

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee  
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

Regional matters

Regional reports

ASIA

1. This report has been prepared by a member of CITES Animals Committee, the regional representative for Asia<sup>2</sup>.

**2. General Information**

- a. AC membership: Regional representative on the AC for Asia are Mr. Shaker A.A.K. from Bahrain, Mr. Suharsono. S. from Indonesia, Mr. Nobuo Ishii from Japan (alternate member) and Mr. Choo-Hoo Giam from Singapore (alternate member).
- b. Parties in the region: 34
- c. Parties responding to communications until 17 April 2014 : 7 (Brunei Darusalam, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam).
- d. National, Regional or International CITES meetings or events in ASIA:
  - China organized Workshop on the Development of CITES e –Permitting system, on 9 – 11 May 2012, in Guangzhou, China.
  - India held Workshop on Evaluation of Tiger Recovery Programme, on 15 – 17 May 2012. India.
  - Singapore organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of ASEAN-WEN on 29-30 May 2013 in Concorde Hotel, Singapore.
  - China organized The Technical Consultation Meeting on Wildlife Enforcement and CITES between China and ASEA-WEN, 18 – 19 June 2012, Nanning, China.
  - Cambodia organized the 9<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ASEAN Expert Group on CITES, 6 – 8 November 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

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<sup>1</sup> *This document has not been translated and is provided in the language in which it was submitted / Ce document n'a pas été traduit et est fourni dans la langue dans laquelle il a été soumis / Este documento no ha sido traducido y se presenta en el idioma en que fue recibido.*

<sup>2</sup> *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.*

- Vietnam organized meeting of MIKE-CITES Executive Board, in Hanoi, Vietnam, December 2012.
- Thailand organized ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Consultation on Common/Coordinated Position of the commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) at CITES-CoP16, in 22 January 2013.
- The 63<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee Meeting, in 2-March 2013. Bangkok Thailand.
- The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Conference of the Parties in Bangkok, Thailand, 3 – 14 March 2013.
- The 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee, 14-March 2013. In Bangkok, Thailand.
- Thailand organized 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN), in 3 – 5 June 2013, Chiangmai, Thailand.
- Thailand and Lao PDR organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bilateral Meeting on Wildlife Law Enforcement Cooperation, in 25 – 26 July 2013, Vientiane, Lao.
- Thailand held Workshop South East Asia Regional of Wildlife Health Capacity Assessment and Networking Forum, on 13 -15 August 2013, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Malaysia organized ASEAN ToT Course on CITES Wildlife Trade and Identification, in 18 – 21 February 2014, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

### 3. CITES activities in the region, in respect to:

#### a. Review of Significant Trade

##### Indonesia.

#### 1. Review of Significant Trade

In 2013, Indonesia has conducted the monitoring of species which is in the review of significant trade in South Sulawesi and West Kalimantan for *Python reticulatus* and North Sumatera for *Amyda cartilaginea*.

2. In accordance with CITES Decision 16.125 and 16.126. CITES Scientific Authority and Management Authority of Indonesia conducted monitoring on *Chelodina mccordi* population in Roti Island, Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia.

##### Vietnam.

1. Response and recommendations to CITES and EU Suspension 2012 on *Cuora amboinensis*, *Cuora galbinifrons*, *Christensonia vietnamica*, Cycadaceae, Stangeriaceae and Zamiaceae, and *Gyps tenuirostris*, *Mamouria impressa*, *Dendrobium bellatulum*, *D. wardianum* and *Phalaenopsis parishii* (no longer), *Hippocampus kuda*, *Hippopus hippopus*, *Tridacna crocea*, *T. derasa*, *T. gigas*, *T. maxima* and *T. squamosa*.
2. Workshop on Building Viet Nam's Capacity to undertake Non Detrimental Findings for Seahorses, May 29-31, 2013 (with support of Seahorse Project, British Columbia University, Canada).

#### b. Review of the Appendices

##### Vietnam.

At The 16th CITES Conference of Parties (CoP16), Viet Nam was the proponent for transferring *Platysternon megacephalum* from Appendix II to Appendix I and the co-proponent for listing other turtles and tortoises and the rosewood *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* to CITES Appendices

Singapore.

In September 2012, Singapore gazetted two Endangered Species (Import and Export) (Amendment of Schedule) Notifications 2012 to reflect the inclusion of a Salamander species, the Porbeagle and Scalloped Hammerhead Shark on CITES Appendix III.

Singapore gazetted the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2013 to align with the amendments of listing/de-listing of several wildlife species including sharks, turtles, timber, etc. adopted at the COP16. The amendments came into operation on 12 June 2013.

3.

**4. CITES Project**

Thailand.

