

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



Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2017

Regional matters

Regional reports

ASIA

1. This document has been prepared by by Giyanto as a member of the CITES Animals Committee for Asia.\* This document reports only on activities undertaken in the Region since November 2015 to May 2017.

General Information

2. Animal Committee (AC) member: Giyanto (Indonesia), and alternate members: Asghar Mobaraki (Iran) and Nobuo Ishii (Japan).
3. Number of Parties in Asian Region: 38.
4. Some information of this report was based on the country report in ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement in Parapat, South Sumatera, Indonesia on 3-5 April 2017.
5. Parties contributed information to this report: Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippine, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Overview of Major Developments

6. **Review of Significant Trade**

a) *Indonesia*

Indonesia reported the Review of Significant Trade to Secretariat of CITES for 3 reptiles (*Ophiophagus hannah*, *Notochelys platynota*, *Malayemys subtrijuga*) and 2 butterflies (*Ornithoptera croesus*, *Ornithoptera rotschildi*) in March 2017.

b) *Lao People's Democratic Republic*

There were nil permits issued during the reporting period and consequently no information is available to report against.

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\* *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.*

c) *Philippines*

Review of Palawan pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) from Appendix II to Appendix I. The said proposal has been considered during the CITES CoP17.

7. **Periodic Review**

– *Lao People's Democratic Republic*

There has been no periodic reviews undertaken and consequently no information is available to report against.

8. **Non-detriment findings**

– *Indonesia*

Indonesia reported NDF to Secretariat of CITES for Napoleon wrasse in December 2016.

9. **Capacity-building**

a) *Indonesia*

- Training Workshop on the Review of Significant Trade Species Appendix II CITES in Bandung, Indonesia, 26-28 November 2015.
- Training Workshop on CITES Implementation in Makasar, Indonesia, 17 November 2015.
- Socialization of the Wildlife Identification in Bogor, Indonesia, 30-31 Mei 2016.
- Consultation on captive breeding and artificial propagation activities in North Sumatra in 2016.
- Training for total 55 civil investigators from Environment and Forestry Law Enforcement Bureau on environmental and forestry crimes, including wildlife crime, in Jakarta, February 2017 and in Sulawesi, May 2017.
- National Consolidation meeting of implementation on CITES resolution and decision on conservation and trade of Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*), Medan, North Sumatra, 16 May 2017.
- Socialization on CITES Permit and Training Workshop on Wildlife Utilization in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, 8-10 May 2017.
- Indonesian Training Workshop Non Detriment Findings (NDF) for CITES Appendix II Shark and Rays, Serang-Banten, Indonesia 29-30 March 2017.

b) *Lao People's Democratic Republic*

- Under the Chairmanship of the Director General of the DoFI, Lao-WEN Terms of References and Operating Procedures have been reviewed. Lao-WEN member met for 3 days in October 2016 where further improvements were identified. A Lao-WEN steering sub-committee has been established to finalise these arrangements. Following endorsement, these procedures will be implemented.
- A total of 26 training activities related to law enforcement was attended by 878 staff, consisting of 169 females. In addition, DoFI, as the law enforcement agency for CITES, has engaged the Chief Public Prosecutor to review current Operating Procedures and to gain a greater awareness of GoL responsibilities under international agreements, including CITES.
- DoFI is working with the Office of Public Prosecution and Lao-WEN members to improve prosecution outcomes associated with wildlife crime. As part of this initiative, a five-day workshop, funded by DoFI and chaired by the Office of Public Prosecution, was held that focused on advanced enforcement procedures for prosecution has been held in regional Province's. Following this

workshop, Operating Procedures have been revised and are now being finalised. This will strengthen enforcement actions.

