



# Online Meeting on CITES National Legislation for Selected CITES Parties in West Asia

21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

## Meeting REPORT





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**I. Participants (refer to Annex A)**

- UNEP West Asia
- CITES Secretariat
- Kuwait
- Bahrain
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Oman
- Syria
- The CITES Management Authority of Lebanon encountered connection problems, therefore had difficulties joining the meeting

**II. Opening Remarks and Introduction of Participants**

Sabine Sakr, Regional Coordinator, Environmental Governance UNEP West Asia

- Focal point for all GCC countries, expressed they UNEP West Asia is ready to support and fund countries – with the collaboration of the CITES Secretariat – to improve their legislation, referring to a successful conference which took place December 2019 in Jordan.

Sofie H. Flensburg, legal officer, CITES Secretariat, Geneva

- Referred to the impact of COVID-19 in general and also on meetings of international organizations that were planned to take place. This included CITES Animal and Plant Committee rescheduled from July to a later date, as well as the CITES Standing Committee which was initially planned to take place in October 2020, but will also be postponed.
- The Secretariat aims to ensure business continuity, and the present meeting was a demonstration of this. The meeting was intended to be only a first step of support and cooperation, referring to similar successful meetings in West Africa in May and the Caribbean region in June.
- The purpose of the meeting was to hear the concerns and challenges of the participating countries in order to respond accordingly, and based on the meeting, to later organize an online workshop to address the main challenges identified.
- In terms of expectations, the aim is for all countries in the sub-region to have legislation that can be placed in Category 1 under the National Legislation Project.

Shereefa Al Salem, Environment Public Authority, Kuwait

- Thankful for UNEP and the CITES Secretariat for giving the region a chance to exchange this information, adding that some countries may have already implemented the legislation, but may not have conveyed information to UNEP and CITES.
- Kuwait had faced some challenges in the legislative process, but the legislation was placed in Category 1 in 2016, and Kuwait is available to share their experience.



The participants were invited to introduce themselves and give an indication of their expectations to the meeting.

Ali Mansoor Abbas, Representative of CITES Management Authority, Bahrain

- Handles issues relating to CITES in terms of issuing permits and working on legislation with cooperation of lawyers. Works with the inspecting and enforcements teams. Main duty is to control all aspects of CITES.
- Expectations of the meeting is to be enable Bahrain to establish legislation that for Category 1 under the NLP.

Samer Adnan, National focal point for CITES, Iraq

- Iraq joined CITES in 2014 and have been working hard to deliver, despite the political tension.
- A draft law has been approved by the committee and is now pending approval from the Ministry of Justice.
- Expectations to the meeting included eliminating the present legislative limits in Iraq.

Abdelrazzaq Al Hmoud, Director of Wildlife Enforcement Division and Head of CITES Management, Jordan

- Expectations to the meeting was for UNEP to support the country in developing their legislation to qualify for Category 1, in addition to getting feedback from other participant countries formally and non-formally to help develop the work in Jordan.

Saleh Al Saadi, Director of Biodiversity and CITES Management Authority, Oman

- Role is to prepare national legislation since 2015, and is the technical focal point of CITES in Oman. The draft legislation had recently been shared with the CITES Secretariat and feedback had been received.
- Expectations is to be directed on how to formulate the legislation for the legislation to qualify for Category 1.

Belal Hayek, Director of Biodiversity, Land and National Reserve, and Head of CITES Authority, Syria.

- Expectations for the meeting included to be aware of the legislative status of neighboring countries and to understand the obstacles that prevent countries from implementation.

**III. Agenda (refer to Annex B)**

**IV. Presentations**

**1. National Legislation Project (NLP) presented by Sofie H. Flensburg (refer to Annex C)**

- Minimum Requirements
- NLP Categories 1,2 and 3
- CoP Decisions



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- Legislation Status of the Parties in the region
- Assistance Provided by Secretariat

- o **Discussion of CITES Presentation**

**Jordan**

Jordan noted that they have submitted the draft formally to The Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan, however COVID-19 is affecting country's performance on a governmental level, and asks if there is time to submit by October 2020.

The CITES Secretariat noted that legislation should be in place as soon as possible in line with Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) and according to CoP Decision 18.62, and urged Jordan to progress the process as much as possible, and to give updates on the progress to meet the deadline. The Standing Committee will not take place in October as the Standing Committee is also affected by COVID-19; therefore, the Standing Committee may not recommend compliance measures as foreseen. It was recommended to continue to work and make progress to complete the legislation as soon as possible. The ultimate deadline indicated in the Decision of the Conference of the Parties was before SC74, which was expected to be held in September 2021

**Bahrain**

Bahrain asked for clarification on the requirements of national legislation. For the past 25 years, Bahrain has adopted many provisions related to the mentioned points in the presentation, but these are scattered in different legal instruments and not in one official document on CITES legislation. Should Bahrain share all the different legislations as soon as possible in order to avoid delay in meeting the deadline.

The CITES Secretariat clarified that Bahrain is currently in the Category P (pending) which means that the status of legislation under the NLP is pending until the legislation is submitted to the Secretariat. However, as the country acceded to the Convention in 2012, the time for adopting national legislation has expired and the Party will be placed in Cat. 3 when the status table is updated. However, this will not have any immediate implications. If a draft law on the implementation of CITES is expected to be adopted by next year, Bahrain should not try to assemble and submit the scattered provisions now. If a further delay is expected, Bahrain may send a document explaining how their current legislation covers the four requirements.

**Syria**

Syria updated their status, explaining that there were challenges with the preparation in 2012 because there was no legislation to guide them or the government, where they needed to prepare articles from scratch to harmonize with CITES articles. It was prepared and submitted to the Prime Minister in 2015, who took the comments and discussed with the Economic Committee and are hoping the discussion is finalized soon. Syria asked how the CITES Secretariat is going to help the country apply the legislation after it's issued.

With regards to the draft, the CITES Secretariat expressed that it is unable to analyze the text in Arabic, and advised that the latest draft be translated into English and send to the Secretariat. With regards to guidelines, there is an Arabic model law to implement CITES in a national legislation that is available online and has a structure and provision that can assist with Syria's draft. CITES is intending to organize seminar for lawyers during the fall on how to issue permits and prepare reports. For any other specific questions, an email can be



sent directly to the CITES Secretariat (even in Arabic). UNEP added the idea of training for police and customs on the legislation which can be supported and funded by them and CITES, if needed in Syria. A document requested earlier by UNEP from Syria on custom and police has already been shared and would be useful for such an initiative.

