

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



Thirty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12 – 19 July 2024

Regional matters

Regional reports

ASIA

This document has been prepared by Amir Hamidy, Ashgar Mobaraki, Arvin C. Diesmos and Saeko Terada.

1. This document reports on activities undertaken in the Region since the Thirty- second meeting of the Animals Committee Geneva (Switzerland), 19-23 June 2023

General information

2. Animal Committee (AC) members for Asia: Amir Hamidy (Indonesia) and Ashgar Mobaraki (Iran). Alternate members: Arvin C. Diesmos (Philippines) and Saeko Terada (Japan).
3. Number of Parties in Asian Region: 38.
4. Parties contributed information to this report: *CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, JAPAN, KAZAKHSTAN, LAO PDR, MONGOLIA, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, YEMEN,*

Overview of major developments

5. The following information was reported from each party in response to requests for reports from AC members and alternate members.

CAMBODIA:

- Updating NIAP implementation in Cambodia.
- Drafting Guideline on: a) Procedures of Ivory Stockpile Inventory and Domesticated Elephant Registration; and b) Procedures on Legal Acquisition Finding (LAF) including Risk Assessment and Chain of Custody for LAF for Captive-Breeding Species.

INDONESIA

Indonesia has made the significant progress in implementing the recommendations of the Animals Committee, thus 2 (two) species of turtles; *Malayemys subtrijuga* and *Cuora amboinensis* were removed from the Review Significant Trade process. Indonesia also succeeded in removing *Cacatua alba* from the Review of Trade in Animal Specimens Reported as Produced in Captivity.

PAKISTAN

CITES Legislation of Pakistan was elevated to Category I at the 77th Meeting of CITES Standing Committee held in November 2023.

a. Review of Significant Trade

CAMBODIA

Updating the Cambodia Response to Questions from the Animals Committee at AC32, regarding the Review of Trade in Animal Specimens Reported as Produced in Captivity for *Macaca fascicularis*. In Cambodia, there are currently eight facilities that are breeding and exporting specimens of *Macaca fascicularis*, under the management of six companies: Vanny Bio-Research (Cambodia) Corporation, Ltd. (2 facilities in Phnom Penh and Pursat province), Shin Nippon Biomedical Laboratories (Cambodia) Ltd (SNBL) (1 facility in Kampong Cham province), Orient-Cam Co., Ltd. (1 facility in Kampong Chhnang province), K-F (Cambodia) Ltd. (1 facility in Kampong Thom province), Rong De Group Co., Ltd. (1 facility in Kampong Speu), Angkor Primates Center Inc., (1 facility in Kampong Thom province, re-active since February 2024) and HT Biotech Co., Ltd. (1 facility in Preah Sihanouk province, yet operational). Since submission to CITES Secretariat on Cambodia Response to Questions from the Animals Committee at AC32 on 29 September 2023, Cambodia continue to Routine Inspection the *Macaca fascicularis* Breeding facilities, those the breeding operation is ongoing, with the following update:

- K-F (Cambodia) Ltd., in Kampong Thom province on 29-30 December 2023,
- Orient-Cam Co., Ltd. in Kampong Chhnang province on 14 March 2024
- Rong De Group Co., Ltd., in Kampong Speu province on 29 December 2023
- Shin Nippon Biomedical Laboratories (Cambodia) Ltd in Kampong Cham province on 08 February 2024
- Vanny Bio-Research (Cambodia) Corporation, Ltd: Phnom Penh site on 27 January 2024 and Pursat site on 27 January 2024

INDONESIA

- Based on the results of PC26 and AC32 in 2023, there are 4 (four) species included in the RST, namely *Aquilaria malaccensis*, *Gyrinops* spp., *Sphyrna lewini*, *Siebenrockiella crassicollis*.
- Regarding of Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna lewini*) and Black Marsh Turtle (*Siebenrockiella crassicollis*), Indonesia has responded by letter from the Director of KKHSG No. Ref.S.594/KKHSG/PSG1/KSA.2/8/2023 dated August 30, 2023 regarding Review of Significant Trade (RST) in Specimens of Appendix-II Species [Resolution Conf.12.8 (Rev. CoP18)] Concerning *Sphyrna lewini*, and No. Ref.S.595/KKHSG/PSG1/KSA.2/8/2023 regarding Review of Significant Trade (RST) in Specimens of Appendix-II Species [Resolution Conf.12.8 (Rev. CoP18)] Concerning *Siebenrockiella crassicollis*.
- Based on the results of AC32 in 2023, there are 3 (three) additional species entering the Review of Trade in Animal Specimens Reported as Produced in Captivity namely *Macaca fascicularis* (source code F), *Gekko gecko* (source code F), and *Cheilinus undulatus* (source code R).
- For species included in RST-*Macaca fascicularis*, *Gekko gecko*, *Cheilinus undulatus*, Indonesia has responded to the CITES Secretariat by letter No. Ref.S.651/KKHSG/PSG1/KSA.2/9/2023 dated September 18, 2023 regarding Review of Trade in Animal Specimens Reported as Produced in Captivity [Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev.CoP18)] concerning *Macaca fascicularis*, *Gekko gecko*, and *Cheilinus undulatus*.

b. Periodic Review of the Appendices

LAO PDR

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry however promulgated the updated wild animals list in Lao PDR (Reference: MAF Decision No. 1874, dated 5 April 2024). This list includes List I (Prohibited wild animals), List II (Protected wild animals), and List III wild animals.
- 3/ The revision of the wildlife list (presentation 2) in Laos was done in order to align with the wildlife law, and scientific evidences.
- Longtailed macaque was moved from Cat I to Cat II, as according to a recent NUOL study, the longtailed macaque population is not endangered in Laos, nor in southeast Asia. (4 provinces covered in the study, and data extrapolated to other relevant areas in the country). According to NUOL study there are between 10,000 and 30,000 individuals. The study was submitted to CITES secretariat as well as non-detrimental findings.
- Macaque trade is regulated and facilities monitored.

PAKISTAN

Listing of some species in Appendix III is under consideration from Pakistan, which will be submitted to the CITES Secretariat later.

c. Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

CAMBODIA

Twenty-one Siamese crocodile farms were registered at CITES Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland for commercial purpose in 1999 and 2017.

INDONESIA

There are 61 facilities registered their operation that breed two species of Appendix-I animal in captivity for commercial purposes (2 facilities of *Leucopsar rothschildi* and 59 facilities of *Scleropages formosus*).

KAZAKHSTAN

- The CITES Management Body in the Republic of Kazakhstan in order to control the turnover of animals whose species are included in Annexes I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora accepts notifications on the beginning or termination of activities on their artificial breeding.
- Thus, to date, seven organizations involved in keeping and breeding of animals whose species are included in Annex I of the CITES have submitted notifications to the CITES Management Body.

LAO PDR

There are no registrations of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes in Lao PDR.

NEPAL

Registration of captive elephants (*Elephas maximus*) owned by individual persons, institutions, tourism entrepreneurs and government entities have been started since April, 2081 pursuant to CITES regulation. To date, 45 captive elephants reared and owned by individuals have been registered with implanting microchips for unique ID. The certificates of registration have been issued in the name of private owners. Likewise, 23 certificates of registration for trophy of various wildlife have also been issued in the name of people who imported trophy by legal means from different countries.

THAILAND

There are 40 facilities registered their operation that breed five species of Appendix-I animal in captivity for commercial purposes

d. Non-detriment findings

INDONESIA

- For *Gekko gecko*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, wedge fish, mako sharks, and Hammerhead sharks, Indonesia already submitted documents NDF by letter from the Director of KKHSNG No. Ref.S.359/KKHSNG/PSG1/KSA.2/5/2023 dated 31 May 2023 regarding Documents of Non-Detriment Findings for *Gekko gecko*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, wedgefish, mako sharks, and Hammerhead sharks in Indonesia
- For *Macaca fascicularis*, Indonesia submitted NDF by letter from the Director of KKHSNG No. Ref.S.394/KKHSNG/PSG1/KSA.2/6/2023 dated 14 June 2023 regarding Documents of Non-Detriment Findings for Long-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) in Indonesia.

LAO PDR

- The CITES Scientific Authority is currently updating the NDF strategic vision of Lao PDR to focus on: (1) ensuring that the harvesting and trade of wildlife and plant species is sustainable and does not threaten their survival in the wild, (2) enhancing the skills and knowledge of local authorities, scientists, and stakeholders involved in wildlife management and trade regulation, (3) involving local communities, non- governmental organizations, and other stakeholders in the decision-making process to ensure that NDFs are based on a broad range of inputs and perspectives, and (4) Working with other countries, international organizations, and CITES to share knowledge, resources, and best practices for conducting NDFs and managing wildlife trade
- The CITES Scientific Authority of Lao PDR has undertaken rigorous field studies, leading to the preparation of a detailed NDF report for the long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) in Lao PDR. This report is a testament to the ongoing commitment to preserving the country's rich biodiversity through science-based management and regulatory measures, ensuring that the trade of these species is conducted in a manner that is both sustainable and ecologically responsible. The NDF report was submitted to the CITES Secretariat in April 2024.

