

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



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
(Geneva, Switzerland), November 6-10, 2023

MALAYSIA'S INTERIM REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS ON RHINOCEROSES ADOPTED
AT 19TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (CoP19)

1. This document has been submitted by Malaysia in relation to agenda item 45*.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Background

At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties retained Decision 18.116 and adopted Decisions 19.115 to 19.122 on Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.). The decision directed to Malaysia is as follows:

Directed to Malaysia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates

19.119 Malaysia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are encouraged to scale up their collaboration with Parties known to be associated with illegal rhinoceros specimens transiting their territories, and to review their risk management practices, developing rhinoceros specific risk profiles targeting cargo, luggage and passengers from and destined to these Parties.

Based on the decision, Malaysia has taken several initiatives to increase the effectiveness of our enforcement targeting illegal trafficking of rhinoceros specimens.

Developing national risk profile and indicators to combat rhino horns trafficking

Malaysia in 2022 has developed a specific national level risk profiles and indicators to combat wildlife trafficking with the collaboration of customs department, Wildlife Crime Bureau and other enforcement agencies. Among the activities organized to develop the profile are as follows:

- a) Sharing Session and Discussion on the Red Flags Indicators for Wildlife and Timber Trafficking in Containerized Sea Cargo Compendium was held on 23 August 2021 involving TRAFFIC and enforcement agencies.
- b) Workshop on the development of risk profiles for wildlife trafficking was held on September 2022 to formulate national risk profiles to combat wildlife trafficking. Participants consist of enforcement officers from DWNP, RMCD, RMP Police and Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change (formerly known as Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources). **(Annex 1)**
- c) In May 2023, a state-level workshop with the participation of the National Targeting Centre (NTC) was held as part of a project to create national risk profiles for illegal trade of wildlife.
- d) National risk profiles and indicators for detecting and preventing illegal trade of ivory and wildlife has been developed and shall be updated as needed.
- e) Best Practice Workshop to Remove the Risk of Wildlife Smuggling from Malaysia's Postal Services was held on 9 August 2023 in collaboration with regulators, enforcement agencies, courier service providers and NGO to

improve the interdiction of wildlife products trafficked through international mail in Malaysia.

Sniffer dogs

Deployment of K9 Unit are carried out in the international airports, seaports and border gate to detect and prevent wildlife trafficking activities at the entry points. (**Annex 2**)

The establishment of Wildlife Crime Bureau under the Royal Malaysian Police to improve investigation and prosecution for wildlife crime offence

Malaysia established the Wildlife Crime Bureau under the Royal Malaysia Police in July 2022. The new agency shall strengthen the investigation of wildlife crimes and the enforcement operations of Integrated Enforcement Operation or known as Operation *Bersepadu Khazanah*, an enforcement collaboration between various agencies launched in 2019 to combat wildlife poaching and smuggling activities. (**Annex 3**).

Forensic analysis

Samples from seized rhino horn are collected for forensic analysis by National Wildlife Forensic Laboratory (NWFL), to link with crime scenes and implicated suspects and promoting successful prosecution under Wildlife Conservation Act 2010.

Intelligence and information sharing with source and transit countries

Malaysia through Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting on Rhino Horn Trafficking held in March 2023 in Singapore had exchanged information with South Africa, Qatar and Mozambique on rhino horns trafficking syndicate which will help to further investigate the trafficking network (**Annex 4**).

Enforcement Success

In September 2021, through an intelligence effort by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia, the department seized 49 units of white rhino horns and 1 unit of black rhino horn worth over MYR30 million near the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang. Two Malaysians were also arrested and the trial will resume in December 2023 (**Annex 5**).

In another case in July 2022, Royal Malaysian Customs Department foiled an attempt to smuggle wildlife parts, including elephant tusks, rhinoceros horns, pangolin scales and tiger fangs worth MYR80 million. 16 units of white rhino horns were seized in the operation and the case is still being investigated under the Customs Act 1967 [Act 235] (**Annex 6**).

