

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

Reports on the actions taken by regional representatives and additional information from Parties,  
relevant to regional cooperation and the work of the Animals Committee

ASIA

1. This report has been prepared by the regional representative for Asia\*\*.

2. **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 March 2012 ( 8 countries) : China, Indonesia, Iran , Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.
- d. National, regional or international CITES meetings or events:
  - The 6th meeting of the ASEAN Wildlife Law Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), was held in 25 – 27 May 2011. Manila, The Philippines.
  - The 61st Standing Committee meeting of CITES, 15 -19 August 2011, Geneva, Switzerland was attended by representatives Asia member countries.
  - Marine Turtle Egg Trade Workshop was held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, 15 -19 November 2011.
  - ASEAN Center for Biodiversity and East ASIA and South East Asia Biodiversity International Initiative jointly held Training of Trainer on CITES Policies and species identification in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 17 – 20 January 2011.
  - 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

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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.
- Workshop on Strengthening CITES Implementation Capacity to Ensure Sustainable Wildlife Management and Non Detremental Finding, December 2011, Ryadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Thailand-Lao PDR held a bilateral meeting on Wildlife Enforcement Cooperation, Thailand, 13 -15 September 2011.
- China MA and General Custom Administration jointly promulgated the new version of Wildlife products International Trade Monitoring Referential HS-Code Book at the end of 2011 to update the status of endangered species and incorporated the provision of relevant wildlife protection law and regulation into the tool book so as to facilitate the daily works of the custom official wildlife.
- An NDF workshop was jointly held by China CITES MA and SA in Beijing from 20-21 February 2012, with 26 experts outlining NDF case studies of flora and fauna species such as *Aquilaria sp* and *Moschus sp*.
- Islamic Republic of Iran actively participated in annual meeting of “Caspian Sea Aquatic Bioresources” in Dec. 2011, Baku-Azerbaijan. Iran also present the results of its 2011 activities on “sturgeon conservation and management” in the Caspian Sea. The annual report was including as “sturgeon stock assessment in 2011, Fingerling release, enforcement measures, fishery management and aquaculture development and also national policy for Caspian Sea fisheries”.

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

#### a. Review of significant Trade:

- **Uzbekistan.**

The review of Significant trade (Horsfield Tortoise) was send to the CITES Secretariat.

- **Vietnam.**

In October 2011 the CITES MA and SA of Vietnam met with Davis Morgan Chief Scientific Services team of CITES Secretariat in Hanoi in order to learn how Vietnam review the trade on *Christensonia vietnamica* Cycadaceae and the wild animal species. With supporting funding from CITES Secretariat conduct the NDF Cycads with cooperation between Scientific and Ma authorities. The final report of this project will be provide to CITES Secretariat in middle of March 2012.

- **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 many 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 and put the numerator to monitor the number shark caught.

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

- **China.**

China Law Enforcement Coordination Group on Endangered Species was established on 9 December 2011 in Beijing. China CITES MA convened the inter-sector launching event with representative from 15 ministries and administrations attending the meeting. In September 2011, China CITES MA and Fisheries bureau of Ministry of Agriculture held a joint Seminar on Introduction from the sea, with relevant departments and institutions on CITES implementation participating the meeting. China organized the tri-party (China-Mainland, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR) CITES implementation Coordination Meeting in October 2011 in Zhengzhou, Hainan province. In September 2011, Fisheries Bureau of Ministry of Agriculture organized the periodic Review Report of Chinese Salamander *Andrias davidianus*. In September 2011, China MA and Fisheries Bureau of Ministry of Agriculture jointly held a seminar on European eel to carry out industrial research, market demand, compliance and management problems and further action to be taken on this issue.

- **Indonesia.**

- Several meeting and decision on quota setting between SA, MA, NGO, Association, Universities and other stakeholders as an implementation of CITES.
- Finalize and legalize National Plan of Action (NPoA) of Sharks
- Monitoring stop point of sharks
- On October 5, 2011, 609 pignose turtles from Indonesia were confiscated in Hongkong due to these specimens covered without proper CITES permits. Indonesia in cooperation with CITES Management Authority of Hongkong released The species into the nature habitat in Merauke, Papua.
- On November 2011 Government of Indonesia confiscated living reptile specimens in Soekarno-Hatta airport which were 42 heads of Indian Star Tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*) and 38 *Testudo graeca* (originally from India) appendix II CITES. These specimens were imported from Thailand. Indonesia will send back the confiscated species to India.
- Indonesia also confiscated 394 heads of Star Tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*), species Appendix I which imported from Egypt.

