

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva, (Switzerland), 19-24 April 2008

Regional reports

ASIA

1. This report has been submitted by Siti Nuramaliati Prijono and Mohammad Pourkazemi, regional representatives for Asia. The Annex to the present report is provided herewith in English only (the language in which it was submitted).

General Information:

2. AC membership: the regional representatives on the Animals Committee for Asia are Mohammad Pourkazemi from Iran, Siti Nuramaliati Prijono from Indonesia, Nobuo Ishii from Japan (alternate member) and Choo-Hoo Giam from Singapore (alternate member).
3. Parties in the region: 33.
4. Parties responding to communications in January 2008: Six Parties (Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippine and United Arab Emirates. However, Mongolia only sent the list of exported and imported specimens in 2007).

National, regional or international CITES meetings or events

5. The first meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) was held on 22-26 May 2006 in Thailand.
6. The 2nd Mekhong River Sub-regional workshop on wildlife trade and CITES implementation was held on 4-7 June 2006 in China.
7. The Ministry of Environment (MOE), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan Wildlife Research Center and TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan held a CITES workshop on prevention of smuggling and illegal trade on 2 August 2006 to enhance the capacity of government officials, with cooperation from the CITES Secretariat.
8. The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) organized a Regional Technical consultation meeting, which discussed sea cucumber fisheries issue in the Southeast Asia region, in September 2006 in Phuket, Thailand. The meeting was attended by the SEAFDEC member countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia and Myanmar.
9. The 4th Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group (AEG) on CITES was held on 28-29 November 2006 in Manila, Philippines. This meeting was attended by the CITES Management and Scientific

Authorities of ASEAN Countries and also by representatives from the secretariat of SEAFDEC. SEAFDEC supported participation of representatives from Cambodia, Indonesia and Singapore.

10. A Workshop on Wildlife crime on CITES was held on 30-31 January 2007 in Jakarta. The meeting developed and adopted the ASEAN Regional Action Plan as an ASEAN's collective effort to curb the problems of illegal trade in wild fauna and flora across border and to work together towards the effective implementation of CITES and help member countries to better manage their rich biological diversity in a sustainable manner.
11. The ASEAN WEN development and cross border cooperative meeting was held on 5-9 February 2007 in the Philippines.
12. The ASEAN and the SEAFDEC co-organized a Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries Related Issues 2007, which reviewed listing proposals on marine species, particularly shark and sea cucumber issues and discussed on follow-up actions for input at CoP14, in February 2007 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The meeting was attended by 11 Asian countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
13. The SEAFDEC provided information pertinent to listing proposals to CITES for commercially-exploited aquatic species based on SEAFDEC and its member countries in Southeast Asia initiatives as well as nominated Southeast Asian experts on marine species to the FAO Ad Hoc Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Listing Proposals to CITES held in Rome, Italy from 26 to 30 March 2007.
14. The 5th Meeting of the AEG on CITES was held on 9-11 May 2007 in Singapore. The meeting was also attended by the representatives from the secretariat of SEAFDEC.
15. The 2nd meeting of the ASEAN-WEN was held on 21-24 May 2007 in Bogor – Cisarua, Indonesia.
16. The ASEAN and the SEAFDEC organized the 10th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group, which reviewed the results of CoP14 on marine species and discussed necessary follow-up activities, in November 2007 in Iloilo City, the Philippines. The meeting was attended by ten Asian countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The SEAFDEC has been supporting development and formulation of National Plan of Action (NPOA) on Sharks of its member countries.
17. The SEAFDEC sent secretariat officers to a National Action Planning Workshop for the Conservation and Management of Sharks in the Philippines, held in November 2007 and organized by the Philippine Government, and supported a part of the workshop cost.
18. The National Workshop on the Green Customs Initiative in West Asia Region was held in October 2007 in Bahrain.
19. The Preparatory Meeting of CoP14 for Arab Parties was held in March 2007 in Kuwait.
20. The United Arab Emirates held a CITES Training (the Trainer) Workshop for the Arabic translation of CITES Canada identification guides in April 2007 in Fujairah. This workshop was held in conjunction with the CITES staff for the Scientific Authority relevant organizations.
21. Indonesia held a workshop on preliminary discussions on the Indonesian position on the species listing proposals to be considered at CoP14 in March and April 2007. Then, at another workshop (held in May 2007 in Jakarta) the proposals which were of direct relevance to Indonesia were discussed and the preliminary position of the Republic of Indonesia was provided. The workshop involved a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, wildlife industry and NGOs in order to obtain a more transparent position vis-à-vis the public.
22. Indonesia held a workshop on the dissemination of the results of CoP14 in August 2007, hosted by the CITES Scientific Authority in Jakarta.