### Oman

The feedback Oman received on their draft from the CITES secretariat focused on Management Authority and Scientific Authority, and trade violations. Oman noted that laws in Oman need to be issued by the Sultan before the detailed legislation is issued by the Minister, therefore legislations cannot be created until national laws are issued by the ruler. There had already been a decision and approval to establish the two authorities (Management Authority and Scientific Authority). However, Oman will need to add the details concerning the authorities along with the list of species requested once there is an official approval on the legislation. Oman asked if the requested information is necessary to be included in the law issued or can be added later on in the legislation by the Minister.

The CITES Secretariat clarified that the details do not need to be included in the primary legislation or law but can be included in a subsequent decree that can be issued based on the primary legislation or law. A meeting could be organized to discuss further on the matter, if needed. Kuwait gave their input regarding the legislation and based on their approach, a simple reference to the CITES website which includes the online Appendices can be added in the law, but the CITES Secretariat noted this would depend on the laws of the country itself. According to the example shared by Bahrain, the appendix needs to be in the official legislation, otherwise it is not legally binding.

## **2. Questionnaire Results and Analysis by Sabine Sakr (refer to Annex D)**

### **o Discussion of Questionnaire Results and Analysis**

#### **Bahrain**

During this pandemic, countries are turning electronic, including Bahrain which now gives e-permits instead of physical permits and certificates to import and export. Asked about the legality of using e-permits during this time.

The CITES Secretariat explained that e-permits are legal if legal under the national legislation. The CITES Standing Committee has established a working group on questions related to e-permitting. In resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) regarding CITES permits, it is recommended that Parties use e-permits. It is a question whether the country's system is set up for such permits. A workshop will be organized towards the end of the year (between November and December 2020) covering this topic.

#### **Oman**

Oman asked if trade is considered illegal using e-permits in a country that has not yet legalized e-permitting. Oman added they would prefer using original permits in the meantime to avoid such situation.



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The CITES Secretariat explained that for now not all countries accept e-permits; however, it is likely that there will come a day where all countries will be using an electronic permit system. Therefore, countries need to be better prepared on the matter. Currently, around 80 countries already exchange electronic phytosanitary certificates, and CITES is moving in that direction too. Regarding a standard e-permit done by CITES Secretariat, CITES explained there are several stages to this: The first step is automation of permits issuance process at the national level, second is electronic exchange of such e-permits with customs authorities within the country; the third is automated generation of reports and statistics and only the fourth step is exchange of permits with other countries. Most Parties are currently at the first stage, were countries are working on systems to managed applications and issue e-permits. More information can be found in the eCITES implementation framework, available at [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/e/eCITES\\_Implementation\\_Guide.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/e/eCITES_Implementation_Guide.pdf).

UNEP added that countries need to adapt to a post COVID-19 world using electronic systems in operations, which can also reduce carbon footprint.

Kuwait shared their experience on shifting to e-permits, where they've tried for three years working with Singapore, UAE, Bahrain, and Switzerland. Finally, Kuwait decided to go forward with the system developed by Switzerland which is universal and simple.

CITES is working with UNCTAD (United Nations Conference for Trade and Development) and has developed a standard eCITES Base Solution – a software for issuing e-permits. The software needs adaptation to national countries for countries to put them in place. The CITES Secretariat indicated that a meeting to discuss the UNCTAD eCITES Base solution can be arranged if needed.

### **Jordan**

Asked what the penalties as part of the minimum requirements for Category 1 are based on and how they are measured.

The CITES Secretariat mentioned that there has been a strong political push to combat illicit trafficking in endangered wildlife (such as rhino horns and elephant ivory). The Secretariat drew the attention of participants to the recommendations of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17) on Compliance and enforcement, notably paragraph 13 g) of the Resolution as well as General Assembly Resolution 69/314 on Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife. In these documents, it is recommended that illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups be defined as a serious crime in national legislation in accordance with Article 2 (b) of the UN Convention against transnational organized crime. 'Serious crime' is defined as conduct constituting an offence punishable by a maximum deprivation of liberty of at least four years. This level of penalties is not required for the legislation to be placed in Category 1. However, adopting strong penalties will allow countries to enforce the laws in a more effective manner to combat illicit trafficking.

### **3. CITES Enforcement in Kuwait presented by Shereefa Al Salem (refer to Annex E)**

- CITES Convention in Kuwait
- Environment Protection Law
- National Standing Committee
- Role of Related Authorities



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- Important Species in Kuwait
- Monitoring and Documenting Violations

- **Discussion of Presentation by Kuwait**

**Iraq**

In reference to the illegal trade of African Grey Parrot – mentioned in the presentation – that Kuwait has experienced, Iraq noted that they are experiencing the same as it is the number one illegally traded species. Iraq asked further details on the legislation in place in Kuwait to prevent illegal trade of the African Grey Parrot.

Kuwait responded that it had had enacted legislation that only allows imports of captive-bred parrots; however re-export of the species is prohibited, as traders wanted to re-export outside of Kuwait. This stopped traders from using Kuwait as a hub for illegal trade.

Additional information can be found in Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes, and Resolution Conf. 10.16 on Specimens of animal species bred in captivity. The guidelines provided by Resolution Conf. 12.10 can also be used for Appendix II and III specimens.