- **Singapore**

- From June 2011 to January 2012 AVA (The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority) investigated 25 cases of illegal import possession and sale of CITES specimens, of which 17 cases were compounded between 100 – 3000 \$, 5 cases were issued with advisory and warning letters and 3 cases pending investigations. Some significant cases are highlighted as follow. In June 2011, AVA officers received a tip-off that tiger products were on sale at a trade fair at Singapore Expo. A total of 45 animal products claimed by the stall owner to be an assortment of tiger claws, tiger bone, tiger penises and tiger cut skin pieces were confiscated and representative samples sent to AVA's laboratory for analysis. Results returned negative for presence of tiger DNA, but the stall owner an Indonesian national was fined \$ 1000 for selling fake tiger products.
- In June 2011 Airport Police officers caught a traveler attempting to check in his luggage containing suspected Asian arowanas without permit. The matter was referred to AVA and a total of 41 Asian arowanas, 7 silver arowanas and 10 shrimps were found in the traveller's bag. The traveler a Vietnamese national was fine \$3000 by AVA and the fishes forfeited to AVA.

- o In June 2011, Singapore Police Force officers informed AVA that a Singaporean Chinese man arrived from Thailand with prohibited replica firearms and a live animal. The animal was identified to be a Jackson's Chameleon a CITES Appendix II reptilian species. Investigation revealed that the man did not have a permit for the import and attempted to smuggle the Chameleon into Singapore by keeping it in a pouch. The man was fined \$ 2500 by AVA for illegal import and the animal handed over to Singapore Zoological Gardens for custody.
  - o In October 2011 Immigration and checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at Tuas Checkpoint inspected a lorry carrying a shipment of sea food and detected two baxes of undeclared crocodile meat fillet in the shipment. The driver a Malaysian national was compounded \$ 1000 by AVA for importing the fillet without a CITES permit.
  - o In December 2011 a Thai Monk was stopped by ICA at Changi Airport for importing a total of 71 pieces of amulets allegedly claimed by the monk to be made of tiger skin. The items were seized and representative samples sent to AVA's laboratory for analysis. The results returned negative for presence of tiger DNA but Thai Monk was fined \$1000 for importing fake products.
- c. Registration of operations breeding appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes.

- **The Philippines**

The application of Birds International Inc. for the registration of its commercial breeding operations for birds listed under appendix I ( *Cacatua sulphurea abbotti*, *Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata*, *Cacatua sulphurea sulphurea* and *Cacatua moluccensis*) is slated for further review and deliberation by animals committee this coming March 2012. A memorandum of understanding between the government of the Philippines and the Government of Indonesia was signed 18 June 2009 concerning collaboration on the in situ conservation Indonesian *Cacatua* species. The joint discussion of the Philippines and Indonesia to clarify of the action plan will be taken in April 2012.

- **Indonesia**

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.

- **Singapore**

Singapore submitted two applicants on 18 July 2011 and 10 October 2011 to register Dragonarowana Aquarium Trading and Majestic Agri-tainment Pte Ltd respectively for commercial captive breeding of Asian arowanas.

- **Thailand.**

There are 21 crocodile farms and Giant catfish farm in Thailand have been registered as operations that breed appendix I animal species for commercial purposes.

- **Vietnam.**

There are 7 captive breeding farms of crocodile have registered with CITES secretariat since 2002. A proposal to register another crocodile farm for commercial purpose in Southern Vietnam have been developing.

- **Uzbekistan.**

In Uzbekistan there are a lot of nurseries (breeding station) where keep and breed different kinds of animals, some of which is included in appendices of CITES. In Total are 28 nurseries and 9 of them are breed the animals included in the appendix 1. Zoocomplex company keep and breed the steppe tortoises *Agrionemys horsfieldi* in commercial purposes. The Taskent zoo keep and breed several appendix I listed in CITES for the purpose of studying in captivity and for exchange of animal with other zoological gardens and propagation of protection of fauna.

d. CITES related project.

- **China**

China launched the second National survey on Terrestrial Wildlife Resources on 11 January 2011. China's first reintroduction of artificial breeding python was made in Hainan Yonada tropical rain forest region with 100 snakes returned to the nature on 28 March 2011.