23. The CITES Scientific Authority of Indonesia, in collaboration with the CITES Management Authority and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia held a one-day discussion on the Non-detriment Finding of Southeast Asia Box Turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*) and Oriental Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosa*) on 15 August 2007 in Bogor, Indonesia.
24. Indonesia held a workshop on 23 November 2007 in Bogor, Indonesia on the establishment of catch quota for flora and fauna for 2008. This workshop was attended by the Management and Scientific Authorities of Indonesia and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. Another workshop on the recommendation of catch quota for flora and fauna for 2008 was held on 4 December 2007 in Cisarua-Bogor, Indonesia, hosted by the CITES Scientific Authority, in collaboration with the CITES Management Authority. Several stakeholders and NGOs in Indonesia were invited to this workshop.

CITES activities in the country

25. Indonesia has released the Conservation Strategy on Orangutan, Rhino, Sumatran Tiger and Sumatran elephant in 2007.
26. Myanmar has conducted a review of significant trade regarding *Babylonia aredata*, *Cerithidea cingulata*, *Paphia gallus*, *Polymesoda expansa* and *Trochis niloticus*.
27. Myanmar has conducted a review of the Appendices regarding the inclusion of soft shell turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*) in Appendix II and the transfer of Loridae (*Nycticebus spp*) from Appendix I to Appendix II.
28. The Philippines had a joint meeting of the CITES Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and the National Wildlife Management Committee (NWMC) on 28 May 2007 at PAWB to review and outline the position of the Philippines regarding various proposals for upgrading/downlisting certain species from the CITES Appendices. The Philippine positions were raised during the CoP14.
29. The Philippines participated in the CITES Secretariat's Capacity Building Project through the organization of a CITES Implementation Training-Workshop in the Philippines held at Clark, Pampanga, 16-18 May 2007. Technical personnel from the 16 regions of the country participated. The CITES Secretariat sponsored the activity.
30. The Philippines, through this Bureau, has indicated its interest in participating in the CITES E-permitting System Project, is already sourcing funds for the development of the system in the Philippines and has sought the assistance of the CITES Secretariat in building the technical capacity. It has also indicated its interest in participating in the work and activities of the CITES Secretariat and the Working Group of the Standing Committee on Information Technology and Electronics System.
31. The United Arab Emirates has conducted scientific analysis of data on CITES permits within the United Arab Emirates in relation to the Review of Significant Trade in the Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) to try and monitor imports from countries which are of high concern.

Registration of operations breeding Appendix-I animal species for commercial:

32. Indonesia: 32 companies are registered in the CITES Secretariat as an operations of *Scleropages formosus* that breed Appendix-I species in captivity for commercial purpose in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP13), and two company is still in application to include in the registered company.
33. Philippines: Eight proposals of Birds International Inc. for the registration of its commercial breeding operations for birds listed under Appendix I were submitted to the CITES Secretariat in 2006 and 2007. The proposals were also discussed during the 5th Meeting of the AEG-CITES and COP14; and the applications of Davao Crocodile Farm and J.K. Mercado and Sons (aka Pag-asa Farm) for the registration of their breeding operations for commercial purposes of *Crocodylus porosus* were likewise submitted to the CITES Secretariat in December 2007.

Country priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES

34. Japan:

- a) A manual has been published to distinguish between mammoth and elephant ivory by the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and widely distributed among relevant departments, especially enforcement agencies.
- b) Review on the status of Japanese Giant Salamander was conducted by the MOE for the periodic review of the Animals Committee according to Resolution Conf. 11.1. (Rev. CoP13).
- c) The MOE conducted an awareness campaign on prohibition of trade on Tibetan Antelope products through the travel industry and fashion magazine companies. The MOE also made fact sheets on Tibetan Antelope which include tips for identification of the species for the use of enforcement authorities.
- d) MOE is producing manuals to distinguish some CITES-listed snake species and *Nycticebus* spp.
- e) The SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department has implemented regional research projects on stock enhancement of CITES-listed species as follows: sea horses (*Hippocampus barbouri*, *H. comes*, *H. kuda*), sea cucumber (*Holothuria scabra*), giant clam (*Tridacna gigas*), and Napoleon wrasse (*Cheilinus undulates*).
- f) The SEAFDEC has implemented regional research projects on stock enhancement of sea turtles inhabited in the ASEAN region, namely *Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, and *Dermochelys coreacea*. Bycatch mitigation measures for them by regional fisheries have been also investigated.
- g) The SEAFDEC has established an Ad-hoc Regional Working Group on Sea Cucumber Fisheries and located a researcher to conduct a regional study on data and information collection of sea cucumbers fisheries, utilization and trade in each SEAFDEC member country in Southeast Asia since July 2007.