**V. Challenges**

Challenged with respect to the implementation of CITES mentioned by the participants included:

- Delayed approval of draft by Ministry of agriculture in Jordan due to the COVID-19 circumstances and effects of the country's performance on a governmental level.
- Provisions related to CITES in Bahrain are scattered in different legislations and not mentioned together in one official document under CITES.
- Challenges with preparation in Syria as there was no legislation to guide them or the government, where they needed to prepare articles from scratch to harmonize with CITES articles. Pending government approvals.
- Syria does not receive enough technical and financial assistance from organizations in the region to adopt and implement legislation.
- Any updated details requested by Oman cannot be currently added to the legislation as all laws in Oman are issued by the Sultan first, therefore no implementing legislation can be created until national laws are issued.
- Iraq faces legislative limits where drafts are still pending with Ministry of Justice.
- All participant countries in need of support for capacity building and training

**VI. Opportunities**

- Kuwait is planning a meeting focused on combating illegal trade, but this has been postponed due to the current COVID-19 situation. The meeting is supported by the GCC and Arab Leagues and is in





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- discussion with Interpol and the CITES Secretariat. They are not sure when this would take place, but will ensure all relevant countries to be invited.
- Standardization of e-permits and certificates for trade of species, increasing transparency and reducing risks related to COVID-19.
  - Stronger penalties applied towards illicit trafficking of wildlife allow the implementation and enforcement of laws in the country to be more effective.
  - Prohibiting traders from re-exporting certain species could be a first step to prevent the country from being a trading point for illegal trade.

## VII. Final Remarks

### Jordan

- Expressed that from experience with illegal traders and hunters, hunters imply that they will continue the trade outside of Jordan as they have large network. A database needs to be shared for the country to keep track.

### UNEP ROWA

- Suggest it would be a good idea to have a group or a platform to discuss these issues regularly between West Asia countries based on the positive outcome of the meeting, and emphasized on the importance of communication, not necessarily for CITES only, but other MEAs as well.
- Organize a biannual meeting between West Asia for updates.

### CITES Secretariat

- The countries represented by Kuwait in the Standing Committee would be a good group to gather in the biannual meetings, CITES could facilitate the exchange upon request from the countries.
- Will share the legislation of UAE and KSA with the countries in the meeting.
- Brought up issue of breeding facilities of wild animals in captivity. Asks countries to investigate and ensure animals are taken from the wild in a legal manner. If countries do not have legislation in place, CITES can provide support.

### Kuwait

- Kuwait agreed that regular interaction among all the Parties in the region would be useful and asked UNEP ROWA to get involved and take the lead and support.

### Oman

- Oman has an issue with captive breeding and asks if there are standard measures that can assist with dealing with issue of captive breeding as many farmers want to implement this as per CITES standards and conditions.

## VIII. Takeaways and Next Steps

### 1. Materials (refer to Annex F)

- Information on non-detriment findings
- Identification of species guidelines
- eCITES website
- Captive breeding guidelines (for farmers and inspections and what defines animals bred in captivity)
- Model Law (in Arabic) (currently being revised)
- InforMEA link to the online course on CITES and other MEAs
- Information on the Baeza Master Course: intense 3-month training course on trade in CITES held every two years
- Publication on gap analysis on illegal trade and wildlife will be available in Arabic very soon
- Strengthening legal frameworks for licit and illicit trade in wildlife and forest products

### 2. Meetings and trainings to be organized

- Custom and enforcement capacity building, in coordination with CITES Secretariat, UNEP ROWA, and Kuwait
- General capacity building for lawyers and enforcement (preferably in English/Arabic)
- Set up 2 – 3 online workshops, (in English/Arabic), with experts to present information and answer questions related to
  - o e-permitting with UNCTAD
  - o Legislation and institutional and regulatory issues
  - o Scientific issues, including NDF, species identification, etc.
  - o Other issues of importance to the sub-region
- Create group platform for discussions and meetings on a biannual basis, in coordination with UNEP ROWA

### 3. Additional assistance upon request

- Technical and financial support from both CITES and UNEP for activities that will develop the legislation (requires specific request signed by the government)

### 4. Requests

- All participant countries to send latest legislation to CITES Secretariat
- Recent updates on legislative progress to be provided to CITES Secretariat (particularly Bahrain)
- Syria to share 2018 legislation with CITES Secretariat
- For countries who have an available Arabic appendix in the legislation to share with participant countries to follow guideline (available with UAE)

# ANNEX A

## Participants

Organization/ Country	Name	Title	Email
Kuwait	Shereefa Al Salem	Environment Public Authority	<a href="mailto:Shereefa_s_kh@epa.org.kw">Shereefa_s_kh@epa.org.kw</a>
Bahrain	Ali Mansoor Abbas	Representative of CITES Management Authority	<a href="mailto:aabbas@SCE.GOV.BH">aabbas@SCE.GOV.BH</a>
Iraq	Samer Adnan	National focal point for CITES	<a href="mailto:samerdnn@gmail.com">samerdnn@gmail.com</a>
Jordan	Abdulrazzaq Al Humoud	Director of Wildlife Enforcement Division and Head of CITES Management	<a href="mailto:ahmoud@rscn.org.jo">ahmoud@rscn.org.jo</a>
Oman	Saleh Al Saadi	Director of Biodiversity and CITES Management Authority	<a href="mailto:saleh.alsaadi@meca.gov.om">saleh.alsaadi@meca.gov.om</a>
Syria	Belal Hayek	Director of Biodiversity, Land and National Reserve, and Head of CITES Authority	<a href="mailto:blalhayek75@gmail.com">blalhayek75@gmail.com</a>
CITES, Geneva	Sophie Hermann Flensburg	Lawyer at CITES Secretariat	<a href="mailto:sophie.flensburg@cites.org">sophie.flensburg@cites.org</a>
UNEP, West Asia	Sabine Sakr	Regional Coordinator, Environmental Governance	<a href="mailto:sabine.sakr@un.org">sabine.sakr@un.org</a>
UNEP, Geneva	Elodie Moulin	Legal Affairs	<a href="mailto:elodie.moulin@un.org">elodie.moulin@un.org</a>
UNEP	Weng Lam Chu	Intern Secretariat of CITES	<a href="mailto:weng.chu@un.org">weng.chu@un.org</a>
University of Bahrain	Wesam Khalaf	Trainee UNEP	<a href="mailto:20165467@stu.uob.edu.bh">20165467@stu.uob.edu.bh</a>
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## ANNEX B



**ONLINE MEETING ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CONVENTION FOR SELECTED CITES PARTIES IN WEST ASIA**

**21 July 2020**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening remarks by CITES and UNEP ROWA
2. Introduction of participants
3. Brief presentation by the CITES Secretariat on the National Legislation Project
4. Updated information from participants on legislative progress in adopting adequate national legislation for the implementation of the Convention (including any specific comments, concerns, and challenges faced by Parties)
5. Presentation by UNEP/ROWA on the results of the questionnaire
6. Presentation by the Environment Public Authority of Kuwait on experiences with the CITES legislative process
7. Introduction by the CITES Secretariat of available tools, including InforMEA
8. Discussion - Q&A
9. Next steps

# ANNEX C



# National Legislation Project



# LEGISLATION - MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

3

National laws for implementing CITES are critical to ensure that trade in protected species is **legal, sustainable** and **traceable**.

**Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15)** *National laws for the implementation of the Convention* contains the four minimum requirements to be included in national legislation for the implementation of the Convention.

The legislation must provide the Party with the authority to:

- i. Designate at least one Management Authority and one Scientific Authority
- ii. Prohibit trade in specimens in violation of the Convention
- iii. Penalize such trade
- iv. Confiscate specimens illegally traded or possessed.



## LEGISLATION - CATEGORIES

Under the NLP, and in consultation with the concerned Party, national legislation is analysed by the Secretariat in relation to these four minimum requirements and placed in one of three categories, as follows:

- **Category 1:** legislation that is believed generally to meet the requirements for implementation of CITES
- **Category 2:** legislation that is believed generally not to meet all of the requirements for the implementation of CITES
- **Category 3:** legislation that is believed generally not to meet the requirements for the implementation of CITES.
- **P:** Parties acceding less than eight years ago - pending submission of legislation to the Secretariat



## DECISIONS OF CoP18

### **Decision 18.62 directed to: Parties**

Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3 under the National Legislation Project (NLP) are urged to submit to the Secretariat as soon as possible ...details of appropriate measures that have been adopted for the effective implementation of the Convention.

Such Parties are also urged to keep the Secretariat informed of legislative progress ... and ... to provide a written update of the legislative progress to the Secretariat ... 90 days before the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee.



## DECISIONS OF CoP18

### **Decision 18.64 directed to:** Standing Committee

... the Standing Committee shall review the progress of Parties in adopting appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention. ... the Standing Committee may identify additional Parties that require its attention as a priority and shall pay particular attention to these Parties.

The Standing Committee shall take appropriate compliance measures with regard to Parties ... that have failed to adopt appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the Convention or to take significant and substantive steps to do so....



# STATUS – PARTIES IN WEST ASIA

Party	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
Bahrain 2012	P	Comprehensive draft legislation prepared and under internal discussion	Finalization and submission of draft legislation	CoP17
Iraq 2014	P	National committee for the preparation of national CITES legislation has been established. Draft legislation under consideration and submitted to the Secretariat for observations. Awaiting confirmation on the draft legislation submitted in 2017 (email sent by the Secretariat on 18.03.20)	Finalization and submission of draft legislation	Sep. 2017
Jordan 1979	2	CITES legislation enacted and submitted in English to the Secretariat. Possible gaps identified by the Sec. Formal warning after SC70. Revised draft submitted to the Secretariat and observations provided in July 2020.	Gaps identified by Secretariat to be addressed. Agreement between JO and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis.	July 2020
Lebanon 2013	P	Consultations between LB and Secretariat are in early stages; possible Secretariat technical assistance mission for new Party	Review by LB and Secretariat of existing CITES-related legislation and agreement on legislative analysis	CoP17
Oman 2008	3	Commitment to prepare draft legislation but no recent information on status. Second formal warning at SC71. Draft legislation received in Feb. 2020. Observation provided by the Secretariat in March 2020.	Gaps identified by Secretariat to be addressed.	Feb. 2020
Syrian Arab Republic 2003	3	Comprehensive draft legislation prepared and submitted to Prime Minister for discussion; English translation provided to Secretariat. Formal request for assistance.	Review/revision of draft legislation by SY and Secretariat; finalization and submission of draft legislation	July 2018



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Provided by the Secretariat  
to support Parties' legislative effort in developing  
adequate Legislation to implement the Convention

- Development of guidance materials  
*draft model Law (also in Arabic)*  
*presentations*
- Review of draft legislation
- National and regional workshops
- Request from Parties  
*(official letter from the Government)*
- Depending on the availability of funding
- Small-Scale Funding Agreements



# CITES

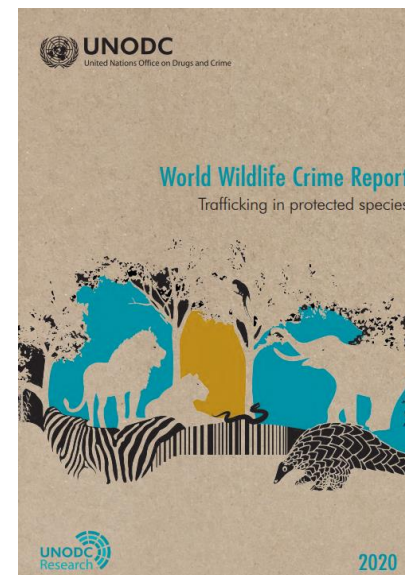


THANK YOU



# CITES - GUIDANCE

- InforMEA.org and [InforMEA learning](#)
- CITES virtual college: [www.cites.unia.es](http://www.cites.unia.es)
- UNIA Baeza Master's course
- World Wildlife Crime Report 2020  
*Released last week*





# ANNEX D



Meeting on national legislation for the effective implementation of the Convention on International Trade for Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) - Selected Parties from Western Asia (Kingdom of Bahrain - Syrian Arab Republic - Lebanese Republic - Sultanate of Oman - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan - Republic of Iraq)

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Questionnaire

Presented by: UNEP- West Asia Office

21 July 2020

# Questionnaire Analysis

Questions	Yes	No	I do not know	Total responses
<b>Q1.</b> Is there any legislation implementing CITES in place in your country?	2	2		4
<b>Q2</b> If no, is there a legislative process underway in your country to develop and adopt such legislation?	2			4
<b>Q3.</b> Has a legal team, a Committee or a consultant been appointed to lead the development of national CITES legislation in your Department?	4			4
<b>Q4.</b> Are international treaties signed and ratified by your country considered equal or superior to domestic laws in your country?	2	1	1	4
<b>Q5.</b> Are you familiar with the role and responsibilities of the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities?	4			4

Questions	Yes	No	Total responses
<b>Q7.</b> Are there any captive breeding or artificial propagation operations of CITES-listed specimens in your country?	3	1	4
<b>Q8.</b> Is the procedure for deciding on the disposal of confiscated live animals established in the national legislation?	3	1	4
<b>Q9.</b> Have any rescue centers to house confiscated live animals been designated in your country?	4		4
<b>Q10.</b> Are you familiar with the CITES annual reports?	4		4

## Question

## Answer

**Q6.** What is the procedure currently in place in your country for issuing CITES permits and certificates?

**Iraq:** CITES certificate is issued in accordance with the terms of the agreement with regard to the importation of imported animals in addition to the opinion of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade which is responsible for issuing the import documents taking into account all national instructions  
Access in this regard.