Department of Fisheries in cooperation with CITES Secretariat, British Columbia University and Kasetsart University has conducted research and survey regarding the population size of *Hippocampus kelloggi*, *H. spinosissimus* and *H. kuda* (phase III). The final report of this project will be providing to CITES Secretariat in the end of March 2014.

Vietnam.

With support of the International Elephant Conservation Fund, conducting research for development of an overview of the current state of the world ivory trade and experiences from other countries in management of confiscated ivory, 2012.

- a. Registration of operations breeding Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes

Indonesia.

One private company namely PT. Arwana Citra Ikan Hias Indonesia had been registered in the CITES Secretariat as capture breeder of *Scleropagus formosus* species for commercial purpose in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15).

Thailand.

There are 24 crocodile farms, 2 giant catfish farms and 1 arowana fish farm in Thailand have been registered as operation that breed appendix 1 animals species for commercial purposes.

Vietnam.

Phuong Tin and Vuon Xoai Crocodile Farms were registered to CITES in 2013. As a result, there currently are 9 CITES-registered farms for breeding *Crocodylus siamensis* in Viet Nam.

Singapore.

From May 2012 to September 2013, Singapore successfully registered four operations with the CITES for commercial breeding of Asian arowanas (A-SG-535, A-SG-536, A-SG-537 and A-SG-538).

- b. Others:

Indonesia:

- i) Annual Report

Indonesia CITES MA has submitted Annual report on December 2012 and 2013

- ii) Annual meeting on quota setting between SA, MA, NGO, Universities and other stakeholders as an implementation of CITES.

iii) Indonesia has published several books as follows:

Guidance for Amphibi Identification of West Java

Pocket Book for Identification of Species on Trade: Reptile, Humphead wrasse, *Tridacna* spp, *Hippocampus* spp (Seahorse), and Coral.

#### Japan

Japan : The Ministry of Foreign Affair, The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment jointly to conduct the Conference on Combating Wildlife Crime on the World Wildlife Day 2014, in Tokyo.

#### Thailand.

Thailand have been carrying out public awareness campaigns and active to promote understanding on sustainable wildlife uses, including setting public relation booth at Chatuchak open market, Bangkok. Raising awareness on wildlife conservation against illegal wildlife and ivory trade.

Carrying out a long term research on population of the monocle Cobra, *Naja kaouthai* in the central region of Thailand.

#### Vietnam.

Conducting ceremony event in response to the World Rhino Day, in Ha Noi – Viet Nam, 2012.

#### Singapore

From February 2012 and February 2014, AVA investigated 60 cases of illegal import, export, transit, possession and sale of CITES specimens, of which 8 cases were prosecuted in court, 30 cases were compounded between S\$100 and S\$3000, 21 cases were issued with advisory and warning letters, and 1 case pending investigations. Some significant cases are highlighted as follows:-

- (i) In March 2012, AVA investigated into a case involving the online sales of illegal wildlife. A total of 2 star tortoises and 2 leopard tortoises were seized from the seller and he was prosecuted in court and fined S\$4000 for the sales of illegally imported CITES-listed wildlife.
- (ii) In July 2012, AVA investigated a residence keeping wildlife. A total of 14 animals were seized, some of which included CITES-listed wildlife such as star tortoises and poison frogs. The owner was prosecuted in court and fined S\$8000 for keeping illegally imported wildlife.
- (iii) In January 2013, following a tip-off, Singapore Customs and AVA officers conducted a joint inspection on a sea freight container arriving from Africa and in transit via Singapore, for suspected elephant ivory. A total of 1099 pieces, or 1.8 tonnes of elephant ivory were uncovered from the consignment declared as waste paper.

Investigations revealed that there was no local consignee and the ivory was subsequently repatriated to Kenya in July 2013 for follow-up investigations.

- (iv) In March 2013, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority officers of Singapore at Changi Airport found two travellers attempting to smuggle a total of 60kg of hawksbill turtle scutes into Singapore in 2 suitcases. Investigations revealed that one of the travellers was the owner of the two suitcases of turtle scutes. She was arrested and jailed three months for the illegal import.
- (v) In May 2013, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority of Singapore officers at the sea port detected a vessel arriving into Singapore with 2 bags containing 31 pieces of live seahorses, 22 pieces of giant clams and 78 pieces of live hard corals. The shipment was not accompanied by CITES permits. An Indonesian seaman was arrested and jailed 4 months for the illegal import.
- (vi) In June 2013, following a tip-off, AVA officers investigated a residence keeping illegal wildlife. A total of 32 animals were seized from the animals, including a Sunda slow loris, a marmoset, and

several other reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. The owner was prosecuted in court and fined S\$41,000 for having illegally imported wildlife in his possession.