NEPAL

Suggestions provided on the basis of CITES act 2073 which prevail and obey legal provisions.

Non-detriment findings: Trophy of Blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*) and Himalyan Tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*) that have been acquired by legal hunting from Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve are being exported. Natural History Museum (NHM), the scientific authority for fauna in Nepal, has provided the scientific advice mentioning that such export would not be detrimental to the survival of the species. The hunting of Blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*) and Himalyan Tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*) is permitted twice a year based on its population status and quota determined on the basis of periodic population survey of the species carried out by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC). In this fiscal year 2023/24 until this reporting, a total of 42 CITES permissions have been issued for the export of trophies which are listed as below.

S. N	Name of Species	CITES permission No.	Source and Country of Origin	CITES Appendix	Import or Export
1	Blue sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	36	Wild (Nepal)	III	Export
2	Siberian midasian ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>)	1	Wild (Tajikistan)	III	Import
3	Pamir Argali macropolo (<i>Ovis anmon polii</i>)	1	Wild (Tajikistan)	II	Import
4	Falcon (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	3	Qatar	I	Export/Import (others)

PAKISTAN

CITES Management Authority reviewed population status and other attributes while considering requests of provinces for allocation of trophy hunting quota of CITES-listed ungulates.

YEMEN

The CITES Secretariat has been contacted several times to support the implementation of an NDF study on some species involved in trade. Some proposals are being prepared to obtain funding for a full review of Review of Significant Trade.

e. Capacity buildings

CAMBODIA

A Training Workshop on CITES Convention and Implementation in Cambodia was organized on 27-28 March 2024 at Phnom Penh Hotel, Cambodia with financial support from the CITES Secretariat to raise awareness of CITES Convention, sharing information among law enforcement agencies and stakeholders regarding National Ivory Action Plan and discussion on Guidance on ivory stockpile Management and registration of domesticated elephants with 81 participants in attendance from General Commission of National Police, Forestry Administration, General Department of Custom and Excises, CITES Management Unit of Cambodia, Ministry of Environment, Fishery Administration, NGO, academic institutions and private sector.

INDONESIA

The capacity building activities attended by Indonesia in the form of international meetings/workshops as follows:

- 4-8 December 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya : workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (NDF).
- 17-18 July 2023: CITES-ESCAP Regional Workshop on Electronic CITES Permitting Systems in Asia.
- 7 to 10 May 2024, Brisbane, Australia : Technical workshop on Marine ornamental fishes,
- 25 – 26 April 2024, Geneva, Switzerland : Workshop on Non-detriment findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction
- 23 – 24 April 2024, Geneva, Switzerland: Technical workshop on Aquatic species listed in the CITES Appendices.

KAZAKHSTAN

In 2023, a training course on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in Kazakhstan for the law enforcement officers and border guards who directly or indirectly carry out environmental activities was developed. The course consists of a syllabus, four modules, testing and recommended reading.

LAO PDR:

The Government Lao PDR implements with its developmental partners several projects linked to improving CITES capacity. Projects include the following:

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is implementing the World Bank Lao Landscapes and Livelihoods (LLL) project to promote sustainable forest management, improve protected area management, and enhance livelihoods opportunities in selected landscapes in Lao PDR.
- The EU-funded Safety Across Asia for the Global Environment (SAFE) project is implemented by UNODC, UNEP, and FAO with the Lao CITES Management Authority. The project aims to prevent the transmission of zoonotic diseases linked to illegal wildlife trafficking. It involves strengthening biosafety regulations, conducting field surveys and risk assessments, and collaborating with various government departments, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations to address illegal wildlife trade and public health safety in the Mekong subregion, including Lao PDR.
- Two cooperation agreements (MOUs) are also currently being implemented with the WCS Laos Program. These agreements which involve implementation of several projects from project donors such as the US Government, the EU, and GIZ include assisting Lao PDR on CITES implementation: (1) the Cooperative Action to Stop illegal Wildlife Trade Phase II with the Department of Forest Inspection (to December 2026) and (ii) the Cooperative Action to Combat Wildlife Crime with the Office of Supreme People's Prosecutors (to December 2024). These MOUs continue to build technical capacity among key government partners including the CITES MA on CITES compliance matters including developing national legislation for the implementation of CITES such as the promulgated Wild Animal Law (2023), the promulgated Aquatic Resources and Fisheries Law (2023), and the soon-to-be-approved revision of the CITES Government Decree. The long but inclusive process in the development of these laws has raised awareness and understanding on conservation and CITES among Laos' government policy and decision makers across executive, judiciary and legislative bodies. The two MOUs also continue to build capacity in relation to CITES for law enforcement officers under Lao WEN.
- Other relevant projects include cooperation with organizations such as: the GIZ Protection and Sustainable Use of Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity (ProFEB) program which assists on public awareness and forest inspection coordination capacity; and WWF-Laos that also implements projects relating to stopping illegal wildlife trade.

Several capacity building meetings and workshops were implemented in the previous year, and these include:

- Several meetings arranged between CITES MA and pertinent government agencies to assess and improve wildlife laws and regulations: This includes clarifying the mandates and responsibilities of the agencies involved to enhance institutional capacity in effectively managing CITES-related matters, and also updating and revising current laws and regulations in relation to CITES. Several consultation meetings were conducted to facilitate reviews and development of the new Wild Animal Law and Aquatic Resources and Fisheries Law, and the approval and current revision of the CITES Government Decree.
- The CITES Management Authority of Lao PDR actively contributing to the critical review and drafting of a comprehensive report focusing on Policies and Legislations related to regulated mining activities within concession areas and infrastructure development zones. This initiative is aimed at facilitating a thorough sustainability assessment of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri* species.
- The Department of Forestry of Lao PDR having organized several strategic consultation meetings to discuss and formulate a robust strategy report for the conservation and sustainable management of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri* within the country.
- Several training workshops were implemented under the two WCS MOUs to support improved capacity on relevant CITES and national policies, criminal law and procedures, and law enforcement skills and practices such as: (1) cooperation training workshop between forest inspection and environmental crime police officers in five northern provinces in Lao PDR from 13-16 June 2023; (2) wildlife rescue and handling training for forest inspection officers in 5 provinces from 3-4 July 2023; and (3) training workshop for forest inspection officers in Bolikhamxay province from 25-28 July 2023 and in Bokeo province from 21-24 November 2023.
- Multi-agency cooperation and coordination meetings were also facilitated under the two WCS MOUs to improve wildlife case handling, coordination and cooperation between investigating authorities and prosecutors: (1) provincial multi-agency case cooperation meetings in Luang Namtha in September and December 2023, in Savannakhet in October 2023, and in Bokeo in March 2024; (2) wildlife crime case coordination meeting between prosecutors and investigating authorities in 3 southern provinces in December 2023; and (3) national wildlife crime case monitoring and prosecution meeting in February 2024.
- From 23-24 August 2023, a bilateral cooperation meeting on transnational organized wildlife crime was hosted by the Lao OSPP with the Vietnam Supreme People's Procuracy. This was followed by a trilateral judicial wildlife trafficking workshop with Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Cambodia from 23-25 January 2023.
- To improve wildlife seizure evidence management, under the WCS MOU with the Department of Forest Inspection and in cooperation with TRACE, a wildlife seizure evidence management is currently in development with at least 5 consultations meetings having been conducted from June 2023 to May 2024. In October 2023, a wildlife DNA forensics and PELTS demonstration workshop was conducted to increase

understanding of wildlife DNA forensics and identify DNA forensic analysis support for wildlife cases in Lao PDR.

- Under the two WCS MOUs, the Department of Forest Inspection and the OSPP, two additional workshops were implemented: (1) in cooperation with the National University of Laos Faculty of Law and Political Science, a wildlife crime legal research findings dissemination workshop was held in March 2024 to better understand gaps and challenges to wildlife crime enforcement; and (2) in cooperation with the Department of CyberSecurity under the Ministry of Communications and Technology, a wildlife crime prevention workshop was held in April 2024 with telecommunications companies to understand possible cooperation activities to prevent wildlife crime.
- Two delegates from Lao PDR, one representing the CITES Management Authority and the other from the CITES Scientific Authority, successfully completed a training session at the Validation Workshop on Agarwood Report, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from June 20-22, 2022.