- **Iran**

A pilot Project on "Gene pool conservation of sturgeon from Sefiedrud River-Iran" was conducted by active involvement of local fishermen in Iran in 2011. In total 450000 USD financial supports provided jointly by Iranian Fishery Research Organization/ International Sturgeon Research Institute and Caspian Environment Program (Caspeco). In order to share the project finding and extend such activities in Caspian Sea range state, a regional Workshop was organized on Dec.2011, Ramsar –Iran. Representatives of Fishery and Environment Department from the Caspian Sea countries as well as CASPECO unit were attended to this workshop and participated on fingerling release practice in to the Caspian Sea.

- **Uzbekistan**

With the funding from Flora and Fauna International was create a joint project for protection of Saiga antelope, Saiga tatarica on the territory of Usturt Plateu near the border with Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. One of the aims of this project is to organizespecial reserve for Saiga antelope with estimation area of 1000 square kilometer.

- **Vietnam.**

The Research Institute for Marine Fisheries was conducted a survey on Tridacna and the results will be published in the middle of 2012. This is the fundamental to conduct NDF on Tridacna species in Vietnam in the near future. With the funding from government budget, Vietnam CITES MA in cooperation with SA implemented a wild tiger survey. The survey is completed in December 2011. The result shows that there is under 50 individuals tiger living in separated landscape along Vietnam-Lao- Cambodia border.

- **Thailand.**

Study of population size of seahorses has been done by Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and cooperation.

e. **Others**

The CITES MA of Vietnam is seeking for financial support to conduct a survey in Tokay Gecko in order to develop a proposal included this species in CITES Appendix II.

- **Singapore**

A 6- member delegation from Malaysian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment scheduled an official working visit to the Singapore Zoological Gardens on 27 August 2011. The visit was part of Malaysia's effort to develop and set up new wildlife rescue centers to be implemented under their new CITES legislation. The visits are including briefing by zoo staff about the role and function of the Zoo as a rescued wildlife center. The delegation also toured the small animal quarantine premises and animal hospital and research facilities. After the Zoo the delegation visited the Sungai Buloh Wetland Reserves where they learnt more about park management and wildlife rescue.

Singapore submitted its CITES annual report 2010 to the CITES Secretariat on 24 October 2011. 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.

#### 4. Country priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of implementation of CITES.

- **The Philippines**

The DNR had thirty eight (38) wildlife apprehensions with total number of 2,388 assorted wildlife species confiscated in year 2011. Eleven cases of violations against wildlife laws, including CITES were filed in the Philippines courts.

The DENR-PAWB in collaboration with academe, non-government organization and scientific authorities has started the review of the National List of threatened Wild Fauna and Flora that include CITES listed species with the end view of updating the list for conservation, protection and enforcement purposes.

The Philippines through the UNEP-GEF funded project, Biodiversity Partnership Project is presently at the initial stage of developing the CITES E-permitting System. It aims to streamline and facilitate the issuance of CITES permit in support to the wildlife business industry and E-permit Project. It is also aims to promote paper less use of common information exchange format, protocols and standards, advice on signature and other electronic security measure

- **Thailand.**

Developing identification method for traded species. Carrying out a long term research on population of the monocle Cobra, *Naya kaouthia* in the central region of Thailand. Carrying out a joint research project between Department of Fisheries and Mahidol University on reintroduction crocodiles to the natureat Bung Barapet Wildlife non hunting area and Kaeng Kracchan National Park, 2011 – 2012.

- **UZBEKISTAN.**

The new Red data book of Uzbekistan on fauna and flora has been published in 2007 and a project to updating of the book has been approved by State Committee on Nature Protection of Uzbekistan 2012.

The governmental order project is prepared for Regulation of international trade in species of wild fauna and flora, being under the threat of disappearance in the territory of the republic of Uzbekistan. This project is at a coordination stage.

The short guide of the animals listed in CITES appendices has been prepared and transferred to the customs authorities for use. Now the new modified and expanded Guide of animal and the plants is prepared.

- **Vietnam**

Red data book of Vietnam on fauna and flora has been published in 2007 a project to updating of the book has been approved by Ministry of Science and Technology. Final draft on the list of common fauna species together with mechanism to manage the captive breeding and trading is developed for approved in 2012. A quick survey on endangered fauna species has just conducted. The results database of this project is for basic input to government authority for amending the national law on protect wild animal.