- (vii) In January 2014, aviation screening officers referred two cases of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory smuggling to AVA. Investigations revealed that the travellers were in transit via Singapore en route to Vietnam. One of them had 8 pieces of rhinoceros horns in his luggage, while two other travellers were found smuggling 14 pieces of elephant ivory tusks, 16 pieces of ivory bangles and 109 pieces of ivory cubes. All 3 travellers were arrested and jailed between 15 and 16 months for attempting to smuggle the rhinoceros horns and elephant ivory products in transit.

Singapore submitted its CITES annual report for 2012 to the CITES Secretariat on 20 September 2013. The timely submission of a CITES annual report is an obligation of a Party to the Convention. The report recorded the type of permits and certificates granted, quantities, species and types of animal and plant specimens traded for that year.

The 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, Mar 2013 (Bangkok) adopted decisions to strengthen trade controls for snake skins that enter international trade.

Mr Don Ashley from Ashley Associates was a consultant commissioned by the CITES Secretariat to lead a study on the sourcing, marking and traceability of snake skins. Mr Ashley was on a tour to SE Asia for the study and visited AVA on 6 May 2013 for a discussion on the python skin trade. AVA shared about CITES implementation and enforcement in Singapore, including our stock tracking system and significant enforcement cases that involved seizure of python skins. It was noted that the traceability of snake skins entering trade could be improved with a proper tagging system, similar to the Universal Tagging System for crocodylian skins. Following the meeting with AVA, Mr Ashley also visited local reptile skin traders to have a better understanding of the snake skin trade.

On 25 July 2013, AVA had a meeting with the Kenyan officials and Mr Jamie Hughs of FREELAND Foundation to discuss the challenges of controlled deliveries for wildlife operations. The meeting acknowledged the need for more hands-on training related to controlled deliveries, the importance of timely intervention by enforcement authorities to conduct this activity, as well as sharing of intelligence information in a secured communications system.

## **1. Country priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES**

### Vietnam.

Country priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES (e. g. priority species and taxa; research projects being carried out, new developments in identification methods, research needs; population management priorities; emerging issues; species listing needs).

- List of common fauna species was developed and approved with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Circular No. 47/2012/TT-BNNPTNT dated on 25 September 2012 on Regulating Management of the Exploitation from the Nature and Breeding of Common Forest Fauna Species. Meanwhile, list of wild fauna and flora specified in the CITES Appendices was legitimized with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Circular 40/2013/TT-BNNPTNT dated on 05 September 2013.
- Conducting two special trainings in Jul and Aug 2013 for enforcement officers on identifying skills for detecting rhino horns and elephant ivory.
- In cooperation with the TRACE Project, conducting a DNA meeting in Oct 2013 to bring together enforcement officers and scientists with an involvement or interest in wildlife crime investigation in Viet Nam.
- Supporting Mr. Don Ashley (UNCTAD and CITES consultant) to study and make recommendations to traceability systems of python skins and Mr. Daniel Natusch (Boas and Pythons Specialists Group – IUCN) to study and conduct a report on python breeding in Viet Nam which will be released at the meeting of Animal Committee in Apr 2014 and presented at a workshop held in Viet Nam in May 2014.

## Singapore.

On 18 June 2013, AVA obtained reference tissue samples of the Oceanic whitetipshark, Scalloped hammerhead shark, Great hammerhead shark, Smooth hammerhead shark and Porbeagle from Dr Demian Chapman from School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, NY. As the CITES listing for the 5 species will come into effect in September 2014, there would be a need to correctly identify the species for enforcement cases or imported shipments. AVA's laboratory would be exploring combined techniques such as species-specific PCR as well as DNA barcoding.

## **2. Promotion of CITES in the region (of less importance):**

### **a) Capacity building activities**

#### a.1. Brunei Darussalam

In order to increase the capacity and capability of human resources Brunei conducted the workshop on Taxonomy and Identification of Shark and Rays, this workshop was organized by the Fisheries Department, The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

#### a.2 Indonesia.

In order to enhance the capacity and knowledge of the field officer on CITES to implement better control of trade in wild fauna and flora, the training has been undertaken regularly as follows:

- a. CITES Implementation Training in Lampung Province, and West Sumatera Province.
- b. Protected and CITES Appendices Plants and Animals Identification Training in West Java Province.

#### a.3. Thailand.

- Wildlife scientists from Thailand attended the forensic training course which was held during July 2013 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife forensic Laboratory (NFWFL) in Ashland, OR, USA.