NEPAL

Nepal Police Headquarters, Central Bureau of Investigation (CIB) organized a month long orientation program, in 2024, in wildlife crime and the scientific authority for fauna (Natural History Museum, Tribhuvan University) has made contributed as scientific experts, with the main aim encompassing capacity building in making non-detriment findings. The subjects covered were focused mainly on strengthening knowledge of CITES listed wild animals, identification of stockpiles their role, with particular emphasis on the monitoring and control tasks that are needed in order to support achievement of the objectives of the convention. In addition, under the orientation programme, for personnel of the Nepal Police, in which instruction was given on general aspects of the convention; regulations, taxonomy and nomenclature of CITES species; and monitoring, identification and handling of fauna.

Protection measures are well in place in the source of population of wild animals, i.e. protected areas, with deployment of national army forces along with park staff. Outside protected areas, Divisional Forest Offices, Nepal police and armed police forces are responsible for controlling wild animal trafficking. Besides, hundreds of community-based anti-poaching units have also been formed voluntarily by the local people, who campaign awareness raising against wildlife crime around protected areas and forests. Several capacity building programs such as awareness training to local people and school students, induction training to army personnel, CITES training to park staff, intelligence led patrolling operation by army, real time SMART patrolling by army and also training to army personnel and park staff about how to use the cutting edge technology such as drone, spy camera, cctv, vehicle tracking record system (vtrs) on a regular basis.

PAKISTAN

During the reporting period, Pakistan has been part of various capacity building events organized by South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and others. Moreover, capacity building activities including, training workshops and seminars were organized at national level in collaboration with NGOs, academia and line departments.

THAILAND

Participations

- Wildlife Trafficking Investigation Program: Session 12 organized by ILEA-BKK during 31 July – 11 August 2023 at Naresuan Camp, Phetchaburi
- Counter Wildlife Trafficking organized b USFWS 17- 21 July 2023 at Songkhla
- Operationalizing Intelligence Training Course for Thai Law Enforcement officers 24 – 28 July 2023
- Wildlife Trafficking Investigation Program: Session 13 organized by ILEA-BKK 15 – 26 January 2023 at Naresuan Camp, Phetchaburi
- Wildlife Investigator Leadership Training held by USFWS 4 – 8 March 2024 at Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok

f. Others

CAMBODIA

Updating National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) Implementation in Cambodia. Since the 77th Standing Committee Meeting held on 6-10 November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland, Cambodia continue to implement National Elephant Ivory Action Plan with the following update:

- The 77th Standing Committee Meeting held on 6-10 November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland assessed the implementation of Cambodia's National Ivory Action Plans with 23% achieved and 62% substantially achieved and 15% on track. NIAP includes 13 priority actions. Out of 13 actions, 3 were rated as achieved, 8 substantially achieved and 2 on track.
- Overall, Cambodia has shown demonstrable progress with the implementation of its NIAP since SC74 and worked together with the Secretariat and UNODC to obtain additional support. The Committee may wish to agree an overall rating of 'achieved' for Cambodia, in accordance with Step

4 paragraph e) of the Guidelines and invite the Secretariat to engage with relevant experts to further evaluate progress made by Cambodia so that the Secretariat can make a recommendation whether Cambodia can exit the NIAP process by the next meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78).

Cambodia (Category B – in NIAP since 2014)

	% OF NIAP ACTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
Cambodia's assessment (SC74)	61% (8 of 13 actions)	8% (1 of 13 actions)	23% (3 of 13 actions)	8% (1 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC74)	23% (3 of 13 actions)	8% (1 of 13 actions)	61% (8 of 13 actions)	8% (1 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)	0% (0 of 13 actions)
Cambodia's assessment (SC77)	31% (4 of 13 actions)	69% (9 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)
Secretariat's assessment (SC77)	23% (3 of 13 actions)	62% (8 of 13 actions)	15% (2 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)	0 (0 of 13 actions)

- On 17 April 2024, the Forestry Administration met virtually with Ms. Kathleen S Gobush-a Consultant hired by CITES Secretariat to gather information (facts, experiences, opinions) related to Cambodia's participation in the NIAP Process to date, with emphasis on updating/reporting practices. Questions on NIAP alignment with Article XIII processes and ICCWC tool use will be explored as well as the Party's understanding of ETIS's Party categorization (related to Decision 19.97).
- Guidance on Ivory Stockpile Management and Registration of Domesticated Elephants have been actively developed to add the management of ivory stockpiles in Cambodia. The Guidance will provide important information for inter-agencies and other stakeholders how to manage and conduct inventory of seized ivory, marking, sampling, inter-agency collaboration, security of warehouses keeping ivory stockpiles and safety of transportation of ivory stockpiles. Moreover, domestic elephant information in Cambodia has been collected to assess specific information on domestic elephants which will be used for registration. Inputs were collected during the training workshop organized on 27-28 March 2024.
- Homeland Security Investigation Unit of the US Embassy to Cambodia has collected 93 samples of elephant ivory on 19 January 2023 at Phnom Penh International Port located in Kandoal Leu village, Banteay Dek commune, Kien Svay district, Kandal province for DNA at the Center for Environment Forensics Science at the Washington University, USA. The results of the forensics indicate that 148 samples were used to undertake DNA analysis to identify the sources of the ivory while 18 samples overlapping with other samples and other 27 samples were difficult to identify the origin of ivory. The analysis provides strong identification of the origin of the ivory which are African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). The results of the forensics will be used to prosecute the case of the seizure of the ivory at provincial court of Kandal province where the case was filed.
- Finalizing protocol on export of farm's captive bred crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*, CITES Appendix I) from Cambodia to China in compliance with CITES context.
- Finalising the New Law on Forestry with more compliance with CITES context for Terrestrial Fauna Flora - species listed in CITES Appendix.
- Finalising the New Law on Fisheries with more compliance with CITES context for aquatic species listed in CITES Appendix.
- Guideline on procedure of requesting for licenses, permits, and certificate in form of National Single Window System of Agricultural products that including CITES's permits for export, import and re-export issued by The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries through MAFF Decision No.2341 date 06 March 2024.
- Currently, the Cambodia CITES Management Authority has enhanced the monitoring and inspection in the captive farms which have cooperated with officials from Forestry Administration, Fisheries Administration and General Inspection, and also local officials to verify the number of monkeys and its quarantine before issuing the export's permits

INDONESIA

In accordance with the implementation of CITES regulations and the monitoring of populations of CITES-listed species recently discussed in CITES meetings (*Macaca fascicularis* and *Gekko gecko*), Indonesia conducted several

population and biological studies. These studies, involving various universities and supervised by the Indonesian Scientific Authority, and were published and reported during the period 2023-2024, as detailed below:

Macaca fascicularis (Long Tailed Macaque)

Long-tailed macaque in Indonesia distributed across Indonesia archipelago, some population categorized as native population and other categorized introduced in several islands. The population surveys were conducted in both locations :

Introduced population :

- Perwitasari-Farajallah D, Iskandar E, Sawitri HI, Abimanyu TL, Maulana VS, Rachmawati AD, Purnama I, Darusman HS. 2023. Population estimate of long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) on Tinjil Island. *Hayati* 30 (2): 193–197. DOI: 10.4308/hjb.30.2.193–197.
- Fitriana YS, Sulistyadi E, Tohir RK, Hasibuan MM, Rifaie F, Maryanto I, Lubis AM, Rifqi MF. 2023. Population Studi of Long-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) on Deli Island, Banten, Indonesia. *Biodiversitas* 25(1): 129–135. Doi: 10.13057/biodiv/d250114.
- Nasri N, Hidayatullah MY, Suwanto MA, Hamzah AS, Maulany RI. 2023. Population Abundance of *Macaca fascicularis* and Potential Human-Wildlife Conflicts In Bonerate And Kalao Island. 3rd Biennial Conference of Tropical Biodiversity. *IOP Conf. Series: Earth and Environmental Science*: 1277 (2023). Doi:10.1088/1755–1315/1277/1/012026.
- Fitriana YS, Sulistyadi E, Rifaie F, Tohir RK, Lubis AM, Supriatna N, Suardi, Kamaruddin DS, Nirsyawita. 2023. Population Study of Long-tailed Macaques *Macaca fascicularis* (Raffles, 1821) in The Bonerate and Kalao, Selayar Islands, South Sulawesi [Report]. National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia.