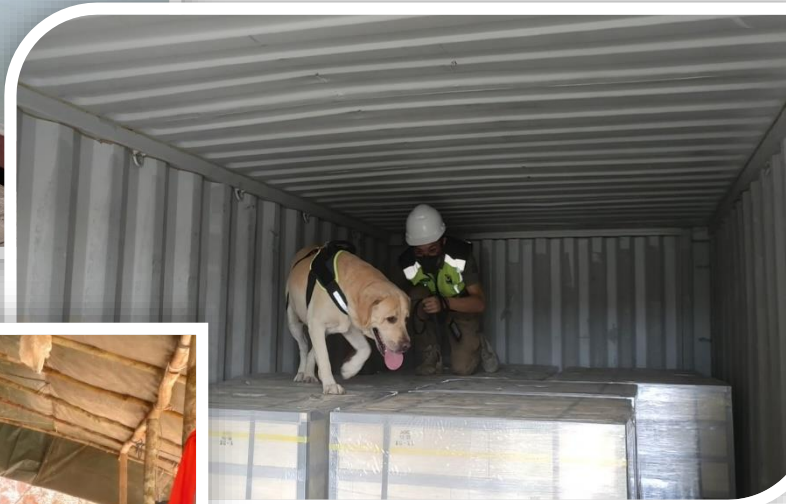
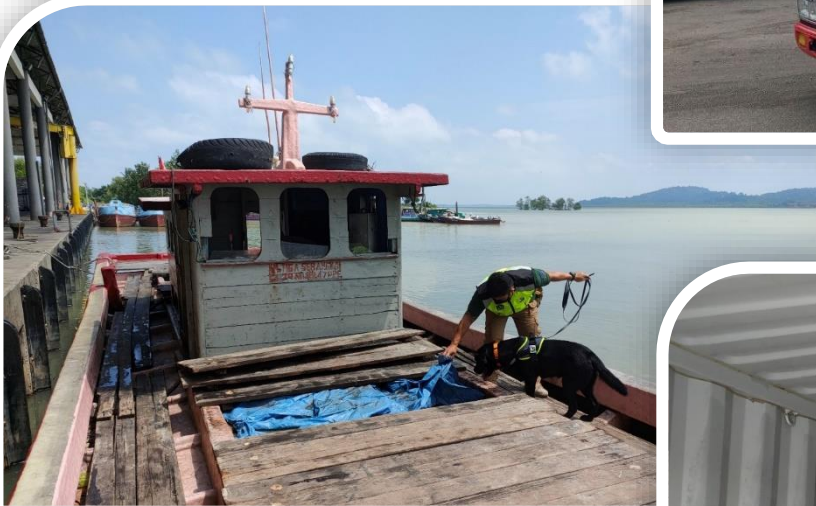
With these efforts being undertaken, Malaysia has done significant works to ensure the illegal activities are being tackled and will continue to step up our effort in curbing the trafficking of rhino horns.

Annex 1

Workshop on the development of risk profiles for wildlife trafficking, September 2022



K9 Unit Activities



MALAYSIA

Police establish Wildlife Crime Bureau to tackle illegal hunting, trade

New unit will be headquartered in Bukit Aman, says IGP

Updated 1 year ago · Published on 04 Aug 2022 6:54PM



Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani says the Wildlife Crime Bureau has 50 new vacancies for officers to combat illegal hunting and wildlife trade. — Bernama pic, August 4, 2022



BY Jason Santos

KOTA KINABALU – A special bureau to fight crimes involving wildlife will be established under the national police force, following the success of an operation codenamed Op Bersatu Khazanah to accord protection towards nature and its various species.

Op Bersepadu Khazanah, now in its eleventh edition, involves cooperation among police, the Customs Department, and the Wildlife and National Parks Department of Peninsular Malaysia (Perhilitan). Police took the lead in this year's operations.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani said the bureau will be known as the Wildlife Crime Bureau.

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WWF Commends Wildlife Crime Bureau Expansion Plans