- In addition, under the GOL Environment Protection Fund, Environment Police (DCNEC) and Customs had projects approved in 2016 to increase CITES and wildlife enforcement capacity within and across Lao-WEN framework. These agencies will work closely with DoFI in the implementation of their projects to ensure national wildlife objectives are delivered in a coordinated manner. This is building and expanding the work under the LENS2 DoFI project.

c) *Malaysia*

- Department of Fisheries (DoF): Identification course for Sharks and Manta Ray Species.
- Department of Fisheries (DoF) & Sabah Fisheries Dept (DoFS): Coral Propagation Training Course for MA Sabah and Sarawak
- Department of Wildlife & National Parks (DWNP):
  - Introduction to CITES Policy and Species Identification of Wildlife in Trade
  - Guideline on Wildlife Trade Workshop
  - Wildlife Trade Awareness
- Sarawak Forestry Dept (FDS) : Capacity Building on CITES Policy and Enforcement

d) *Myanmar*

Forest Department and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) Myanmar organized a capacity building training course on CITES implementation and combating wildlife crimes in Myanmar on August 4 to 5, 2015.

e) *Philippines*

- Conferment of Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) honoured last 03 March 2017, seventy-nine (79) individuals for their contribution to government efforts to end wildlife trafficking, marking the local celebration of the World Wildlife Day (WWD) this year. Now in its fourth year, the Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards recognized law enforcement personnel and private individuals who were instrumental in the arrest and filing of cases against wildlife crime offenders, and the rescue of various wildlife species, most of them are threatened with extinction. The 2017 awardees included 34 personnel from the National Bureau of Investigation, 18 from the Philippine Coast Guard, nine from the Bureau of Customs, six from the Pasay City Government, five from the Department of Justice, and two from the parcel delivery company, FedEx.

Also recognized were five individuals from non-government organizations who provided technical support such as photo-documentation, species identification, and monitoring and surveillance in aide of enforcement.

- 2nd National Wildlife Quiz Bee

As part also of the 2017 World Wildlife Day celebration, with the global theme "Listen to the young voices", the DENR, through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), hosted the 2nd National Wildlife Quiz Bee, a knowledge-based competition and learning event which aimed to: encourage the target students to give attention to current developments in wildlife, both nationally and internationally; raise awareness and appreciation of the richness, importance, status and conservation of the Philippine wildlife among the students, their advisers and the public in general; and, encourage the youth to be active in pursuing their role as environment and wildlife conservation stewards. Thirty(30) Grade 9 students from public schools in Central Luzon, CALABARZON, and the National Capital Region participated in the contest. Twenty-nine (29) Grade 9 students from public schools within the National Capital Region, Region IV-A (CALABARZON)

and Region 3 participated in the Quiz Bee. Tokens and monetary incentives were given to the participants, their teacher-coaches and their schools, through the sponsorship of USAID, US Department of the Interior - International Technical Assistance Program (USDOI-ITAP), and DENR-BMB.

– Youth Forum on Crocodile Conservation

The forum was held in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan Province. The event aimed at educating the youth on the ecological importance of crocodiles and the threats to their existence, such as habitat conversion and human persecution. It was organized by the DENR Provincial Office in Palawan and the Crocodylus Porosus Philippines, Inc., an active partner of the government in promoting the sustainable use of the Indo-Pacific crocodile or saltwater crocodile and conservation of the Philippine crocodile or Freshwater crocodile. At least fifty students and young enthusiasts attended the forum that culminated with the action planning activity for the protection and perpetuation of crocodilian species in the country.

– Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign

This campaign was initiated in 2010 in an attempt to broaden the knowledge of and gain more active support in curbing illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products from air and sea port authorities, airline and shipping companies, courier service providers and other entities operating within major air and sea ports.

As part of this campaign, five (5) orientation-seminars on national and international policies on ivory and wildlife trade were conducted within the report period, such as in Talisay City, Negros Occidental for the Bacolod Silay International Airport; Cagayan de Oro City for the Laguindingan International Airport; General Santos City for the General Santos International Airport and the Port of Glan, Saranggani; Zamboanga City for the Zamboanga City International Airport; and, Davao City for the Francisco Bangoy International Airport and the Sasa Wharf authorities/entities.