Native population:

- Mahardatunkamsi, Rahayuningsih M, Wiantoro S, Inayah N. 2023. On survey of Long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) population in Central Java Province. *Indonesian Journal of Conservation* 12 (1): 75-87. Doi: 10.15294/jsi.v10i3.47422.
- Setiawan A, Iqbal M, Setiawan D, Pormansyah, Saputra RF, Indarti W, Sulistyadi E, Mahardatunkamsi, Yustian I. 2023. Estimate population of Long-Tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis* (Primates: Cercopithecidae) in Calik River, South Sumatra. *Conserva* 1(1): 23–33. <https://conserva.unmuhbabel.ac.id/index.php>
- Bernathirdin ANH, Wijayanto H, Kusindarta DL, Budipitojo T. 2023. Population Estimation and Identification of Long-tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) Group at Tlogo Muncar Tourism Area, Mount Merapi National Park, After Two Years Closure Caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic. *IOP Conf. Series: Earth and Environmental Science* 1174 (2023): 1–7. DOI:10.1088/1755-1315/1174/1/012028.
- Satyatama T, Abdillah S, Febrianti S, Farizal A. 2023. Populasi Monyet Ekor Panjang (*Macaca fascicularis*) di TWA Grojogan Sewu, Tawangmangu, Karanganyar, Jawa Tengah. *Indonesian Journal of Conservation* 12 (1) (2023) 1-7. DOI:10.15294/jsi.v12i1.41919.
- Syah MJ, Saputra IGNG, Dwisaputra I, Natalia KD, Jati FS, Ariani NLPES. 2023. Studi Populasi dan Interaksi Sosial Monyet Ekor Panjang (*Macaca fascicularis*) di Kawasan Pura Pulaki, Bali. *BIOMA* 5(2): 12-19.
- Eugestin Y, Iswandari D, Wulandari C, Novriyanti N, Prasetya H. 2023. Composition and Age Class of Long-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) In The Tropical Peat Ecosystem (Case: In Buffer Village Around Orang Kayo Hitam Forest Park). *Jurnal Belantara* 6(2): 279-292. DOI: 10.29393/jbl.v6i2.954.
- Hartati BR, Santoso N, Arief H. 2023. Long-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) Population Demographic and Spatial Use Pattern In Telaga Warna, Bogor. *Journal of Natural Resources and Environmental Management* 13(3): 472–480. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.29244/jpsl.13.3.472–480>.
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JAPAN

Fisheries Agency of Japan provided human support including the dispatch of scientists and Fisheries Agency staffs and financial support to the project by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). Under the project, scientific analysis of catch and DNA data was conducted to explore methodologies of estimating stock status of catadromous eels in Southeast Asia; training workshops for species identification were held and the collection of catch data was assisted for sharks and rays with an aim to strengthen the fisheries resource management by Member countries; Furthermore, meetings were held to facilitate common understanding among ASEAN countries and Japan on the global discussion and trend regarding sustainable use of marine and inland water living resources at international fora such as CITES and FAO.

KAZAKHSTAN

Saiga

- There is a network of specially protected natural areas with a total area of 5,081,485 hectares along the migration routes and mass concentration of saigas.
For reference: Irgiz-Torgai, Bokeyordinsky reserves, Altyn Dala reserve, Turgai and Aschyozek state nature reserves, Korgaljinsky reserve, expansion of the Ulytau national park, ecological corridors.
- Saiga numbers in Kazakhstan have been restored from 21,000 in 2003 to 2,833,000 in 2024, which is 99% of the world saiga population.
- The downside of this success is competition with farm animals for pasture and watering places, the risk of epizootics is increasing, and social tensions have risen in the saiga range regions,
- In this regard, Kazakhstan, with the assistance of the international community, held a consultative meeting on 24-27 May in Astana 2023 on 'Determining ways to resolve the human-wildlife conflict over saigas in Kazakhstan', which resulted in the development of a 'Strategy for the Conservation and Management of Saiga in Kazakhstan.
- In order to develop mechanisms for the extraction and management of saiga products, experimental saiga seizures were carried out in autumn 2023 and in January-February 2024 by the state organisation Okhotzooptom.
For reference: saiga was the main commercial animal in Kazakhstan for several decades (from 1955 to 1998). Annually, 100,000-200,000 animals were harvested, and in some years up to 350,000 and even 501,000 (1975).
- In the course of regulation activities 43,503 individuals were captured, valuable practical experience was gained, both historically established methods - shooting at night with the use of illuminating devices (smoothbore weapons and cartridges with buckshot were used), catching in the daytime with the use of net coral, and modern shooting complexes (rifled weapons equipped with sound moderator and thermal imaging sight) were tested.
- In order to prevent the intensification of illegal trafficking of saiga derivatives, all horns obtained as a result of regulation are labelled and concentrated for long-term storage in the state organisation Okhotzooptom.
- At the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Illegal Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held from 6-10 November 2023 in Geneva, it was stated that Kazakhstan intends to apply for the removal of the zero quota on international trade in saiga for further consideration by the parties to the convention.
- Also in its statement, Kazakhstan proposed that the Standing Committee recommend to the Parties to the Convention that they reconsider Decision 19.213 on the requirements for the management of horn stocks and that this requirement should apply not only to the range countries of the saiga, but also to consumer countries, i.e. the latter in turn should also keep transparent and strict records of horns to prevent illegal trafficking.
- Kazakhstan's statement was supported by delegations from the USA, China, Japan, Nigeria and the Conservation Force Alliance.
- Kazakhstan's current objectives are as follows:
 - to continue to work towards the removal of the zero quota on international saiga trade
 - to continue conservation, monitoring and scientific research;
 - to establish a system of storage and control of horn trafficking;
 - develop sustainable utilization approaches;
 - study and implement best practices to address the conflict between wildlife and agriculture.

LAO PDR :

- Major developments in Lao PDR include new legislation updated such as the Law on Wild Animals, the Law on Aquatic Resources and Fisheries, and the updated Lao Wild Animals List. The CITES Government Decree is currently being revised and is expected to be finalized and promulgated in June 2024. Capacity building on CITES related implementation have been implemented and is still ongoing, following funding and technical support from various projects. The NDF report for the long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) in Lao PDR was also completed and shared to the CITES Secretariat.

- On May 31, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos issued a Ministerial Notification suspending the acceptance of documents and proposals for permission to establish breeding farms for the long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) in Lao PDR as well as requesting Lao MA and relevant sectors to take action addressing all issues outlined in Notification to all Parties No. 2023/127 dated November 21, 2023, concerning the implementation of Article XIII in Lao PDR.
- Laos has to submit a report to CITES Secretariat 90 days before the meeting of SC 78 in February 2025.
 - Good progress on the regulatory framework (Law on wildlife approved, revision of CITES decree endorsed, revised lists of wild animals adopted on 05/04/2024, training of CITES Scientific Authority (SA) and Management Authority (MA).
 - On-going action for monitoring of tiger farm, elephants and macaque:
 - For tigers (around 300 individuals), basic DNA information available but not up-to- date/complete. Decision to end tiger farming. Not all facilities visited yet.
 - For elephants, zero export quota. DOF looking at extending the MOU for cooperation with China to monitor elephants 'movements.
 - Ongoing cooperation with Viet Nam supported by FAO on forestry / cites tree species. Exchange of information on going regarding illegal logging, wildlife hunting and illegal trading.
 - A database on zoos is under development and will need to be consolidated.
 - Main challenges lays with long investigation, prosecution and coordination with law enforcement agencies abroad.

MONGOLIA

Following activities were undertaken along with recommendations from CITES secretariat International:

- Ministry of Environment Tourism of Mongolia assessed in 2023 the efficiency of implementation of the Law Fauna Mongolia following the Mongolian law about Laws and rules and "Methodology to assess the efficiency of implementation of the Mongolian Laws" approved by resolution # 59, year 2016 at the Government cabinet meeting of Mongolia
- The concepts of Law on fauna and Hunting law of Mongolia were developed and sent to the Ministry of Justice and Internal affairs for the review.
- The team of experts were developed methodology to assess ecological and economic value of each species of the fauna of Mongolia, calculated these values for 78 species of fish, for 144 species of mammals and for 513 species of the birds. These values were approved by resolution # 260 of the Government cabinet meeting of Mongolia on date July 05, 2023 and will be used to reimburse biodiversity loss, determine penalty for law violations regarding the fauna etc. (<https://legalinfo.mn/mn/detail?lawId=16759930132971>)
- The website(<https://eic.mn/cites/>) was renewed and updated as recommended by CITES secretariat.
- National CITES management authority and Scientific authority' new chairman and new members were appointed by resolution # A60 signed by Minister of Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Tourism dated March 14, 2023 and The rule for National CITES management authority and scientific authority how to act was updated and approved by resolution # A240 signed by Minister of Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Tourism dated April 26, 2024
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia and Department for International Program and Policy within USA Forest Service were signed agreement and just started implementation of the 2 year project entitled "Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Combat Wildlife Crime in Mongolia".
- The US Forest Service (USFS) IP, with funding support from the United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Office of Global Programs and Policy (INL/GPP), is initiated program "Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Combat Wildlife Crime in Mongolia". The project objectives are:
 - i) improve national and/or international understanding of issues related to wildlife crime, with a focus on wildlife trafficking, in each target country;
 - ii) Enhance the capacities of key partners to contribute to and/or implement effective law enforcement strategies to combat wildlife trafficking and associated natural resource crime;
 - iii) Strengthen national, regional, and/or global networks and communities of practice on combating wildlife trafficking. The program will produce standardized ranger training curriculum, protein tester for biological samples, guidelines on management of collected evidence related wildlife crime to CWT in Mongolia

NEPAL

- Nepal enacted the Control of International Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Act of 2017 and subsequently issued the Control of International Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Regulation of 2019 in line with CITES. This legislation provides the legal basis for regulating and monitoring the trade of endangered species. Policies such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) have been under the process of updating to integrate CITES listed species with strategic actions for conservation and their trade regulation.

- Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) serves as CITES Management Authority, responsible for issuing permits and monitoring trade for wild animals while Natural History Museum (NHM) acts as the Scientific Authority, providing scientific advice on the conservation status of species and trade impacts in them.
- Questionnaire on Assessment of Appendix-I listed species Decisions 19.184 and 19.185, consideration of proposals for amendment of appendices I and II for Inclusion of the White-rumped Shama (*Kittacincla malabarica*) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention; found in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), Annex 2a, paragraph B. Proponents were Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore.
- Transfer Straw-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*) to APPENDIX I (Proponent: Malaysia),
- Proposal to remove the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of Eswatini's southern white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) population, adopted at the 13th Conference of Parties in 2004, so as to enable Eswatini to realise full Appendix II status for its white rhinos as provided for in Article IV of the Treaty, thereby permitting the regulated legal trade in Eswatini's white rhinos, their products including horn and derivatives and transportation of the Asiatic elephants from Nepal to Qatar etc. were the major documents and suggestions were provided by the Natural History Museum.
- Identification of trophies/stockpiles came from different Division Forest Offices of Nepal. Some specimens were acquired legally for exhibition at the Natural History Museum.

SINGAPORE

- The Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act ("the Act") is the principal legislation that supports the implementation and enforcement of CITES regulations in Singapore. The Act was amended and gazetted to reflect amendments made to the Appendices at CITES CoP19, and also when new Appendix III species are listed by CITES Parties.
- Implementation of new CITES licencing platform (GoBusiness Services) w.e.f 26 September 2023 using blockchain technology. Key changes include scannable QR codes on every issued CITES permit to replace the existing watermark feature. Using blockchain technology, the QR code scan enhances the security of Singapore's CITES permit by confirming that the scanned permit is issued by the Singapore Government, has not been tampered with, and has not been revoked. (See *CITES Notification 2024/052 on Changes to CITES Permits and Certificates*)
- For World Wildlife Day 2024, Singapore organised its annual *World Wildlife Day Regional Youth Symposium 2024 – Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation*. This for-youth, by-youth event saw 300 regional youths gather in Singapore in-person on 23–25 February. They represented 15 nationalities, including all 10 ASEAN Member States. There were speaker talks and panel discussions, exhibition booths by youth-led conservation projects in the region, a Focused Group Activity to role-play a hypothetical conservation challenge, and a total of 10 workshops co-organised with various partners.
- From 22-25 April 2024, Singapore organised the inaugural CITES Global Youth Leadership Programme that brought together 41 youths from diverse countries and backgrounds in sustainable wildlife trade and conservation to establish the CITES Global Youth Network. Participants engaged in a series of activities including visits to Singapore's Centre for Wildlife Forensics and Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation, engaging in a simulated CITES Conference of the Parties, and a high-level panel discussion on Global Environmental Leadership. The event ended with the participants reflecting on their experiences, establishing the framework of the CGYN Leadership Committee, and charted a roadmap for the future of the youth network. (See *CITES Notification 2024/035 on Establishment of the CITES Global Youth Network*)
- Select publications by the National Parks Board (CITES Management Authority of Singapore):
 - Yeo D, Chan AMK, Hiong KC et al. (2023) Uncovering the magnitude of African pangolin poaching with extensive nanopore DNA genotyping of seized scales. *Conservation Biology*. 2024;38(2):e14162. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14162>
 - Yeo HHT, Ng SJW, Lee JSR, et al. (2023) A systematic survey of the online trade in elephant ivory in Singapore before and after a domestic trade ban. *Oryx*. 2024;58(1):48-55. [doi:10.1017/S0030605323000728](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605323000728)

THAILAND:

Repatriations

- 17 December 2023, Thailand repatriated three confiscated orangutans to Republic of Indonesia
- On progress activities:
 - Repatriation of Pancake tortoise to United Republic of Tanzania
 - Repatriation of Malagasy animals to Republic of Madagascar

Participation

- Joined the CITES Youth Leadership Programme 22–25 April 2024 at Republic of Singapore

YEMEN

The current war has hindered the implementation of many activities related to combating illegal trade in wildlife. However, before that, Yemen had accomplished many activities, including: training more than 100 employees at the border crossings and encouraging the establishment of small factories to manufacture Janabi horns (daggers) from Agate instead of rhino horns.

Activities of regional representatives

6. Asia member and alternate facilitated several informal meetings among the Asian range states during the meeting of CITES AC-32 in Geneva, discussing some issues related to Asian species such as Long Tail Macaque, Houbara bird, Elephant, Sharks and Rays.

Regional cooperation and priorities

7. The following report was made by each party.

CAMBODIA

- Duly Signed MoU on FA of Cambodia– NFGA of China on MOU of Forestry and Wildlife Cooperation, dated on 15th September 2023.
- Duly Signed the Protocol between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China on Quarantine and Health Requirements for Captive-Bred Monkeys Exported from Cambodia to China dated on 15th September 2023.
- Draft MoU on Field Forestry (Strengthen bilateral cooperation on enforcement of regional and international commitments and conventions to which both Parties are signatories, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)) and other international initiatives: (a) Cambodia-Thailand; and (b) Cambodia-Vietnam.
- His Excellency THONGLOUN SISOULITH, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, during the State Visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia in April 2024, has donated a pair of baby Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) female (born in 2019) and male (born in 2020) to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONY, King of Cambodia, as a symbol of friendship and solidarity of the two nations and as well for education and cultural purposes.

INDONESIA

Indonesia will attend the 19th ASEAN Working Group for CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG CITES WE) in Choburi, Thailand on 2–7 July 2024.

KAZAKHSTAN

- On 11 February 2024, Kazakhstan signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) for the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU) on the occasion of the 14th meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (CMS COP14) held in Samarkand.
- On 4-6 July 2023, a Regional meeting of representatives of organisations involved in combating illegal wildlife trafficking in Central Asian countries was held in Bishkek to strengthen cooperation between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The event was organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, TRAFFIC and Fauna & Flora with the support of ACBK, Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and PF 'Ecomaktab'. The CITES Management Body in Kazakhstan also participated in this meeting.
- A meeting was held on 2 April 2024 with representatives of the CITES Management Body of Mongolia on *Saiga antelope*.

MONGOLIA

- The Ministry in cooperation with WWF Mongolian Program office did work to develop new version of Mongolian law on fauna and to develop the rule for acting procedures of National CITES management authority and scientific authority.
- Together with Hanns Seidel Foundation, Germany and USA Embassy in Mongolia was organized an intensive training course on "Crime Scene Investigation and Forensics in Environmental Crimes". The training was aimed at environmental police officers, inspectors from the National Forensic Agency and lecturers from the Forensic Faculty of the University of Internal Affairs of Mongolia. The highlight was a practical exercise in Khustai National

Park. (<https://mongolia.hss.de/en/news/detail/crime-scene-investigation-and-forensics-news11458/>) WCS in cooperation was explored legal insights into Mongolia's Wildlife trade. The latest report was released: "Mongolia's Wildlife Trade: An Analysis of International and National Legal Best Practices," available in both Mongolian and English. This report marks the third installment in a series dedicated to understanding and addressing Mongolia's wildlife trade. WCS Mongolia partnered with Legal Atlas and the International Conservation Caucus Foundation to explore the legal frameworks surrounding wildlife trade. The main purpose is to assess the evolution and effectiveness of Mongolia's legal framework in combating illegal wildlife trade. This report builds upon extensive reviews conducted in 2006 and 2019, focusing on policy coherence and its impact on regulating the wildlife trade chain. It also explores legal regulations of online wildlife trade in Mongolia and the connections between wildlife disease and trade. The report did find: Mongolia's legislation demonstrates a commitment to wildlife conservation, with penalties imposed for offenses related to Very Rare and Rare species, as well as hunting within protected areas. Encouragingly Mongolia is a member of almost all treaties identified as either directly or indirectly related to wildlife trade, the analysis revealed some challenges. There are gaps in addressing organized crime's involvement in wildlife trafficking, along with limitations concerning crucial categories such as CITES-listed species and temporarily banned species. Additionally, the report highlights that Mongolia is not just a source country, and its legal environment needs to respond better to transit, illegal imports and re-exports. (<https://mongolia.wcs.org/About-Us/News/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/22330/Exploring-Legal-Insights-into-Mongolias-Wildlife-Trade.aspx>)

