



MAY 23 2012

Republic of the Philippines
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PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE BUREAU

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Attention: MR. LAURENT GAUTHIER
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Dear Secretary **Scanlon**,

This Office, as the CITES Management Authority of the Philippines highly appreciate the comments and recommendations of the CITES Animals Committee (AC) under the chairmanship of Mr. Carlos Ibero, during its Meeting in Geneva to review the objections of Indonesia to the registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes as contained in AC26 WG8 Doc 1.

On the first objection relative to the legality of the founder stocks. We are thankful to the AC working group in their comment that *“the Committee felt that it was likely that significant trade in these species had occurred before the listing of the species”*. This recommendation is supportive of our claim that the initial founder stocks were acquired before the CITES convention and thus classified as pre-convention specimens.

On the second objection relative to the registration of the operation in the Philippines should be delayed pending the adoption of the action plan between Indonesia and the Philippines. We are most thankful to the AC working group in their comment that *“the Committee did not consider that an objection on these grounds was a legitimate reason to prevent registration taking place because such cooperative agreements, whilst encouraged in Resolution 13.9 are voluntary actions and are not requirements for registration under Resolution Conf.12.10 (Rev CoP15)”*. It is apparent that the Animals Committee supported the Philippines' positions on these issues. However, the Committee had taken note also of Philippines' planned meeting with Indonesia and it hoped that this meeting would result in a productive solution acceptable to both Parties.



In this regard and as a gesture of our genuine intent to settle the matter on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)-Action Plan with Indonesia, we are pushing through with our planned meeting. In fact, we have reviewed the draft Action Plan prepared by Indonesia and will provide them our comments/inputs for their further annotations. Concerning the proposed visit to Jakarta, our assessment is to finalize first the review of the draft Action Plan. Once the issues and concerns are resolved and acceptable to Indonesia and the Philippines, then we can proceed with the Meeting for the signing of the Action Plan which will form part of the existing MoU. The said meeting should be scheduled on a date preferable to both Parties. To our opinion, this will save time, efforts and funds to both Parties.

Again, our utmost gratitude to the Chair and Members of the Animals Committee.

Warm regards.

Very truly yours,



THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM
Director

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