– First Wildlife Law Enforcement Summit

The DENR-BMB convened the first ever "Wildlife Law Enforcement Summit" last 22-23 November 2017 in Davao City. With the theme "Strengthening Partnership, Reducing Wildlife Crimes", the Summit gathered about 200 wildlife enforcement officers and partners from various agencies/organizations to: a) exchange /share experiences, lessons learned, and challenges on wildlife law enforcement; b) validate the current state of wildlife law enforcement in the country; c) be informed of recent developments, including projects/programs/initiatives on wildlife law enforcement at the international, regional, national and local levels; and, d) generate recommendations to address issues/challenges and to strengthen wildlife law enforcement in the country. The output of the Summit served as inputs to the draft Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan (WildLEAP), which was subjected to a national consultation workshop on 24 November 2016. The WildLEAP will serve as the national framework in combating illegal wildlife trade in the country from 2017-2028.

f) *Singapore*

- Regular CITES briefings to Immigration & Checkpoints and Customs officers;
- Sharing of information learnt (eg. Investigation techniques, species ID, detecting fraudulent permits, modus operandi) with other enforcement officers;
- Participation in Wildlife Trafficking Investigation Courses in Mar and Aug 2016, Thailand.

g) *Thailand*

- Conducting Trainings on "Elephant Ivory Trade Control" in 3 location (Bangkok, Ubon Ratchathan and Nakhon Sri Thammarat) in March 2017

h) *Viet Nam*

- Cooperation with CITES SA for training on CITES regulations and sampling in forensic technique and methodology how to identify species of number illegal wildlife trade (bird, freshwater turtles, snakes, rosewood etc.) for Customs, Forest Ranger, Environmental Police and Border Army.
- Organizing a workshop for awareness raising of transportation companies on CITES regulations and wildlife protection
- Appointing 2 officers (from CITES MA and Customs) to attend training course on “CITES regulations and identification of common species trade” in Malaysia.
- Cooperation with Columbia University for collecting samples of ivory and rhino horn for DNA analysis
- Species conservation and awareness campaign for young generations in Viet Nam
- Opening a new center for environmental education in Vinh Phuc Province

10. **Other**

a) *Indonesia*

To implementation of CITES, including conservation, legislation and law enforcement, Indonesia conduct some activities:

- Renewing Indonesia’s Conservation Act
- Updating the list of protected species
- Preparing a National Strategy to combat illegal wildlife trade

b) *Lao People’s Democratic Republic*

The Government of Lao (GoL) is strongly committed to becoming a Rule of Law State by 2020. Importantly, the GoL continues to strengthen its regulatory support for enforcing wildlife laws and policies. Recent regulatory instruments include:

- On 13 May 2016 the Prime Minister of Lao PDR issued an *Order on Enhancing Strictness on the Management and Inspection of Timber Exploitation, Timber Movement and Timber Business No. 15/PM, dated 13 May 2016.*
- On 9 June 2016, Instruction No. 0054/MAF, *The expansion and implementation of the Order of the Prime Minister No. 15*, was issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr. Lien Thikeyo.
  - Twenty four specific Articles were issued relating to forest and wildlife resources.
  - In regards to wildlife resources, Article 17 requires action to *strictly prevent hunting, transport, merchandise in local market, import-export and transit of aquatic and wild animals and their parts through Laos to the third countries. Commercial farming of aquatic and wild animals in the list I of CITES which is the list for merchandise prohibition is prohibited.*
- On 19 December 2016 Notice No: 1990/PMO.ED, issued by the Prime Minister’s Office
  - ...understand and raise awareness in participation against and to prevent all forms of illegal wildlife trading
  - ...protection of national conservation areas and national protection areas from all aspects of damage and encroachment.
  - ...reduce hunting and illegal wildlife trading as well as promote biodiversity trade.

- Study suitable measures to completely resolve the prohibited animal farming issue (tiger and bear farms) for trading proposes in the country, which does not comply with international conventions.
- Encourage the seeking of funds and technical assistance from overseas and international organizations to implement the Lao PDR's obligations against and prevention of international wildlife criminals ...