- Under the Saiga conservation project focusing to capacity building with Law enforcement officers (n=20) to conduct the Problem Orientated Policing (POP) training in western Mongolia. This training also collaborates with the Crime Prevention and Coordination Council at the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs in Mongolia. event is an enforcement approach that helps agencies better manage and allocate resources to addressing complicated issues by breaking down problems into smaller, more manageable pieces. Improving the capacity to implement evidence-based problem-oriented policing models will strengthen law enforcement's ability to identify solvable problems within the larger more complex problem of wildlife crime.
- Saiga conservation project implemented in Uvs, Zavkhan, Gobi-Altai, and Khovd provinces from 2022 to 2025, and capacity building training is being organized for 20 law enforcement officers of these provinces. Such as, officers from customs, police, border protection and environmental protection agencies are participating in this training. International trainers of Great Britain teach crime prevention and personal leadership. WCS is conducting training programs to enhance the capacity of law enforcement officers and rangers in Umnugobi and Dornogobi provinces under the Anti-poaching project, as well as in various 4 protected areas of Southern Gobi region (Small gobi SPA, Gobi GurvanSaikhan. Ikh Nart and Ikh Gazriin chuluu) in every year since 2016. By integrating SMART technology, patrols in these regions are becoming more efficient, allowing for better monitoring and response to illegal activities, thus contributing to the conservation efforts of Mongolia.
- The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Mongolia Program has officially translated the "Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers in 60 Small Steps" into Mongolian with permissions from the authors, Ronald V. Clarke, a British criminologist and University Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University–Newark and John E. Eck, professor of criminal justice at the University of Cincinnati. The Mongolian version has been translated and printed with support from The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). Written by two of the leading experts in crime prevention, this manual is intended for crime analysts and other police officers working on projects involving problem-based policing. It introduces the basics of problem-based policing and shows how new concepts developed for crime pattern analysis can improve understanding of crime and disorder. The manual has been internationally recognized and have been translated into multiple different languages which includes: Chinese, German, Italian, Bosnian, Malay, Japanese, Spanish etc., with Mongolian becoming the 32nd country to officially translated it into their native language. (https://popcenter.asu.edu/sites/default/files/crime_analysis_for_problem_solvers_in_60_steps_mongolian.pdf)
- Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation NGO of Mongolia in collaboration with Snow Leopard Trust USA and Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia undertaking the activities to protect habitat of endangered snow leopards, decrease illegal trade, and improve professional capacity of protected area rangers and local conservation community members. The trainings aims also to let improve patrolling and inspection, focused especially to train teachers who will teach methods to onsite exploration, inspection of law violations. The project is financially supported by the IWTEX002 project from the government of the United Kingdom.

NEPAL

Nepal collaborates with neighboring countries like India and China to combat cross-border wildlife crime and enhance habitat connectivity. Nepal actively participates in CITES conferences and regional forums to share best practices and learning from global experiences. Likewise, Nepal also hosts the secretariat of the regional 'South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) at south Asia Level.

PAKISTAN

Pakistan is a member of regional forum, South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) which aims to control wildlife crime in South Asia and beyond through regional coordination, communication and capacity building. (<https://www.sawen.org/>)

SINGAPORE

The 19th ASEAN Working Group for CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG CITES WE) will be held in Choburi, Thailand on 2–7 July 2024.

THAILAND

Thailand is working with Malaysia and Lao PDR for development of Memorandum of Understandings to strengthen cross border collaboration in combatting illegal wildlife trade.

Meetings and workshops

8. The following report was made by each party.

INDONESIA

- Indonesia join workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (NDF), 4-8 December 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.
- CITES-ESCAP Regional Workshop on Electronic CITES Permitting Systems in Asia, 17-18 July 2023.
- Technical workshop on Marine ornamental fishes, 7 to 10 May 2024, Brisbane, Australia.
- Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings for specimens of Appendix-II species taken from Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), 25 – 26 April 2024, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Technical workshop on Aquatic species listed in the CITES Appendices, 23 – 24 April 2024, Geneva, Switzerland

JAPAN

Delegates from Japan participated in the following workshops.

- the NDF workshop in Nairobi in December 2023.
- the workshop considering the application of Resolution 9.24 and its Annexes and Footnote 2 for proposing and considering amendments to Appendices I and II for commercially exploited sharks and other aquatic species held in Geneva in April 2024.
- the workshop on NDFs from ABNJ (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) held in Geneva in April 2024.

KAZAKHSTAN

- On 13-14 March 2023, a two-day practical workshop was organised at the Cynological Centre of the Financial Monitoring Agency of Kazakhstan with the participation of representatives of the customs services of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Georgia and the Czech Republic using service dogs to search for IWT derivatives.
- On 17-18 August 2023 in Almaty, a training was held for trainers of educational organisations of law enforcement agencies and border guards on the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- On 19-20 September 2023, the ACBK together with the Academy of Law Enforcement Agencies of the Kazakhstan held an International Round Table in Astana with participation of representatives of law enforcement (prosecutors) and environmental agencies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on countering illegal wildlife trade.

LAO PDR :

- Several meetings have been arranged between CITES MA and pertinent government agencies to assess and improve wildlife laws and regulations. This includes clarifying the mandates and responsibilities of the agencies involved to enhance institutional capacity in effectively managing CITES-related matters, and also updating and revising current laws and regulations in relation to CITES. Several consultation meetings were conducted to facilitated reviews and development of the new Wild Animal Law and Aquatic Resources and Fisheries Law, and the approval and current revision of the CITES Government Decree.
 - Several training workshops were implemented under the two WCS MOUs to support improved capacity on relevant CITES and national policies, criminal law and procedures, and law enforcement skills and practices such as: (1) cooperation training workshop between forest inspection and environmental crime police officers in five northern provinces in Lao PDR from 13-16 June 2023; (2) wildlife rescue and handling training for forest inspection officers in 5 provinces from 3-4 July 2023; and (3) training workshop for forest inspection officers in Bolikhamxay province from 25-28 July 2023 and in Bokeo province from 21-24 November 2023.
 - Multi-agency cooperation and coordination meetings were also facilitated under the two WCS MOUs to improve wildlife case handling, coordination and cooperation between investigating authorities and prosecutors: (1) provincial multi-agency case cooperation meetings in Luang Namtha in September and

- December 2023, in Savannakhet in October 2023, and in Bokeo in March 2024; (2) wildlife crime case coordination meeting between prosecutors and investigating authorities in 3 southern provinces in December 2023; and (3) national wildlife crime case monitoring and prosecution meeting in February 2024.
- From 23-24 August 2023, a bilateral cooperation meeting on transnational organized wildlife crime was hosted by the Lao OSPP with the Vietnam Supreme People's Procuracy. This was followed by a trilateral judicial wildlife trafficking workshop with Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Cambodia from 23-25 January 2023.
 - To improve wildlife seizure evidence management, under the WCS MOU with the Department of Forest Inspection and in cooperation with TRACE, a wildlife seizure evidence management is currently in development with at least 5 consultations meetings having been conducted from June 2023 to May 2024. In October 2023, a wildlife DNA forensics and PELTS demonstration workshop was conducted to increase understanding of wildlife DNA forensics and identify DNA forensic analysis support for wildlife cases in Lao PDR.
 - Under the two WCS MOUs, the Department of Forest Inspection and the OSPP, two additional workshops were implemented: (1) in cooperation with the National University of Laos Faculty of Law and Political Science, a wildlife crime legal research findings dissemination workshop was held in March 2024 to better understand gaps and challenges to wildlife crime enforcement; and (2) in cooperation with the Department of CyberSecurity under the Ministry of Communications and Technology, a wildlife crime prevention workshop was held in April 2024 with telecommunications companies to understand possible cooperation activities to prevent wildlife crime.

MONGOLIA

The Great Lakes Basin of western Mongolia is home to the last breeding sites for this endangered subpopulation of Dalmatian Pelican. Despite legal protections against hunting, poaching continues, underscoring the need for stringent enforcement of anti-poaching laws. In July 2019, an international consultancy meeting on Dalmatian Pelican conservation was organized, supported by WWF China, the East Asia-Australasian Flyway Partnership, WWF Mongolia, Khovd University, and Khar Us Lake National Park. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, the Government Office of Khovd Province, Khar Us Lake National Park, and the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia hosted the meeting in response to Decision 14 (CMS/AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) adopted during the EAAFP 10th Meeting of Partners. During the Khovd meeting, participants addressed knowledge gaps, identified threats, and outlined necessary actions at both local and international levels. A key outcome was the establishment of the Dalmatian Pelican Task Force, which includes stakeholders from breeding and non-breeding regions and international pelican conservation experts.