#### a.4. Vietnam.

- Annually conducting trainings on CITES implementation and identification of species commonly found in trade, including application of forensics techniques.
- Inter-agency workshop on strengthening control of cross-border trade of specimens of wild fauna and flora in Ha Tinh province.
- Cooperation with UNODC to conduct a training for enforcement officers on control of wildlife trade in Nov 2012.
- Appointing 2 forest rangers of Protected Areas to attend a training course on wildlife management conducted in Dehradun – India, 2012.
- Cooperation with FHI360/PREVENT to hold consultation workshops on “Strengthening Wildlife Farm Biosecurity and Supporting the Development of Good Production Practices” in 2012 and 2013.

### **b) The scientific community in the country**

#### Vietnam.

Four Institutes are designated as Scientific Authorities since 2006, including: Institute of Ecology and Biological Resource (IEBR); Forestry Sciences Institute of Vietnam (FSIV); Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF); Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES). Under on-going activities to amend the Government's Decree 82/2006/ND-CP, there is a proposal to add the

Institute of Tropical Biology (ITB, located in Ho Chi Minh City) into the list of Viet Nam CITES Scientific Authorities.

These above Scientific Authorities have strongly assisted enforcement agencies such as customs and environmental police in identifying specimens of CITES-listed species, especially rhino horns, elephant ivory, aquatic species and *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* logs.

#### Singapore.

In May 2013, AVA sent a circular to remind shipping and logistics companies, declaring agents and freight forwarders to be careful when accepting jobs for on transit shipments which may contain illegal wildlife and report any suspicious wildlife shipments to AVA for investigations. This formed part of AVA's public outreach programme to educate the relevant industry about CITES.

In April 2013, AVA sent a circular to all processed food and Traditional Chinese

Medicines (TCM) traders to advise on proper labelling of cooling drinks which were found to be mislabelled as Saiga antelope horn drinks in TCM retail shops. It is an offence under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act to trade any finished product purported to contain CITES species if it is not accompanied by proper CITES permits.

### **c) Cooperation with stakeholders, NGOs and Private Sector**

#### Indonesia.

CITES MA Indonesia in collaboration with IUCN Red List Unit and local university has conducted the IUCN Red List Assessment Training and Workshop Indonesian Species Survival Commission Group Initiative (in Cooperation with IUCN Red List Unit). These events aim to strengthen the capacity of national expert in supporting the scientific basis in species assessment. These events also encourage others Indonesian expert to involve as a member of IUCN Species Survival Commission.

#### Thailand.

- Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs
- Department of Fisheries held the training on guideline for registration of operation breeding Appendix-1 animals species for commercial to aquaculture farmers, 11-12 March 2014, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Carrying out a joint research project between Department of the National Parks and Plant Conservation (DNP) and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia to monitoring species of elephant ivory is introduced to make products sold in the market in Thailand using wildlife forensic laboratory of DNP (during January-June 2014).
- Department of the National Parks and Plant Conservation support elephant ivory specimens to Mahidol University for method development and technical applications on inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) to distinguish and identify the source of elephant ivory.

#### Vietnam.

Viet Nam CITES MA has closely cooperated with natural conservation NGOs in Vietnam such as:

- With Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to conduct a workshop on online trade in wildlife, focusing on rhino horns and elephant ivory in Ha Noi, two joint-agency briefings on wildlife crimes in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City in Apr 2013, and a workshop on "Handling of Illegal Import of Endangered, Rare and Precious Specimens: Legal, Reality and Solutions" in Ha Noi in Jul 2013.
- With the Humane Society International to hold a special training workshop on rhino demand reduction for the key communicators of Ha Noi Women Association and several talks with students from four Universities in Ha Noi in Oct 2013 to raise their awareness and get them involved in raising awareness of their parents and relatives in rhino horn demand reduction programme.

### 3. Widened and deepened International Cooperation

An MoU between Viet Nam and South Africa on “Conservation in Biodiversity Conservation and Protection” was signed on 10 Dec 2012. Subsequently, a detailed Action Plan for implementation of this MoU was signed during a working visit to South Africa by a Vietnamese high-level delegation from 5 to 11 May 2013, with support of German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ).

An MoU between Viet Nam and Indonesia on Strengthening enforcement cooperation for wildlife protection was signed in 2012 and annually evaluated via dialogues between the two countries, especially on control in trade of wildlife and wood species.

Similarly, an MoU between Viet Nam and Laos on cooperation in forest protection, law enforcement and action against illegal trade and transportation of wildlife and logs for period of 2012-2017 was signed in Jul 2012.

Under the scientific support program of USA Embassy in Viet Nam, the Viet Nam CITES Management Authority has closely worked with and supported Dr. William Pepper Trail (from USFWS) during his commission in Viet Nam from 19 Jun to 09 Aug 2013 to strengthen cooperation between Viet Nam and the United States of America in the field of CITES implementation

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