35. Myanmar:

- a) Myanmar Forest Department collaborating with NGOs is implementing the scientific research and country wide surveys to monitor the population density of the CITES-listed species (mainly tiger, elephant, hoolock gibbon and other endemic species such as Myanmar star tortoise and Myanmar roofed turtle).
- b) New taxa of reptiles and amphibians were recorded as a result of the scientific survey jointly conducted by FD and CAS.
- c) Scientific analysis or laboratory identification is urgently needed in CITES law enforcement activities in Myanmar. Therefore. To developed capacity building of staff in the area of species identification and forensic technique along with establishment of infrastructure is priority.

36. Philippines:

- a) New policies were formulated to strengthen the protection of Philippine wildlife species, these policies are as follows: 1) DENR Administrative Order No. 2007-01, establishing the national list of threatened Philippine plants and their categories, and the list of other wildlife species; and 2) DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2007-2, establishing the guidelines on the establishment and management of critical habitats.
- b) Five proposed policies in support of the implementation and enforcement of Republic Act 9147 (the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of the Philippines) are being finalized, as follows:

- DENR Administrative Order (DAO) establishing the list of economically important wildlife species for collection and direct trade purposes;
 - DAO establishing the list of threatened wild fauna which may be collected and utilized for commercial breeding/ propagation purposes;
 - DAO establishing the list of look-alike species of threatened wildlife for protection and conservation purposes;
 - Guidelines on the humane treatment, care and handling of wild fauna in captivity; and,
 - DAO establishing the wildlife marking and identification system and providing guidelines therefore.
- c) This Bureau has also spearheaded the development of the “Manual of Operation for Wildlife Law Enforcement” which aims to provide our enforcement officers nationwide with a set of standards and protocols in law enforcements. These include standard actions and documentary requirements to be complied for trade surveillance, to specimen confiscation, case prosecutions and specimens disposal.

37. United Arab Emirates:

A survey was carried out in February-March 2007 on pet-shops within the United Arab Emirates selling wildlife species. This survey yielded some important results and steps are being taken to address the issues raised. The results are planned to be presented in a reputable scientific journal.

Promotion of CITES in the country

38. Indonesia:

- a) Regular (annual) training on CITES law enforcement for field enforcement officers such as Customs, Quarantine and Provincial Conservation Agencies has been conducted since 1995 to enhance the skill and knowledge of the CITES field officers in order to implement better control of trade in wild fauna and flora. The training materials include Introduction to Species Conservation, Introduction to CITES, Permit Systems and Procedures, Wildlife Crime and Law Enforcement Procedures, Customs Procedures, Quarantine Procedures and Species and Specimens Identification. In 2007 CITES training was conducted in East Java and Riau Provinces.
- b) Training in identification of CITES-listed species. In 2007 regular annual training in identification of CITES-listed species was conducted in East Java and Riau Provinces. The CITES Management Authority of Indonesia and TRAFFIC South East Asia also conducted training on reptile identification in November in Jakarta.
- c) The CITES Management Authority of Indonesia, in collaboration with the Scientific Authority, is developing coordination with other stakeholders such as Customs, Police, Quarantine, Ministry of Marine Affairs, etc. on matters related to CITES implementation and wildlife trade monitoring in Indonesia. Memoranda of Understanding between CITES Management Authority, Customs and Quarantine are in progress.

39. Myanmar:

- a) Promotion of CITES in Myanmar was conducted through distribution of CITES documents to states and division; educational programmes at training school, university, ecotourism training; workshops, seminars, meetings at national, regional and international levels; and publication of CITES articles in public newspapers, journals, magazines and bulletins.
- b) Established National Law Enforcement Task force in July 2007 including the following relevant agencies: Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs,

Customs Department, Myanmar Police Force, Directorate of trade, General administrative Department, Office of the Attorney General, Law Office.