Posted on 4 July 2023

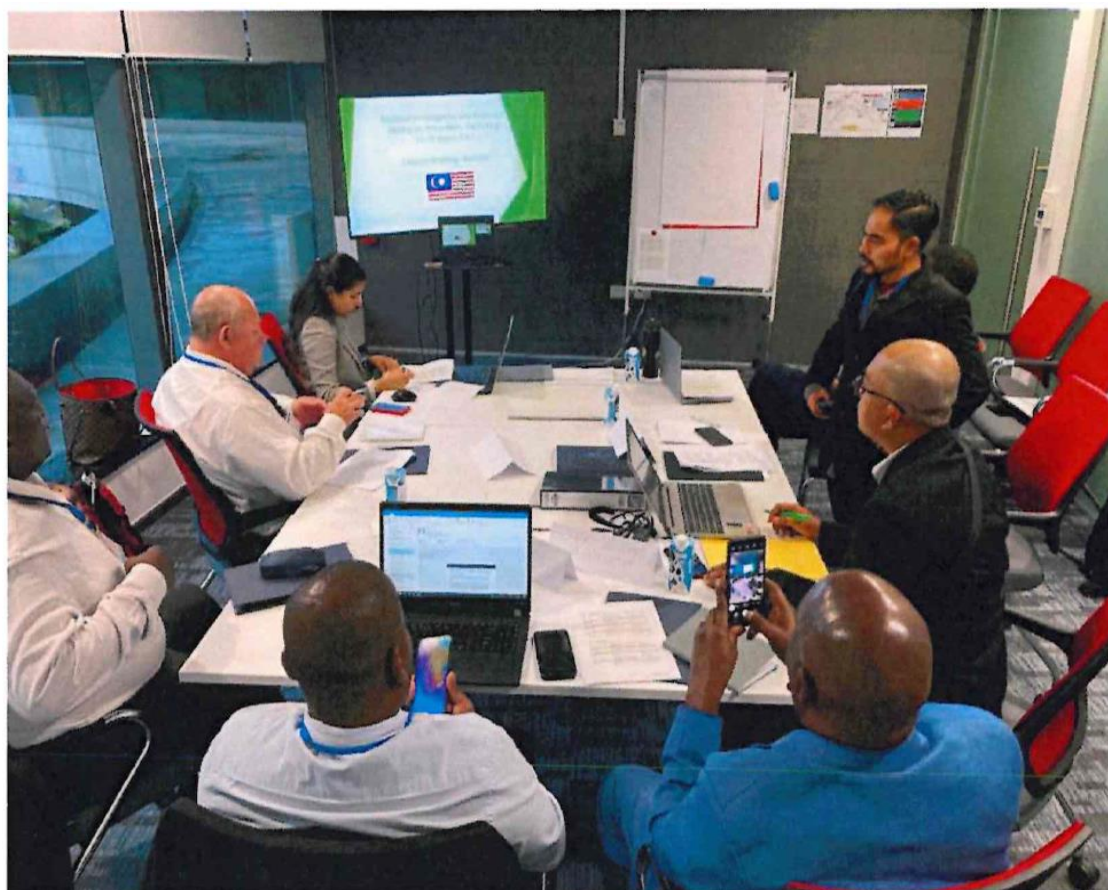
27 June 2023, Kota Kinabalu: WWF-Malaysia commends the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) on its initiatives to expand the scope of the Wildlife Crime Bureau (WCB) as well as increase its personnel from 50 to 75 individuals in order to protect national treasures and heritage sites in Malaysia.

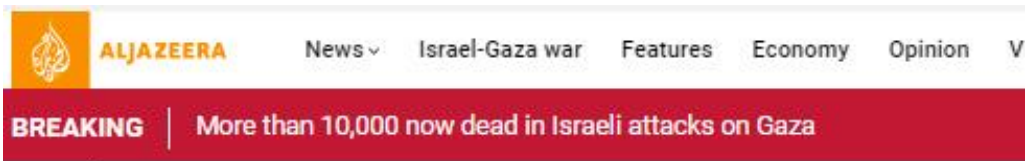
"An expanded scope for the WCB will no doubt help in the overall protection of the environment and especially its wildlife in Malaysia, ensuring the survival of the nation's iconic species including the Malayan tiger, the Sunda pangolin, and the Asian elephant," said WWF-Malaysia Conservation Director, Dr. Henry Chan.

Additionally, the collaboration between the Wildlife Crime Bureau and environmental agencies through joint operations such as the Ops Khazanah is exemplary and should be continued.

Previously, wildlife and environment crimes came under the purview of relevant departments only. The establishment of the WCB under PDRM last year not only streamlined the management of these crimes but also allowed for an increase in capacity for enforcement as well as access to the intelligence network, international collaboration and investigation expertise of the PDRM.

**Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting on Rhino Horn Trafficking
March 2023 in Singapore**





Malaysia seizes elephant tusks, pangolin scales in major bust

Officials say that the \$18m seizure of tusks, skulls, horns and scales is their biggest to date.



The haul included tusks from African elephants, whose trade is prohibited [Anif Kartono / AFP]

19 Jul 2022



Malaysian authorities have seized a container of African elephant tusks, pangolin scales and other wildlife skulls and bones estimated to be worth 80 million Malaysian ringgit (\$18m) – their biggest seizure to date.

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department said in a statement on Monday that it had discovered the contraband hidden behind sawn timber following checks on a ship on July 10.

Seizure of 16 units of white rhino horns by Royal Malaysian Customs Department in 2022

MALAYSIA

Rhino horns worth RM30 mil seized, 2 arrested in Perhilitan sting

Sept 9 operation sees duo nabbed near KLIA; cops say prohibited items largest confiscation in 5 years

Updated 2 years ago · Published on 16 Sep 2021 7:59AM

59
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DNA tests will be carried out on the rhinoceros horns seized in Sepang to determine their country of origin. – AFP pic, September 16, 2021

PUTRAJAYA – The Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) seized 50 units of rhinoceros horns worth RM30 million after arresting two local men suspected of being involved in wildlife smuggling in Sepang on September 9.

The duo was detained at the roundabout near the KLIA mosque in Sepang under the Khazanah Central Zone Integrated Operation and Perhilitan also seized a lorry and documents related to the smuggling of rhinoceros horns.

“Based on our records, the seizure of the rhinoceros horns this time is the largest in five years,” said Perhilitan in a statement today.

Seizure of 49 units of white rhino horns and 1 unit of black rhino horn worth over MYR30 million near the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang in 2021

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