Meetings/workshops

- The US Forest Service (USFS) IP, with funding support from the United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Office of Global Programs and Policy (INL/GPP), is initiated program "Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Combat Wildlife Crime in Mongolia".
- Within the project activity several workshop and study visit organized. Herein:
 - Project's Technical Working group meeting organized two times to discuss the planned workplan and its implementation. During those meetings discussed the conducted studied in 2023 and agreed on modules for the upcoming basic ranger training pilot in Aug.2024.
 - Study visit: The program team organized study visit in the U. S Fish and Wildlife Forensic Laboratory during 16-19 April, 2024. The main objective of the study visit is to provide opportunity for Mongolian government counterparts engaged in wildlife forensic work, including collection, analysis, and management of evidence, to have a practical exposure to a well-established wildlife forensic laboratory and operation within the framework of the CITES Convention CITES Convention.
 - WCS was organized a Sustainable Hunting Workshop on December 05, 2023 in city Sainshand, Dornogobi Province, southern Mongolia. The workshop, a collaboration between the Environment and Tourism Agency of Dornogobi and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, brought together 39 participants from over 11 organizations.
- Brought together key stakeholders, including:
 - Government agencies: Ecological Police, Procuratorate of Dornogobi, Ministry of Environment and Tourism
 - Non-profit organizations: Argali Research Center NGO, Wildlife Conservation Society
 - Community representatives: Members from hunting reserve areas
 - Legal professionals: Local authorities, Animal law legal advisor, MBS Partners law firm
 - Protected areas: Ikh Nart Nature Reserve, Khamriin Khiid Protected Area Authority
 - Environmental Protection Agency: Dornogobi Environmental and Tourism Agency

NEPAL

- Meetings held at Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) regarding CITES aspects. Nepal Police Headquarters, Central Bureau of Investigation (CIB) organized a month long orientation program, in 2024, in wildlife crime and the scientific authority for fauna (Natural History Museum, Tribhuvan University)

has made contributed as scientific experts, with the main aim encompassing capacity building in making non-detriment findings effective. The subjects covered were focused mainly on strengthening knowledge of CITES listed wild animals, identification of stockpiles their role, with particular emphasis on the monitoring and control tasks that are needed in order to support achievement of the objectives of the convention. In addition, under the orientation programme, for personnel of the Nepal Police, in which instructions were given on general aspects of the convention; regulations, taxonomy and nomenclature of confiscated CITES listed species; and monitoring, identification and handling of fauna.

- Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) organized National Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee (NWCCC) meeting and Central Level Wildlife Crime Control Bureau meeting one time each during this reporting period. Similarly, province level 'Province Wildlife Crime Control Bureau' meetings have been conducted in three provinces, namely Koshi, Madhes and Gandaki. Protected area offices and divisional forest offices from the districts susceptible for wildlife crimes where Wildlife Crime Control Bureau formed comprising district level enforcement agencies organized the bureau meeting periodically as per the need. Department of Customs also organized CITES enforcement training for custom officers.

PAKISTAN

- 13 January 2023 : Asian Big Cats Enforcement Dialogue (Online), organized by INTERPOL and USAID,
- 28 March 2023 : Webinar on Transnational Cooperation in Wildlife Crime Control organized by SAWEN Secretariat,
- 5 September 2023 : Webinar on "Efforts of frontline staff in the fight against wildlife crime", organized by SAWEN Secretariat in collaboration with TRAFFIC and WWF.
- 27 November - 1 December 2023, Bangkok, Thailand : Global Wildlife Programme Annual Conference
- 24 January 2024 : Virtual discussion session among the SAWEN Focal Points on SAWEN activities, organized by SAWEN Secretariat.
- 18 March 2024 : Webinar on Innovative Approach to Combat Wildlife Crime at Site Level organized by SAWEN Secretariat and TRAFFIC.

SINGAPORE

- 17–18 July 2023, Bangkok, Thailand: CITES-ESCAP Regional Workshop on Electronic CITES Permitting Systems in Asia – Singapore presented on the recent changes to its CITES permitting system using blockchain technology and its use of a stock card system to monitor imports and exports of CITES specimens.
- 10 October 2023, Singapore: Hosted the *CITES Asian Regional Training Seminar on Demand Reduction Strategies to Combat Illegal Trade in CITES-Listed Species*, co-organised by the CITES Secretariat and Singapore.
- 17–18 October 2023, Singapore: Co-organised the training workshop on sharks, rays and sea cucumbers together with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in Hong Kong and Wildlife Conservation Society – To increase capacity building efforts of border control officers in identifying commonly traded sharks fin and sea cucumbers with the aid of identification guides and the use of AI tools (Finfinder app).
- 11–15 December 2023, Lyon, France: 34th Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group – Singapore was elected as a board member of the Interpol WCWG. Singapore also presented on Singapore's Centre for Wildlife Forensics capability.
- 25 February 2024, Singapore: Organised an *Illegal Wildlife Trade Workshop: Caught in the Act! From Crime Scene to Lab/Rehab* for regional youths to gain first-hand experience on wildlife crime detection and investigations, wildlife forensics, and wildlife rehabilitation, as part of the World Wildlife Day Regional Youth Symposium.
- 21 March 2024, Virtual: Shared about Singapore's Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and its husbandry, veterinary and disposition provisions for confiscated wildlife at the invitation of the CITES Secretariat for its *Virtual Workshop on Transport of Live Specimens*.
- 22–25 April 2024, Brussels: *International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Global Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade* – Attended and presented about Singapore's multi-national joint investigations into a rhino horn case and participated in a high-level panel discussion.
- 30 April 2024, Virtual: *Green Customs Initiative (GCI)* organised by Mexico within the framework of the Multilateral Convention on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance among the National Customs Administrations of Latin America, Spain, and Portugal (COMALEP, by its acronym in Spanish) – Presented on Singapore's efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade and advanced tools including the Fin Finder for sharks and rays species identification.
- 6–10 May 2024, Hong Kong: Co-organiser and speaker for the *WCO ICCWC IWT Training Workshop on Marine Species - Shark Fins, Shark Meat & Sea Cucumbers*.
- 7–10 May 2024, Hybrid: Attended and presented (online) at the *CITES Marine Ornamental Fish Workshop*.

- Ongoing: Various industry engagements to raise awareness and improve regulatory compliance for CITES requirement, especially for the uplisting of *Prionace glauca* at COP19. E.g., As derivatives of *Prionace glauca* are used in cosmetics and medical products, in April and May 2024, Singapore has conducted sharing sessions with the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association of Singapore (CTFAS), and APACMed, an association that supports the medical tech industry in the region.

THAILAND

- 11 - 14 December 2023, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Thailand : Technical workshop on songbird trade and conservation management
- 30 January – 1 February 2023 at Amari Hua Hin, Thailand : MIKE South-east Asia Sub-regional Meeting

Others

9. The following report was made by each party.

CAMBODIA

- The Royal turtles or Mangrove Terrapin (*Batagur affinis*), listed in Appendix I of CITES, IUCN Red list CR) had been found and conserved since 2000 and their habitats in the Sre Ambil river system has been promulgated as Royal turtle management area. So far, 188 adults were released into their habitat and about 180 juveniles produced successful since 2022 in the Reptile Conservation Center have been raised for releasing in the future.
- From 2018 to April 2024, Cambodia has released back to wild natural habitat in Cardamoms Mountain Regions of Cambodia, total of 128 juveniles of pure Siamese Crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) CITES Appendix I and IUCN Red list CR.

KAZAKHSTAN

- During the period of 2023, 228 CITES permits were issued by the CITES Management Body in the Republic of Kazakhstan. At the same time, for the first five months of 2024, 68 CITES permits were issued. Mainly reptile skin products are imported into the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan for commercial purposes, there is an active exchange of animals between zoological parks, and trophies of hunting species are exported during the hunting season.