In addition, 25 regulatory instruments were issued by provincial authorities clarifying and strengthening PMO 15 directives.

c) *Myanmar*

Upon the approval of the Union Government, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation reformed National Wildlife Enforcement Task Force on 29 July 2016,

d) *Singapore*

In 2016, investigated 50 CITES enforcement cases (3 prosecuted in Court with jail term up to 6 months, 22 compounded between S\$100 - S\$5000, 16 issued with warning and advisories.

e) *Viet Nam*

- Signing MOU between Viet Nam Administration of Forestry and Viet Nam Border Army Commander on controlling trade in animal and plant at border areas.
- Cooperation with Forest Ranger, Environment Police, Customs, Border Army and Market Control to access the implementation of the Prime Minister's Directive No. 28/CT-TTg on urgent solutions for preventing and fighting the violation of wild animals against the law
- Submitting report on ivory stockpile regard to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev CoP17) – Trade in elephant specimens
- Submitting report on rhinoceros horn regard to Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev CoP17) – Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceros.
- Submitting the ETIS report on illegal seizures with weigh more than 500kg.
- Sending the DNA sample of confiscated ivory and rhino horn to the lab of Columbia University.

Activities of Regional Representatives

11. Parties in ASEAN member states were invited to inform any activities related to CITES to the Asia regional representatives when the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Of The ASEAN Working Group On Cites And Wildlife Enforcement (AWG CITES – WE) was conducted on 3 – 5 April 2017.
12. Parties in the region were contacted by the Asia regional representatives on 3 May 2017 to invite their contributions to this report.
13. Giyanto attended the 13th Meeting Of The ASEAN Working Group On Cites And Wildlife Enforcement (AWG CITES – WE) in Parapat, North Sumatera, Indonesia 3 – 5 April 2017.

Regional cooperation

14. *Indonesia*

- MoU between Indonesia CITES MA and Vietnam on Information sharing, Public awareness, Capacity building and Training, Enforcement cooperation.
- MoU between Indonesia CITES MA and The USA on Conserving wildlife and combating wildlife trafficking - Cooperate to strengthen capacity for wildlife conservation and management in Indonesia, and cooperate regionally and globally.

- MoU between Indonesia CITES MA and MA China on CITES Implementation-Facilitation on verification processes and transparencies, exchange of and communication on information of wildlife trade and conservation; strengthened the enforcement to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IU) trading including exchange of information on disposal and confiscated specimens.

#### 15. *Lao People's Democratic Republic*

DoFI has established MoU's between its Lao-WEN counterparts in Vietnam and Thailand, and the Peoples Republic of China's CITES Management Authority's. These are designed to strengthen law enforcement to address trade in protected species. Annual bilateral meetings are held with Thailand and Vietnam at the central and provincial level, and meetings were held with China and Myanmar with a view to strengthening cooperation activities. A MOU was signed between Lao PDR and the Republic of South Africa to strengthen action against illegal wildlife trade cooperation (September 2016).

While no statistical data is currently available, reports from Lao Provinces indicate that local, cross border trade in wildlife has significantly declined where bilateral agreements have been established.

#### 16. *Viet Nam*

- Workshop on wildlife crime combating for Vietnamese and Chinese enforcement officials at border areas
- Attending the RhoDis® Rhino DNA Scientific workshop in South Africa with the support from Kruger National Park and the University of Pretoria's Veterinary Genetics Lab.
- Workshop on improve cooperation in wildlife crime combating for Vietnamese, Chinese and Lao PDR enforcement officials (12 January 2017).
- Annual meeting between Viet Nam and Lao on reviewing progress of MOU in forest protection and wildlife trade control (30 August 2016)