**Syria:**

- 1-An export application is submitted to us from the owner of a licensed farm or zoo authorized by the Cites Authority.
- 2-The content of the approval and the number of organisms to be exported are compared with the numbers present on the farm when the license was granted, the species whose birth was registered on the farm itself, and with the recommendations of the Scientific Committee.
- 3-Environmental approval is issued to export the required species.
- 4-After obtaining the animal health approval (the Ministry of Agriculture Agrarian Reform) on the species to be exported, the applicant submits an application for a CITES certificate according to the type, number required, and destination of export.
- 5-The required CITES certificate is prepared and certified formally. And give it to the owner.

**Oman:** CITES permits and certificates are issued in accordance with the regulations and procedures applicable to the agreement and the approved forms for import, export and re-export permits approved by the decisions and recommendations of the conferences of the parties, the main committee and the animal and plant committees in the agreement.

Question	Answer
<p><b>Q6.</b> What is the procedure currently in place in your country for issuing CITES permits and certificates?</p>	<p><b>Jordan:</b> For any trading process, (Importing, exporting and re exporting) either CITES or not CITES, it starts by the following procedures: Issuing application from the ministry of Agri. to be reviewed by the MA. The MA decides if its approved, and this includes CITES and non CITES species, CITES proceed according to convention instructions and national law including issuing the certificate, and non CITES according to national law. The MA notify the ministry of Agri. and other related border working agencies. The ministry of Agri. notify their representatives at borders formally through what's known as Permit</p>

Question	Answer
<p><b>Q11.</b>What are the main difficulties/obstacles encountered by your country in developing/adopting CITES implementing legislation?</p>	<p><b>Iraq:</b> We are working hard to implement the provisions of the agreement in Iraq and there is significant training support from some international institutions and organizations, including: International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) However, the Iraqi cadres still need a large scientific and technical training, especially as the issue of importing neighborhoods is increasing very much, which needs to develop the capabilities of the Iraqi cadres. At the present time, after overcoming the difficult circumstances, the cadres of the national institutions related to the CITES Agreement were trained, including border crossings, customs men, and others, and work is still ongoing with available financial resources in this regard</p> <p><b>Syria:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-The need for capacity building in the application of national, regional and international legislation.</li> <li>2-The need for a number of trained cadres in order to continue the work.</li> <li>3-Poor direct coordination between the countries acceding to the agreement.</li> <li>4-The law has not been issued to regulate trade in living organisms yet.</li> <li>5-Lack of initiatives from the Convention (CITES) to support countries in enforcing legislation and laws.</li> </ol>

Question	Answer
<p><b>Q11.</b>What are the main difficulties/obstacles encountered by your country in developing/adopting CITES implementing legislation?</p>	<p><b>Oman:</b>  Discover some types of derivatives that are imported from outside the country, especially the horns and skins of wild animals  Determine the derivatives of sharks when exporting, especially fry or dried meat  The process of assessing the non-harmful consequences of species' survival in nature (NDF) from the export of Omani wildlife listed in the annexes to the Convention  Some procedures related to species entry and exit controls across border entry points</p> <p><b>Jordan:</b>  The region and neighboring countries are not stable enough due to their political situations, therefor, several confiscated species were found delivered from these countries.  And period needed to amend laws.  Ecommerce and internet crimes that expand illegal trade and encouraging illegal practices.  Conflict between national entities that may occur sometimes.  Cost of dealing and surviving the confiscated live species.  Lack of experience in dealing with some species.  Lack of resources and technologies.  Language barrier sometimes when dealing with papers at borders.</p>



# Questionnaire Analysis

Question	Answer
<b>Q12.</b> Do you have any additional information relevant for the CITES implementation in your country?	<p><b>Iraq:</b> Iraq fulfills all its obligations regarding the agreement and has good relations with neighboring countries and social organizations. There is great cooperation with state institutions in implementing the provisions of the agreement.</p> <p><b>Syria:</b> Weak direct coordination between the countries acceding to the agreement.</p> <p><b>Oman:</b> Although there is no national law to regulate trafficking in endangered fungi species listed in the annexes of the CITES Agreement at the present time, the Sultanate of Oman is implementing - as far as possible - the agreement in accordance with the procedures and controls and technical and scientific capabilities available to it, as well as seeking to implement the agreement according to mechanisms and legal provisions The agreement operates.</p>

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Question	Answer
<p><b>Q12.</b> Do you have any additional information relevant for the CITES implementation in your country?</p>	<p><b>Jordan:</b> Yes, -The national laws and regulations that support wildlife protection in general. -Database of illegal practices details -Ability to identify wildlife species in terms of national roles to protect and conserve the wildlife species. -Roles of partners in environmental protection - Working regionally and closely with other colleagues from different countries</p>

## Question

**Q13.** Are there any implications of COVID-19 on the trade of wildlife in your country?

## Answer

**Iraq:** Certainly yes, where the import requests decreased very significantly, as a national measure was adopted to temporarily ban the import of wild animals from countries where major infections appeared within the World Health Organization classification, a reference to preliminary studies between confirming the existence of a relationship between wild animals and the emergence of disease

**Syria:** Air transport operations have ceased completely. The negative impact on the animal production process during the general quarantine period.

**Oman:** Of course, due to the presence of Covid 19, import and export permits and permits for fungal species listed in the annexes to the agreement have decreased, and there are almost no requests at the moment.