LAO PDR

Related activities were organized and implemented such as:

- On 4 March 2024, the Ministry Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) hosted the World Wildlife Day celebrations in Vientiane at the National University of Laos. The event was attended by hundreds of individuals from various government sectors, organizations, the National University of Laos, and media. The event was presided by the DDG of DoF to open the event. The focus of the event was to raise awareness among students, researchers, organizations, and consumers about the laws and regulations of the State for the protection of fauna and flora. There was also a public exhibition from participating organizations.
- Staff of the CITES Management Authority (MA) received specialized training in biodiversity research and monitoring, focusing on plant survey techniques and species identification. This training is part of the Lao Landscapes and Livelihoods (LLL) project, aimed at enhancing research and conservation efforts in designated Protected Areas. This initiative is supported by the World Bank (WB), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), and the Canadian Clean Energy and Forest Climate Facility (CCEFCF).
- Faculty members from the National University of Laos' Faculty of Forest Science, serving as the CITES Scientific Authority (SA), have undertaken botanical research projects. These projects contribute to the Flora of Laos initiative, aiming to improve plant species identification skills. The knowledge gained will be disseminated through training programs on CITES-related issues, organized for the CITES MA staff.
- The CITES Scientific Authority of Lao PDR also conducted the identification of wildlife specimens in January 2024, upon the request from law enforcement authorities (forest inspection, customs, and police). These specimens, which include elephant ivory, unidentified wild animal teeth, and rhino horn, were seized during transit at the international airport in Vientiane. Currently, the case is undergoing legal proceedings, with the matter being referred from the prosecutor to the courts.

Wild life habitats protection

The Department of Forestry has also worked closely with partners on wild life habitats protection, particularly protected areas and wetlands:

- Under three WCS-MAF MOUs, WCS supported the management and policy and institutional reforms of protected areas and wetlands in Laos. An example can be found in NPA Roadmap here:

Relevant legislation and policies

In relation to updates on relevant legislation and policies in Lao PDR:

- With development partner support, Lao PDR is currently revising the CITES Government Decree, expected to be approved in June 2024.
- The Law on Wild Animals and the Law on Aquatic Resources and Fisheries were promulgated in 2023 and launched on March 3, 2024 (National and World Wildlife Day) with funding support from EU, AFD, WCS, WWF, and GIZ.
- DOF has also disseminated the Law on Wild Animals, the CITES SC77 trade suspension and recommendations as well as the Laos action plan to address the recommendations, with national and local authorities across sectors as well as captive facilities and plantation businesses.
- The Wild Animals List was also recently updated in April 2024 (Reference: MAF Decision No. 1874, dated 5 April 2024).
- Other related legislation include:
 - Law on Forestry (revised) No. 64/NA, Vientiane, 13 June 2019.
 - Decree on the management of protected areas
 - Decree on the management of production forests
 - Decree on the management of forest protection forests
 - Decree on fine for forest resources still finalize at Prime Ministers.
 - The Rapid Respond Team of DOFI to combat Wildlife Crime will be upgrading which Minister of MAF will be signed and approval.
 - Operational Guide Enhancing the Enforcement and Cooperation on Wildlife and Forest Crime was signed and officially used since late 2022

Law enforcement

In relation to law enforcement, the following three cases occurred during the previous year:

- In February 2024, one case involving the trading of gaur, deer parts and other wildlife in Pakkaddistrict in Bolikhamxay Province, with one offender sentenced by the Bolikhamxay Court to payof 8 million Lao Kips (approximately 400 USD);
- In March 2024, one case involving the seizure of 16 live Asiatic black bears in Vientiane Capital
- In April 2024, one case involving the seizure of elephant parts in Vientiane Capital.

Trade on social media

DOFI has a team working on it, investigations are on-going, but this can take long before being in position to prosecute and for countries did not have MOU still difficult to request to get the right information to support for Prosecution.

Elephant diplomacy

Export of elephants took place only in the context of diplomatic context. Export permit was issued.

Previous seizure of Asiatic Black Bear cubs by Police

Forest inspection authority is working with the police on the progress of the case.

Lion import

There were previous imports of lions into Lao PDR but no indication of the purpose. This highlights the need to have better guidelines to regulate zoo facilities to make sure that they are operating as proper zoos, such as in accordance with WAZA. Cooperation partners can assist on this.

CITES Commercial Trade Suspension Effect in Lao PDR

- The agarwood industry was mainly affected by this. Patient in Lao PDR were also affected due to the trade suspension affecting imports of medicine / supplements from neighbouring countries containing shark derivatives for medicine for curing eyes.
- Overall, dialogue and cooperation partners appreciate the open dialogue, and stand ready for enhanced cooperation in order to get the CITES Trade suspension released in the best delay, to ensure legal trade can resume, while, wildlife is better protected, and illegal trade addressed.

MONGOLIA

Year 2023

No	Species	Common name	Remark	Quantity	Purpose	Export/Import

1	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	Feathers/ Fallen out naturally	25 kg	H	Export
2	<i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	Upland Buzzard	Blood sample	120 pcs	S	Export
3	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker falcon	Blood sample	239 pcs	S	Export
4	<i>Canis Lupus</i>	Grey wolf	Skin	3 pcs	H	Export
5	<i>Capra sibirica</i>	Siberian ibex	Skull/ horns and skin	167 pair	H	Export
6	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	Saker falcon	Alive	350 pcs	P	Export
7	<i>Ovis ammon darwini</i>	Gobi argali	Skull/ horns and skin	37 pair	H	Export
8	<i>Ovis ammon ammon</i>	Altai argali	Skull/ horns and skin	27 pair	H	Export
9	<i>Panthera uncia</i>	Snow Leopard	Feces	400 samples	S	Export

Year 2024

No	Species	Common name	Remark	Quantity	Purpose	Export/Import
1	<i>Capra sibirica</i>	Siberian ibex	Skull/ horns and skin	42 pair	H	Export
2	<i>Ovis ammon darwini</i>	Gobi argali	Skull/ horns and skin	3 pair	H	Export
3	<i>Ovis ammon ammon</i>	Altai argali	Skull/ horns and skin	8 pair	H	Export
4	<i>Panthera Leo*</i>	African Lion	Live	2	Q	Import
5	<i>Panthera tiger*</i>	Bengal tiger	Live	1	Q	Import
6	<i>Panthera tiger*</i>	Amur tiger	Live	3	Q	Import

*Came to Mongolia with circus group and went out back to Uzbekistan

NEPAL

The wildlife trade in Nepal is strictly regulated by the national laws. Illegal trade and wildlife trafficking that have been reported by the enforcement agencies including protected area offices and divisional forest offices have substantial impacts on the country's biodiversity and conservation efforts. Some species have been exported during this reporting period such as trophies of Blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*) and Himalayan Tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*) that are acquired by legal hunting in Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, the only hunting reserve in the country. Reported cases of wildlife trafficking includes parts and derivatives of species like tiger, rhino, pangolin, musk deer, leopard and red panda. Key drivers of trafficking include but are not limited to the demand of wildlife parts in international markets and poverty of people around protected areas.

All components are mentioned below are participation in some webinars such as :

- Dr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa attended a virtual meeting on " CITES CoP19 conference webinar held in Nov. 14-25 at Panama".
- Participation of a staff in Owl conservation and awareness Program held in Lopro of Parbat in 19-20 Phalgun , 2080 of a program organised by friends of Nature.
- Museum Chief attended virtual discussion program "ASYCUDA Application linking with legal wildlife trade through CITES mechanisms " organized by South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) Secretariat in February 15, 2022. Wildlife Crime Control Section Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation and several other webinars.
- Dr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa attended a virtual meeting on "Consultation on EU proposals for submission to CITES CoP19" organized by European Commission, DG ENV.F.3 –Global Environmental Cooperation & Multilateralism. 7 April 2022.
- Dr. Thapa participated and advised CITES as invited guest in 38 th Warden seminar (recovering key species for Environmental Health and Prosperity) and 20 th buffer zone Management Committee president's meeting (3 days) Organized by DNPWC, on 25-27 March, 2022 in Budhanilkantha , KTM.
- Participation in Rhino census opening Program in Chitwan on March 22, 2021.
- South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) has also provided capacity building trainings on wildlife crime investigation and prosecution to frontline rangers and officers during this reporting period in Nepal, India and Bhutan.

PAKISTAN

CITES annual and biennial reports were timely submitted. Information and reports were submitted where required to the regional representatives.

IRAN

Iran wants to express its great concern about the illegal take and trade of different kind of Falcon species (*Falco* spp.) as well as Asiatic Hubara to neighboring Arabian countries along the Persian Gulf. This illegal trade not only is detrimental to the wild migratory species, but also imposes plenty of enforcement matter to the country.

Secondly, there is the same problem with illegal catch and trade of different shark and ray species—considering the species conservation situation and catch quality, these measures are quite detrimental to already depleted populations in the sensitive environment of the Perian Gulf and Oman sea.

Illegal import of exotic reptilian species have put another severe problem to the country. Combat with this illegal trade needs for close cooperation among related parties and Iran to completely prevent that. As a serious internal problem, Iran needs close cooperation and advise of secretariat to solve the export of different parrot species (in household scale) which have no legal acquisition.