at grass-roots level participated in this course.

The Management Authorities of Chinese mainland and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region held a seminar in South China's Guangdong Province in January of 2001. Both sides exchanged experiences on CITES implementation respectively in this event.

Japan

The government of Japan carried out several actions including promotion of public awareness using posters and pamphlets to enforce the Amendments to the Cabinet Order under the Law for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. No illegal trade or exhibition of tiger parts and derivatives has been reported so far by the Ministry of Environment and NGOs.

VI. International Cooperation

China

With the auspices of the CITES Secretariat and the collaboration of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the second stage of the Programme on Trade Survey on Orchids in China has been accomplished and a workshop on this programme was convened in Southwest China Yunnan Province in June of 2000.

A delegation from the Management Authority paid official visits to several Southeast Asian countries in mid May of 2001, including Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand all of which are major range and exporting countries for freshwater turtles and tortoises. The visits aim to seek concerted and concrete measures to control the trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises.

In accordance to the Sino-USA Protocol on Nature Conservation, a delegation from the Management Authority visited the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to exchange experiences and develop mutual cooperative ties on implementation of CITES.