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Question	Answer
<p><b>Q13.</b> Are there any implications of COVID-19 on the trade of wildlife in your country?</p>	<p><b>Jordan:</b> Yes, wildlife species were prohibited to be imported and exported. Hunting season for wildlife species is still closed.</p>

Question	Answer
<p><b>Q14.</b> Do you have any additional questions or comments you would like to bring to the attention of the CITES Secretariat and UNEP Regional Office for West Asia?</p>	<p><b>Iraq:</b>  We want to obtain technical and scientific training, and scientific techniques can also be used for communication, for example WEBENER OR TEAM VEIWER  In training our cadres  We also wish to adopt projects by international organizations that protect wildlife in Iraq such as the numbering of wild species numbering project or the project of centers for breeding and harboring wild species or various awareness projects, such as raising the level of knowledge and knowledge among the community's children about the importance of wildlife and the implementation of the CITES Agreement</p> <p><b>Syria:</b>  Requesting technical and financial support for Syria as a result of the impact of the war and the current circumstances (Corona 19) in order to help implement the agreement.</p>

Question	Answer
<p><b>Q14.</b> Do you have any additional questions or comments you would like to bring to the attention of the CITES Secretariat and UNEP Regional Office for West Asia?</p>	<p><b>Oman:</b> The Sultanate of Oman has prepared a draft of the national law to regulate trade in fungal species threatened with extinction. A copy of the said draft law has been sent to the Convention Secretariat and the specialists in the agreement have been kindly thanked to make comments on this draft, but we believed that many of these observations should be included in the list The executive of this law and not in the articles of the law because it deals with topics that may be more useful to include in the executive regulations.</p> <p><b>Jordan:</b> More communication with partners. Lessons learned should be distributed and discussed.</p>

Thank You  
Twitter : @UNEP\_WestAsia  
Instagram: unepwestasia  
[www.unenvironment.org](http://www.unenvironment.org)



# ANNEX E



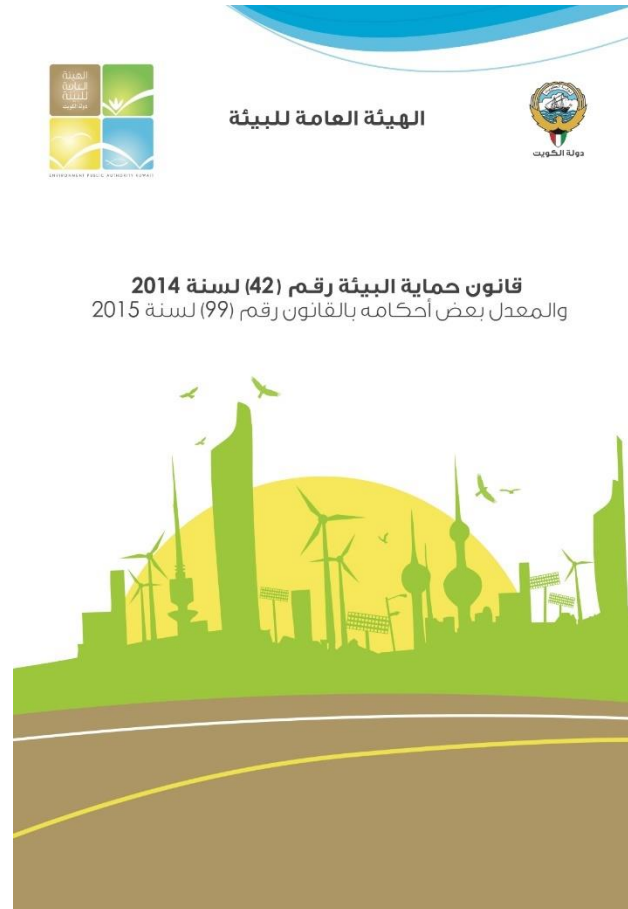
# CITES Enforcement in Kuwait

## Environment Public Authority

# CITES CONVENTION IN KUWAIT

- ❖ Kuwait has ratified the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in August 2002 and enter into force in November 2002.
- ❖ Environment Public Authority (EPA) has been designated as the Management Authority to issue and enforce national legislation as well the focal point for CITES convention . A second Management Authority “Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF)” has been designated; PAAF is responsible for issuing CITES permits based on the Memorandum of understanding between EPA and PAAF.
- ❖ EPA has designated The National Committee of Organizing Trade in Endangered Species as the Scientific Authority.
- ❖ CITES National legislation found in the regulations stated in the Biodiversity chapter of the environment protection law number 42/2014 and its amendments.
- ❖ The issuance of Resolution No. (3 of 2017) in the Executive Regulations for Biodiversity (100-110 of the Environmental Protection Law No. 42 of 2014 and its amendments)

## Law No. 42 of 2014 The Environment Protection Law



# NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS TO IMPLEMENT CITES CONVENTION

## Section Five

## Biodiversity

### Chapter One: Endangered Wildlife

#### (Article 100)



It is prohibited to hunt, kill, catch, collect, harm, acquire or transport wild land and marine organisms, whether alive or dead or prejudice their juveniles, eggs, nests or their habitats, and the Executive Bylaw of this law shall determine the types and numbers of organisms allowed to be hunted or fished in certain seasons and specific areas.

Hunting or fishing for scientific purposes shall be exempted after the approval of competent concerned authorities in coordination with the Authority.

# NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS TO IMPLEMENT CITES CONVENTION



## Section Five

## Biodiversity

## Chapter One: Endangered Wildlife

### (Article 101)

It is banned to trade in endangered species of wild organisms or any part of it or its products as specified in the CITES Convention and other valid international agreements.

It is possible, via a decision from the Director-General and in cooperation with the competent authorities, to add some other species to those mentioned in the said convention. The exception to the above will only be the cases licensed by competent authorities and approved by the Authority for scientific or treatment purposes or for Zoos and exhibitions.

## Section Seven

### Penalties (Article 151)

Whoever violates the provision of articles 101 and 124 of this law shall be punished with imprisonment of a period not less than one year and not exceeding three years and a fine not less than five thousand Kuwaiti Dinars and not exceeding fifty thousand Kuwaiti Dinars or with any of the two penalties. In all cases, the seized wild organisms and heritage pieces, the subject of the crime, should be confiscated.





# NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE FOR REGULATING TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

EPA established The National Standing Committee for Regulating Trading in Endangered Species to follow up the implementation of CITES at the national level, and the membership of this committee :

- Environment Public Authority (EPA).
- Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF)
- General Administration of Customs
- Ministry of Interior (Environmental Police, Electronic Crimes Department)
- Ministry of Forge affairs.
- Kuwait Institute for Scientific Researches (KISR)
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Civil Aviation - Kuwait International Airport:
- Kuwait municipality

# THE ROLE OF RELATED AUTHORITIES TO FULFIL THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

## Environment Public Authority

- The focal point for CITES convention (CITES Management and Enforcement Authority)
- Establish The National Committee of Organizing Trade in Endangered Species as the CITES Enforcement and Scientific Authority.
- With the co-operation of other relevant authorities, the Environment Public Authority shall issue all the national legislations related to International Trade in Endangered Species.
- To communicate with the Secretariat and other countries on scientific, administrative, enforcement and other issues related to implementation of the Convention.
- To coordinate national implementation and enforcement of the Convention between other relevant authorities as well as provide awareness-raising, training, education and information related to the Convention.
- To maintain records of international trade in specimens and prepare an annual report concerning such trade and submit this report to the CITES Secretariat in the specified dates with the co-operation of the competent management authority to grant CITES permits and certificates.



# THE ROLE OF RELATED AUTHORITIES TO FULFIL THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

## Environment Public Authority

- To prepare a biennial report on legislative, regulatory and administrative measures taken to enforce the Convention with the co-operation of other relevant authorities and submit this report to the CITES Secretariat.
- Develop rules and procedures to implement and enforce the Convention and any other national legislation related to regulating international trade in endangered species with the co-operation of other relevant authorities.
- To represent Kuwait at national and international meetings related to the Convention.
- To grant judicial control for enforcement officers to monitor and implement the national legislations related to the Convention, and takes the necessary legal actions against violators.
- To consult with the Scientific Authority on issuance and acceptance of CITES documents, the nature and level of trade in CITES- listed species, the setting and management of quotas, the registration of traders and production operations and the preparation of proposals to amend the CITES Appendices.

# THE ROLE OF RELATED AUTHORITIES TO FULFIL THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

## Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources

- Issue CITES permits and certificates for the endangered species in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.
- Coordinating with Environment Public Authority for the approval of security signs and seals, and identifying the names of persons authorized to sign the licenses.
- To communicate with the Secretariat and other countries on scientific and administrative issues related to CITES permits and certificates.
- To prepare the annual report concerning the international trade in specimen with the co-operation with the Environment Public Authority, to submit this report to the CITES Secretariat in the specified dates.
- Identify veterinary quarantine centers at customs clearance ports to care the specimens of the Convention.

## Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

- Work As the Scientific Authority of Kuwait.
- To participate in the national and international meetings in relation to the Convention

# THE ROLE OF RELATED AUTHORITIES TO FULFIL THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- International Communication with the countries.
- Providing Creational for international CITES meeting and participate in CITES Conference of the Parties to provide international legal advice.

## The General Administration of Customs

- Transferring all consignments of wild species issued to the border ports to the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs and not to allow the release until obtaining the necessary permits and clearance from the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs.

# THE ROLE OF RELATED AUTHORITIES TO FULFIL THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

## Environmental Police

- Follow up compliance and enforcement of Environment Protection Laws (Article 100, 101) and any other related resolutions.
- Organizing continuous inspection campaigns on shops and places that carry out activities related to the Convention in cooperation with the Environment Public Authority.

## Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- licensing of trade in endangered species.
- Coordinating with the Environment Public Authority & Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources for the amendment of the general trade license forms.
- Intensifying the supervision on shops that carry out activities related to animal and plant trading and controlling licenses violations.

# THE ROLE OF RELATED AUTHORITIES TO FULFIL THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

## **Civil Aviation - Kuwait International Airport:**

Circulate the requirements for air shipments of live species allocated for trading in accordance with the requirements of CITES Convention to all airlines and ground service agents working at Kuwait International Airport and freight forwarders operating in Kuwait.

## **Kuwait municipality**

Inspection and control of companies and shops that carry out activities related to trafficking in species to ensure that they do not violate the laws of trafficking on a regular basis.

# THE MOST IMPORTANT ANIMALS AND PLANTS SPECIES TRADED IN KUWAIT



أخشاب العود

**Agarwood**

*(Aquilaria spp. And Gyrinops spp.)*



الشرياص / ترمه

**Lesser kestrel**

*(Falco naumanni)*



الببغاء الرمادي

**Grey parrot**

*(Psittacus erithacus)*



طائر الحبارى

**Houbara bustard**

*(Chlamydotis undulata)*



طائر الشاهين

**peregrine falcon**

*(Falco peregrinus)*



متابعة تنفيذ القانون رقم 42 لسنة 2014 والخاص بحماية البيئة  
واللوائح المتعلقة في المحافظة على التنوع الأحيائي.  
Follow up the implementation of the law No.  
42 of 2014 on the protection of the  
environment and regulations related to the  
conservation of biodiversity