40. Philippines:

- a) Wildlife Crime Investigation Course, 4-13 December 2006 with support from USAID, WildAid TRAFFIC and US Fish and Wildlife Service;
- b) CITES Implementation Training Workshop in the Philippines, 16-18 May 2007 with support from the CITES Secretariat;
- c) Training on Taxidermy, 25-27 July 2007, with joint funding from the Philippine Government and USAID;
- d) Aside from the CITES Scientific Authorities, this Bureau taps the assistance of various scientists/experts in the review of applications covering wildlife use, including trade as well as in policy formulation and resolving wildlife-related issues. The involvement of local scientists/experts is formalized through their official membership in the National Wildlife Management Committee created by the DENR under Special Order No. 2006-967 dated 16 November 2006.
- e) The Philippines through this Office, made collaborative partnership with both local and international institutions/NGOs (e.g. Field Museum of Natural History, United States; Conservation International Philippines; HARIBON Foundation; Katala Foundation; etc.) for research/studies on Philippine wildlife species; and
- f) Certain NGOs provide advice and recommendations to the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities regarding applications for the collection or use of wildlife for trade, bioprospecting, conservation breeding or propagation of threatened species, scientific research, special use or other purposes.

41. United Arab Emirates

- a) A training the trainers workshop was held in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates in April 2007 for training appropriate staff from a variety of organizations to use the CITES Canada species guides which have been translated into Arabic.
- b) Various lectures on CITES have been given to local schools and universities within the United Arab Emirates.
- c) Various CITES publications and brochures have been prepared which are routinely distributed at appropriate venues such as exhibitions, meetings and to specific target audiences.
- d) The CITES office regularly cooperates with local organizations and has worked with the Emirates Wildlife Society (EWS) on numerous occasions on a variety of projects.

National, regional or international CITES meetings or events

1. Kuwait:

- a) Participation in the Agarwood Expert meeting held in November 2006, Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia.
- b) Hosted a regional preparatory meeting for CITES CoP 14 for the Arabic Speaking countries with the cooperation of IFAW and UNEP-ROWA, 17-18 March 2007.
- c) Participated in CITES CoP14 from 3-15 June 2007 in The Hague, Netherlands.
- d) Organized regional meetings for all the Arabian speaking countries during CITES CoP14.
- e) Participated in the Workshop in Training of Trainers for CITES Management Authorities that held in Riyadh- Saudi Arabia, September 2007
- f) Attended The meeting of **Arab Team for The International Environmental Conventions of Biodiversity and Desertification** held in Cairo- Egypt November 2007, Kuwait (as coordinator of CITES Convention for the Arabian speaking countries) provide a report related to the outcomes of the CITES CoP14 including CoP14 Resolutions and Decisions.

CITES activities in the country

2. Iran:

- a) The Department of Environment has conducted a country wide annual census of CITES-listed species in order to record population changes.
- b) Proposed a project to the Department of Environment (DOE) to establish a sanctuary to protect CITES-listed species.
- c) Implemented stricter legal protection and regulation on hunting and trade in CITES species.

Proposed activities in the country

3. Iran:

- a) Strengthen and broaden collaboration with other executive bodies in the country
- b) Introduce 3 CITES Scientific authorities for plant and animal species.
- c) Extend collaboration with regional countries to implement CITES provisions to combat illegal trade in CITES species.
- d) Establish a research center for CITES-listed species to provide regional and international support.
- e) Support regional meetings related with CITES issues.

4. Kuwait:

- a) Planning a research project for the evaluation of the Status of *Falco cherrug*
- b) The Public Authority of Agriculture and Fish Resources (PAAF) has started since November 2006 a new registration system for all falcons used for falconry. The registration processes include the issuing of falcon passport (certificate of ownership).

- c) The Environment Public Authority has conducted a study regarding the review of the current national legislation to fulfill the requirement of the implementation of CITES Convention.

Country priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES

5. Iran:

- a) Establish CITES Executive Secretary in Iran with three specialists to conduct CITES executive activities.
- b) Develop a instruction manual for regulating issuance of import, export and re-export permits.
- c) Communicate the instruction manual to all sub-units of DOE in Iran to implement CITES provisions and legal encountering with infringers.
- d) Call for research proposals from research and scientific centers in the country to address CITES related issues.
- e) National conservation of Asian cheetah and international conservation of Siberian crane.
- f) Conduct research projects to address conservation of CITES appendix species.

Promotion of CITES in the country; capacity building activities

6. Iran

- a) Launch workshops and training courses to increase public awareness of CITES regulations and provisions.
- b) The DOE in Iran collaborates with different research centers and scientific institutions to conduct joint research projects to address conservation issues for CITES species.
- c) Incorporate advice and recommendations provided by NGOs to DOE on issues related to conservation of CITES-listed species.