

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



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TIGER RANGE STATE REPORT –THAILAND

The attached document has been submitted by Thailand in compliance with Decision 14.65 (*Asian big cats*).*

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Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-1 Asian big cat species

Report submitted by CITES Management Authority of Thailand for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15).

To comply with Resolution Conf. 12.5, Thailand has taken various steps on implementing conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-1 Asian big cat including research, population sustainable conservation and management, public awareness, and related law enforcement.

1. Political Will**2.**

Thai government has, as shown in its policy, given a political commitment on natural resources protection and conservation. On January 22, 2008, the cabinet acknowledged the CoP14 report and approved guidelines for all government sectors to curb illegal wildlife trade, including flagship and keystone species such as tigers and elephants. The cabinet also acknowledged the progress on implementing in conserving and protecting wildlife resources under the National Wildlife Master Plan approved previously by the Cabinet on October 25, 2005. This Master Plan guides a long term direction in wildlife management for Thailand.

To implement the government policy on wildlife protection and conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has given a policy to its departmental agencies in curbing illegal wildlife trade all over the country. The Ministry also focused on the illegal issues occurring along the borders with neighboring countries. With this policy, the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), as the focal point for CITES Management Authority of Thailand, has taken this agenda as the highest priority. The department also urged related parties, i.e., private and the public, to support its work in fighting wildlife crimes. However, not only DNP has strengthened its effort to fight this serious crime, the Royal Thai Police has also considered illegal wildlife trade as one of 14 serious crimes for the police all over the country.

2. Progress in Implementation**2.1 Laws**

As already known, Thailand has enacted the Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act (WARPA) since 1992 to implement wildlife conservation in Thailand in comply with international agreement such as CITES and CBD. Since Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Leopard (*P. pardus*) and Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) found in Thailand are protected species under WARPA, hunting, possessing, or trading in these species are prohibited, except for scientific purposes. The details appeared in the report of the 57th Standing Committee meeting. Law covering tiger issues has not been reviewed.

2.2 Enforcement

Thailand has put great efforts to curb illegal trade in CITES species, especially tigers and other Appendix-1 Asian big cat species. According to statistics from January 2008 until now, DNP in close cooperation with other enforcement agencies (Police and Customs) intercepted 8 cases of Asian big cat trafficking as shown in the following table.

Table: Details of significant seizure of tigers and other big cats.

Seizure date	Group of species	Description	Number	Weight (kg.)	Seizure location
29/1/2008	<i>Panthera tigris</i> <i>Panthera pardus</i> <i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>	carcasses carcasses carcasses	6 3 2	- - -	Nakhon Panom Province
10/6/2008	<i>Panthera tigris</i> <i>Panthera pardus</i> <i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>	carcasses carcasses carcasses	1 2 1	107 76 22	Songkhla Province
5/1/2009	<i>Panthera tigris</i> <i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>	carcasses carcasses	10 1	- -	Prachuab Kiri Khan Province

Seizure date	Group of species	Description	Number	Weight (kg.)	Seizure location
9/2/2009	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	3	-	Pattani Province
	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	carcasses	1	-	
17/2/2009	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	3	75	Udon Thani Province
28/3/2009	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	skeleton	-	3.3	Kanchanaburi Province
26/4/2009	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	carcasses	4	307	Nongkhai Province
6/7/2009	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	live	1	-	Suvarnabhumi Airport

- With all cases mentioned above, DNP collected pieces of tiger meat for DNA analysis and genetic database management.

- Following up the case of Tiger temple at Saiyok district, Kanchanaburi province, being accused of tiger exchange with Lao PDR.

- There are four Public Zoos which have been granted captive breeding permit for Asian big cats (Tiger, Leopard and Clouded Leopard) only for Public zoo's business purpose. Additionally, there are another 19 Public Zoos which have been granted possessing permit the three Asian big cats species, with altogether 916 heads. (See attached table)

3. Management Direction

3.1 Researches and studies

Thailand has been implementing Master plan on National Wildlife conservation 2006- 2015. In addition, strategic and action plans have been conducted aiming to conserve Thailand wildlife including Asian big cats. The Master plan is also aimed to integrate tangible management of Wildlife, sustainable and harmony on wildlife and their remaining habitats, as well as ecological balance. Under the master plan, there are systematic wildlife's study plans and projects which are related to biology, population, and heredity of endangered species including Asian big cats as follows:

- Continual Implementation on Tigers Forever project from year 2009.
- Ecological research for tiger conservation.
- Survey and research on tiger population in protected areas.
- Monitoring tiger population in Tung Yai- Huay Ka Khang world heritage site and other sites where the tigers inhabit.
- Evaluation density of tiger's prey population.
- Research on tiger's status and distribution.
- Research and management for Asian big cat population conservation in nature in coordination with NGOs. Under the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (CEP/BCI) currently being executed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a regional technical assistance (RETA) 6289, the biodiversity corridor activities are being implemented in the period 2006-2009 in the Tenasserim connecting Western Forest and Kaeng Krachan Complexes on the western border of Thailand and Myanmar. The BCI site covers selected villages and Tambons in the two provinces of Ratchaburi and Kanchanaburi.