# رصد وتوثيق المخالفات الخاصة باتفاقية سايتس monitoring and documenting violations of CITES



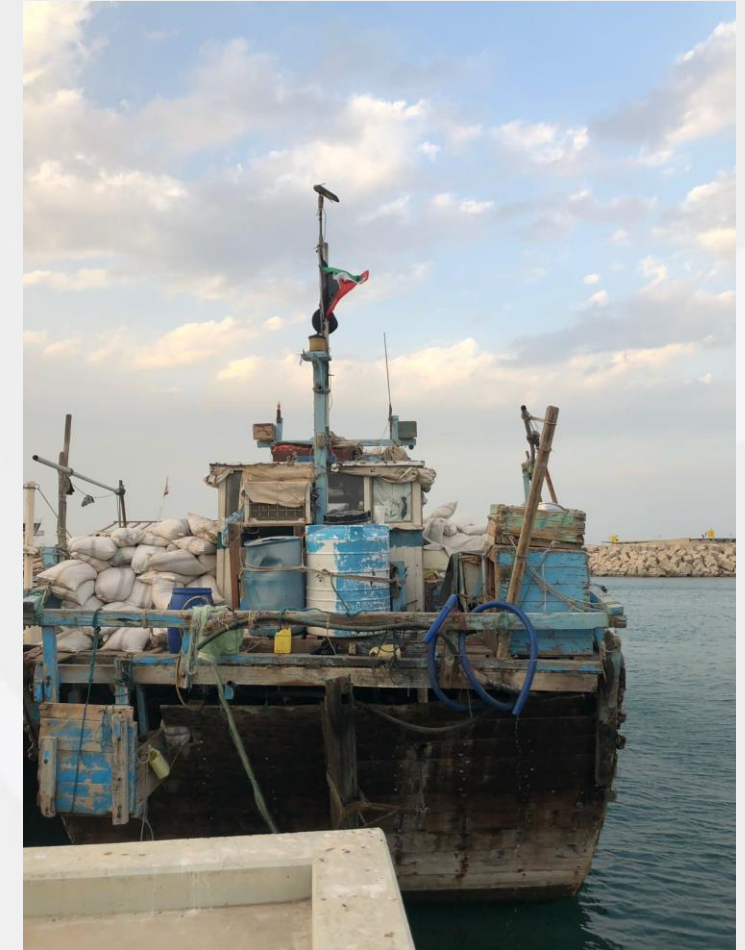
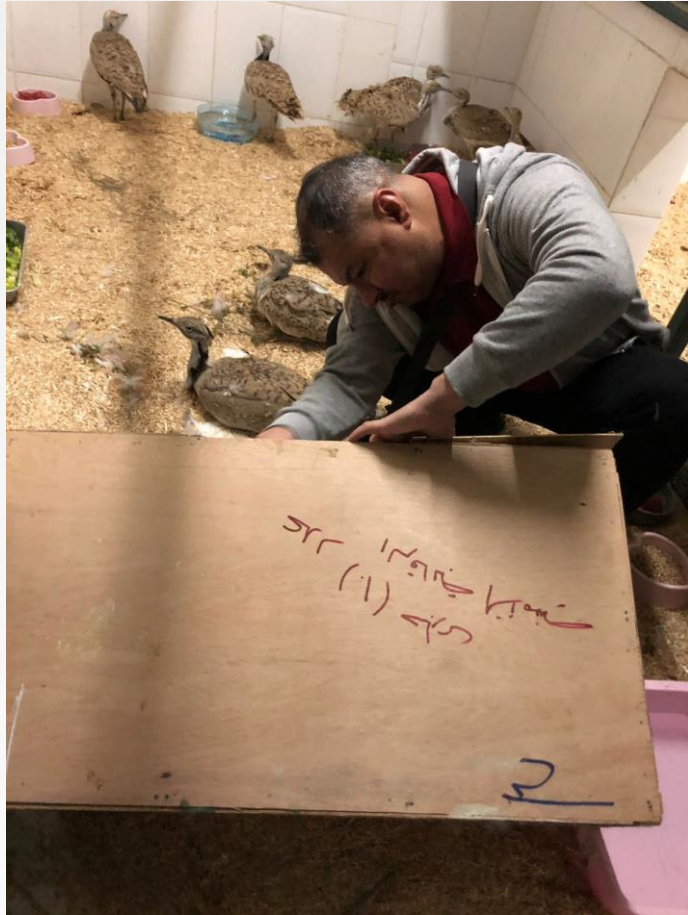






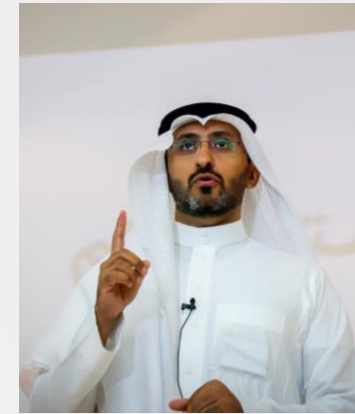
# مصادرة شحنة من الحبارى من أحد المنافذ الحدودية البحرية.

## Confiscation of shipment from Chlamydotis birds from one of the maritime border ports





# Training workshop regarding “the implementation of convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora CITES in state of Kuwait





الاحتفال باليوم العالمي للحياة الفطرية 3 مارس  
"الصقور بين الموروث الشعبي والاتجار الغير شرعي"  
celebrating the World wildlife day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of march  
"Falcons between popular heritage and illegal traffic"





# اليوم العالمي للحياة الفطرية 3 مارس

## World wildlife day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of march





## إطلاق سراح الصقور المصادرة

### The release of falcons confiscated













## التنسيق الدولي مع الإنتربول بشأن تهريب الببغاء الرمادي وإصدار قرار وطني بهذا الشأن.

International coordination with Interpol on the smuggling of the gray parrot and issue national restricted regulation in this regard.



8,521 views · Liked by all4me4ever

birdswings SOLD OUT. نفذت الكمية

كاسكو كونجو ذكور فقط احجام سوپر بالغه للانتاج السعر ٣٠ دينار فقط .  
الري مجمع ري سنتر محل رقم ٢٤ بجانب سوق السلع الإيرانيه ، نفس  
المجمع اللي فيه معرض أفكاري

MAY 14 · SEE TRANSLATION



# Thank you



## ANNEX F

- Information on non-detriment findings: (NDF): See [Resolution Conf. 16.7 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#)  
<https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php>
- Identification of species guidelines: [https://cites.org/eng/imp/identification\\_materials/index.php](https://cites.org/eng/imp/identification_materials/index.php)
- e-CITES Website: <https://cites.org/eng/prog/eCITES>
- Captive breeding guidelines (for farmers and inspections and what defines animals bred in captivity):  
[https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/captive\\_breeding/E-InspectionGuidance-FINAL.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/captive_breeding/E-InspectionGuidance-FINAL.pdf)
- Model Law (in Arabic): <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Legislation/A-lawcites.pdf>  
(currently being revised)
- InforMEA link to the online course on CITES and other MEAs:  
<https://elearning.informe.org/#course8>
- Strengthening legal frameworks for licit and illicit trade in wildlife and forest products:  
[http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27282/Strengthening\\_legal\\_frameworks.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27282/Strengthening_legal_frameworks.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)