#### Meetings and Workshops

#### 17. *Indonesia*

- The 11th Annual Meeting Of The ASEAN-WEN, and 12th AEG-CITES, 24-25 March 2016, Siam Reap, Cambodia
- The 66th Meeting of Standing Committee in Geneva, Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016
- The 67th Meeting of Standing Committee in Johannesburg, South Africa, 23 September 2016
- The 17th Conference of the Parties CITES in Johannesburg, South Africa, 24 September – 5 October 2016
- The 68th Meeting of Standing Committee in Johannesburg, South Africa, 4 October 2016
- Workshop on CITES and livelihoods, George, South Africa, 23-25 November 2016
- Wildlife Trafficking Investigators Course held at 27 February - 10 March 2017 at ILEA Training, Bangkok
- ESABII Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policy and Identification of Threatened Species, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 31 January – 3 February 2017
- The Fifth session of the Plenary of the intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES-5) in Bonn, Germany, 7-10 March 2017
- Consultation Workshop on the Regulation of Trade in CITES Specimen of Captive breeding ranches source, in United Kingdom, 29-30 March 2017
- Hosting the 13th Meeting Of The ASEAN Working Group On Cites And Wildlife Enforcement (AWG CITES – WE) in Parapat, North Sumatera, Indonesia 3 – 5 April 2017

- Hosting the Asian Elephant Range States Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, 18-20 April 2017
- CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force in Singapore Zoological Gardens, Singapore, 25 to 27 April 2017
- NDF Workshop for Snake, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 3-4 Mei 2017
- International Workshop on Helmeted Hornbill Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, Serawak, Malaysia, 19-20 May 2017

#### 18. *Lao People's Democratic Republic*

DoFI and PoFI staff attended 19 international workshops: 38 staff, with 6 being female, attended. Workshops and meetings included:

- CITES COP 17, South Africa
- INTERPOL Regional Wildlife Investigative Support Meeting, Bhutan
- Ivory Seizure follow up meeting (COBRA), Thailand
- UNODC Illegal trade wildlife, Thailand
- ASEAN enforcement wildlife network, Cambodia
- Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, Vietnam
- ASEAN WG on the CITES and Wildlife Enforcement, Indonesia

#### 19. *Philippines*

- The 17th Meeting of the CITES-Conference of the Parties (CITES-CoP17), September 24-October 5, 2016 at Sandton Convention Center, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Philippine Delegation to the CITES-CoP17 was composed of 13 members from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), DFA, non-government organization and the business sector. DENR Undersecretary Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr. served as the head of the PhilDel.

Among the outcomes of the CITES COP17 are: adoption of 39 new and amended resolutions and 351 new or amended decisions, including the requirement for CITES Parties to report on illegal trade in CITES-listed species by 31 October 2017 covering the data in 2016; and, listing of about 500 additional species including marine and tree species (300+ timber species) which brought them under CITES trade control.

- 13th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through BMB participated in the 13th Meeting of the ASEAN on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement last 3-5 April 2017 in Parapat, South Sumatera, Indonesia.

It was the first time that CITES and enforcement officers in the ASEAN met as a Working Group (AWG) under the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF). The AWG Meeting took off from the then regular (annual) meetings of ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) and ASEAN Experts' Group (AEG) on CITES. The ASEAN WEN and AEG were merged and became the AWG on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement, a decision made during the 18th ASOF.

As in the past years, the Meeting served as a venue for concerned authorities of (ASEAN Member States (AMS) to exchange information on current developments and discussing issues concerning wildlife law enforcement and CITES implementation in each AMS and in the region; promote better coordination and collaboration between and among law enforcement agencies and CITES authorities in the region; and, to sustain solidarity of AMS.



### 13. *Singapore*

- The 11th ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN WEN) & the 12th ASEAN-Experts Group (ASEANAEG) on CITES Meeting in Cambodia on 22-25 Mar 2016
- Commission A meeting of the ASEANAPOL Conference in Malaysia on 26-27 July 2016
- Interpol Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting (RIACM) on Reptiles in Singapore on 27 – 29 July 2016
- The 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP17) on 23 Sept – 6 Oct 2016
- Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in Vietnam on 16-18 Nov 2016
- Interpol Operation PAWS II: Regional Investigative Support Meeting in 28-30 Nov 2016
- The Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) Meeting in Thailand on 29 Nov – 2 Dec 2016
- Visited by Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority on 7-10 Feb 2017

### 14. *Viet Nam*

- To host and organize the third International Wildlife Trade Conference (IWTC) in Ha Noi (17-18 November 2016) with 40 delegates and a lot of NGOs.
- Attending the CoP17 in South Africa.