DNP, in conjunction with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has launched Tiger Forever Project which is focusing on enhancing tiger population upto 50% in some specific areas of Huai Kha Khaeng-Thungyai Naresuan world heritage site within 10 years starting from year 2006. Activities include:

- Monitoring: Tiger population monitoring, Prey population monitoring
- Intervention: smart patrol system
- Wildlife crime monitoring and wildlife volunteer network
- New generations of wildlife biologist training
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On-going activities include:

- Strengthening protection and community outreach interventions for tiger conservation in the western forest complex, Thailand 2009-2010.

- Developing Smart Patrol System in the western and eastern part of Thungyai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary.

- Surveying on tiger's prey population in the western part of Thungyai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Strengthening on Protected area preventing system at protected area's boundary.
- Producing publication on tiger conservation's activities in Western forest complex.
- Building community network for tiger conservation at Western forest complex's boundary.

- DNP, in conjunction with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has launched Project on tiger issues under the Greater Mekong Sub-region- GMS consisting of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. The main site of Thailand is the Tenasserim forests on the Thai/Myanmar border.

- DNP is working closely with the WWF in creating Thailand Wildlife Enforcement Network (Thailand WEN).

- Building capacity in three core protected areas on Thailand's Western Border (Kuiburi National Park, Kaeng Krachan National Park and Thung Yai Wildlife Sanctuary). The aim is to ensure tigers and their habitats remain secure from threats to their survival. Activities include:

- Assisting protected area management planning and wildlife monitoring.
- Involving local communities in species and habitat conservation and the elimination of restaurants selling wildlife meat.
- Mitigating human wildlife conflict so that no retaliatory killings of tigers occur.
- Enhancing and helping focus law enforcement capacity.

- DNP is working closely with the WWF on Thailand Wildlife Enforcement Network (Thailand WEN) training activities. By supporting the creation of a cooperative multi-agency body against illegal wildlife trade, we hope to address both the poaching of tigers and tiger's prey.

3.2 Managing database on Tigers captive breeding program and possession of tigers which are permitted.

3.3 Public Relation

- Launching awareness campaign at Suvarnabhumi International airport to Stop Wildlife Trafficking on March 9, 2009 by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in cooperation with Airports of Thailand Public Company Limited (AOT). At this occasion, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (Mr.Suwit Khunkitti) announced cooperation between the Royal Thai Government, ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network and AOT to stop wildlife trafficking. The campaign included anti-wildlife trafficking banners and messages throughout Suvarnabhumi Airport and training for 250 airport workers to stop protected plants and animals from being illegally traded.

3.4 Implementation on Conservation and enhancement of law enforcement's effectiveness.

- (1) Promoting tiger conservation.
- (2) Supporting community on sustainable economic development to reduce the use of forest products.
- (3) Supporting community participation and cooperation in conservation activities in protected areas.
- (4) Increasing measures to reduce wildlife crime, especially the Asian big cat and other wildlife species.
- (5) Increasing national and international measures to reduce use of tiger products.
- (6) Promoting regional cooperation on tiger conservation.

3.5 Strengthening Organization

(1) Capacity buildings

- To increase awareness of illegal tiger trade, Thailand participated and organized meetings:

- Special Investigation Group (SIG) Workshop on Pangolins and Big Cats, 7-9 January 2009 at International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) Bangkok, Thailand Launched by ASEAN-WEN.
- Thai-Lao Joint Ranger Training, Khao Yai National Park, Nakhorn Ratchasima, Thailand, 16 January 2009. About 20 forest rangers from Lao PDR (10 rangers) and Thailand (10 rangers) participated in wildlife investigation training in Khao Yai National Park, Thailand. By enhancing forest rangers' investigation skills of nature crimes (poaching, illegal logging, etc.), they will be better equipped to crack down poachers and smugglers.
- Clouded Leopard and Small Felid Conservation Summit, Bangkok, Thailand, from 28 – 30 January 2009, organized by Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) - IUCN and IUCN's Cat Specialist Group.
- Workshop for preparing on Illegal Wildlife Trade Enforcement Action plan of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department on February 2-3, 2009. Bangkok, Thailand organized by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP).