#### 5. Promotion of CITES in the region:

- a. Capacity building activities

- **Indonesia.**

- National workshop and seminar in Strengthening CITES implementation capacity to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade
- CITES implementation training in Province of Central Java, Aceh Province and Maluku Province

- o Protected and CITES Appendices Plants and Animals Identification Training in West Java Province and Papua Province
- o Management Authority of Indonesia in cooperation with Custom carried out socialization of Indonesian National Single Window (INSW) as an implementation of CITES permit in Jakarta
- **The Philippines.**
  - o Training of Trainers (ToT) on the application of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual of operations 19 -25 June 2011 with support from the united States Departement interior.
  - o Establishment of partnership with FREELAND foundation for in country capacity building and law enforcement support activities through the letter of Cooperation dated 26 – April – 2011.

- **Thailand.**

Preparing operation under the national single Window for permit issuance. ETIS and Ivory identification workshop has been done on 26 -29 January 2011, in Surin, Thailand. Thailand was held Legal seminar on Ivory and Wildlife Crime Presecution, Bangkok, 19 – 20 September 2011. MA Thailand was held Chaing Rai Wildlife trade regulation course in Chaing Rai, 8 -9 September 2011.

- **Singapore**

As part of our ongoing public outreach program AVA has distributed advisories to retail shops (including airport, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) jeweler, souvenir or curio shops) about CITES requirements and restrictions on sale of prohibited CITES items.

- **Uzbekistan**

Annual seminar are held with customs authorities concerning control over moving through border of the state of kind of animals and plants and their parts, registration and acceptance of measures to infringers for illegal attempt of crossing of border Uzbekistan.

- **Vietnam.**

A package of training course for custom and police was developed, three training courses were organized in the collaboration with custom colleague. Twice a year CITES MA in cooperation with custom organize the CITES implementation training course for about 80 custom officer. A training course was also conducted on the CITES implementation in December 2011 for enforcement staff from Southern area. The participations are included custom, ranger and police.

**b. Cooperation with stakeholders, NGO and Private sector.**

- Indonesia.
  - o Indonesia conducted population survey of *Amyda cartilaginea* in West Sumatera the survey was funded by CITES Secretariat
  - o Indonesia in cooperation with CITES Secretariat and International Trade Center (ITC) conducted field study concerning the Sustainable Trade of *Python reticulates*.

- **The Philippines.**

The Philippines through the DENR – PAWB sustained its collaborative partnership with both local and international NGOs as well as with local government units, local communities, indigenous people communities, academe, private sector people's organizations and the business industry in the fields of policy development, conservation project implementation, scientific researches and enforcement. Among our major partners are Tangol Kalikasan, Philippines Biodiversity Foundation, Inc. Philippines Eagle Foundation, Haribon Foundation, Katala Foundation, WCS Philippines, *Crocodylus porosus* Philippines Inc., Conservation International Philippines, Texas University, Field Museum of Natural History.

- **Thailand**

Meeting between Department of Fisheries with Seahorse trader. Meeting between Department of Fisheries with crocodile trader in Bangkok. Meeting between department of National Park, Wildlife and plant conservation and Wildlife trader on 26-August 2011.

- **Uzbekistan.**

With the Birds Protection Society of Uzbekistan annual account of waterfowls is carrying out. Collaborative with ECOMAKTAB is carrying out for propagation of ecological knowledge and the importance of nature protection actions. Zoological society of Uzbekistan and CITES MA Uzbekistan evaluate of list of animal species in the Red data book of Republic of Uzbekistan.

- **Vietnam.**

Vietnam CITES MA working closely with natural conservation NGOs in Vietnam Such as : with facilitation of Vietnam CITES MA and Traffic- Greater Mekong program. Three MoU has been signed for strengthening cross border collaboration on wildlife trade control. Vietnam CITES MA cooperation with WCS to conduct number of survey on wildlife trade in border gates during 2011. Another survey on wildlife trade has been conducted in early 2012 at the border gate China. A briefing pack on ivory trade in Vietnam is developing in cooperation between WCS an MA. With supporting fund from FREELAND foundation, delegate of Vietnam include representative of CITES MA, Police, Custom have dialogue with correlative agencies of Indonesia in Bali from 24 - 27 November 2011. The results of the dialogue was draft of MOU in wildlife trade control which will be submitted to Authority for approval. In October 2011, MA and SA of Vietnam met and discussed with trace network in order to improve forensic technique for Vietnam laboratory and related agencies.

**c. Public awareness**

- **Thailand**

Thailand have been carrying out public awareness campaigns and active to promote understanding on sustainable wildlife uses, including setting a public relation booth at Chatuchak open market, Bangkok. Raising awareness on wildlife conservation against illegal wildlife trade.

- **Indonesia**

- Indonesia 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

- **Singapore**

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, elephants and bears such as its teeth, horns, claws, bones, skins and 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.