- Wildlife Trade Regulation Course, Suvarnabhumi Airport, Thailand, 10 – 20 March 2009 hosted by the Airports of Thailand Public Company Limited, ASEAN-WEN assisted with the Wildlife Trade Regulation Course at Suvarnabhumi International Airport. Over two weeks, more than 200 officers were trained to detect illegally traded flora and fauna, apply national and international laws (CITES), and how to handle confiscated wildlife.
- The International Workshop “A Forgotten Crisis: Arresting Wildlife Depletion in Asia through Strengthened Regional Cooperation and Effective Partnerships” hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand, The Royal Thai Police and the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network Program Coordination Unit co-sponsored by FREELAND Foundation, Save the Tiger Fund, TRAFFIC, the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank. Experts and representatives from 21 countries, 12 intergovernmental organizations and agreements, and 29 non-governmental organizations met together in Pattaya, Thailand from 10 to 12 April 2009.
- Workshop on Tiger Conservation in Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary on May 11, 2009, organized by DNP and WCS.
- Kathmandu Tiger Workshop is being organized by World Bank and Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation in Kathmandu, Nepal from 27-30 October 2009. On 26th October, the executive committee of Global Tiger Forum is meeting.
- Participated in training on Wildlife Management for the officers in the level of forest ranger and equivalent at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India from 1st November 2009 – 31st January 2010 organized by Global Tiger Forum.
- Demonstration Enforcement Ranger Training, Khao Yai National Park, Nakhorn Ratchasima, Thailand, from 8 – 25 November 2009.
- CITES/INTERPOL Law Enforcement Intelligence Training for tiger range states, Jakarta, Indonesia, from 30 November – 4 December 2009.
- The 1st Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation (1st AMC), Hua Hin, Thailand, from 27 – 30 January 2010 hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand.
- Training on Tiger’s Status Survey in Kaeng Krachan National Park, Petchaburi province, Thailand.

(2) Developing effective process in Policy and Decision making on Tiger conservation.

3.6 Data Collection, Analysis and Management

- (1) Surveying, Monitoring and Evaluation of Tiger and other wildlife’s population.
- (2) Supporting research on tiger conservation.
- (3) Supporting attempt to create understanding not to use tiger products.
- (4) Managing data and developing mechanisms to access to data on tiger conservation systematically.

3.7 Education and public participation

- (1) Establishing modules on tiger ecology and wildlife conservation.
- (2) Supporting attempt to create understanding on tiger conservation to variety of people, and trying to motivate the group of people to participate in conservation’s activities.
- (3) Stimulating private organization to support tiger conservation.

Attachment

List of Asian big cat species in farms/zoos

	Breeding Farms/Zoos	Location	Species	Number (heads)	Remark
1	Safari World	Bangkok	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	12	updated 2008
2	Pata Zoo	Bangkok	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	2	updated 2009
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	11	
			<i>Panthera nebulosa</i>	1	
3	Lopburi Zoo	Lopburi	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	3	updated 2008
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	3	
4	Sriracha Tiger Zoo*	Chonburi	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	424	updated 2009
5	Nong Nooch Village	Chonburi	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	2	updated 2009
6	Samutprakarn Crocodile Farm	Smutprakarn	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	58	updated 2009
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	15	
7	Utairat Crocodile Farm and Zoo	Chonburi	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	1	updated 2009
8	The Million Years Stone Park & Pattaya Crocodile Farm	Chonburi	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	36	updated 2009
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	2	
9	Safari Park and Resort	Kanchanaburi	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	7	updated 2008
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	3	
10	Sampran Crocodile Farm	Nakorn Pathom	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	4	updated 2009
11	Dumnoen Saduak Tiger Zoo	Ratchaburi	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	3	updated 2007
12	Mr. Chaiyaporn Wijitsophon Farm	Nakorn Pathom	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	2	updated 2007
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	4	
			<i>Panthera nebulosa</i>	2	
13	Samui Tiger Zoo	Surat Thani	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	21	updated 2009
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	7	
			<i>Panthera nebulosa</i>	3	
	Breeding Farms/Zoos	Location	Species	Number (heads)	Remark
14	Namuang Safari Park	Surat Thani	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	2	updated 2009
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	2	
15	Phuket Zoo*	Phuket	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	4	updated 2007
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	2	

	Breeding Farms/Zoos	Location	Species	Number (heads)	Remark
			<i>Panthera nebulosa</i>	2	
16	Diswilai Tiger Zoo*	Pattani	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	13	updated 2009
			<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	10	
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	7	
			<i>Panthera nebulosa</i>	2	
17	Trakarn Tiger Zoo	Ubon-Ratchathani	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	17	updated 2009
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	9	
18	Pichit Deer Farm	Pichit	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	8	updated 2009
19	Mae-rim Tiger Zoo	Chaing Mai	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	30	updated 2009
			<i>Panthera tigris</i>	20	
20	Chiang Mai Night Safari	Chiang Mai	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	12	updated 2009
			<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	26	
			<i>Panthera tigris corbetti</i>	8	
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	15	
			<i>Panthera nebulosa</i>	2	
21	Dusit Zoo*	Bangkok	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	9	
			<i>Panthera pardus</i>	5	
			<i>Panthera nebulosa</i>	2	
22	Mali-Salika Zoo	Nakhon Nayok	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	74	updated 2008
23	Charoenchana Crocodile Farm and Zoo	Phuket	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	9	updated 2008

*Public Zoos where have been permitted to captive bred Asian big cats