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

Thirtieth Meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-21 July 2018

Regional report

ASIA

1. This document has been prepared by Arvin C. Diesmos and Giyanto as alternate member and member, respectively, of the CITES Animals Committee for Asia. This document reports only on activities undertaken in the Region since June 2017 to May 2018.

General Information

2. Animal Committee (AC) members for Asia: Giyanto (Indonesia) and Ashgar Mobarak (Iran). Alternate members: Arvin C. Diesmos (Philippines) and Nobuo Ishii (Japan).

3. Number of Parties in Asian Region: 38.

4. Many information of this report was based on the country report in the 14th meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR on 20-22 March 2018.

5. Parties contributed information to this report: Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippine, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, and Iran.

Overview of Major Developments

a. Review of Significant Trade
   6. No significant issues to report.

b. Periodic Review
   7. No significant issues to report.

c. Non-detriment findings
   8. No significant issues to report.

d. Capacity-building
   9. Indonesia:
      ○ Marine Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) at Kepulauan Seibu, Jakarta
      ○ Visit study to USFWS Wildlife Forensic Lab by MoEF, AGO, Supreme Court, Eijkman, LIPI, UI and WCS.
      ○ Bioinformatics workshop at Eijkman for Indonesian forensic scientists.
Wildlife Forensic Capability Training.
CITES permit training workshop on wildlife utilization.

10. **Lao People’s Democratic Republic**
- Ivory Identification and Seizure training module has been developed.
- Training on ivory identification and seizure for Lao-WEN members.
- Ivory identification kits were provided by WCS to Lao-WEN members and POFIs.

11. **Malaysia**
- Prosecuting Environmental Crimes Course in Bangkok (Thailand) on 26 – 30 June 2017.
- Training on Transcontinental Controlled Delivery in Nairobi, Kenya by INTERPOL, 5-8 September 2017.
- Workshop on Prosecution Technique (Giving Statement As A Witness), on 14 –18 August 2017.
- Engagement with Stakeholder: Registration of Captive Breeding Operation for Appendix I Species on 30 August 2017.
- Course on Giant Clam Identification and Breeding in Semporna, Sabah on 19 September 2017.

12. **Myanmar**
- Phase II - Advisory programme for forestry police by UNODC in Nay Pyi Taw on 26-27 February 2018.

13. **Philippines**
The DENR, through BMB, in partnership with the USAID-Protect Wildlife implemented the seventh series of the Training of Trainers on the Application of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual of Operations. This was conducted on November 20-24, 2017 at the Palacio del Sur, Zamboanga City. Thirty-two (32) participants completed the training from Enforcement Division of DENR Region 9, PNP-Maritime Group, PNP-ARRM and DA-
NMIS. The trainees now form part of the wildlife conservation and law enforcement network in the country.

- Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign
  The “Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign” is a continuing effort aimed to raise public awareness and gain support of key agencies and entities in putting an end to illegal wildlife transport/trade. For 2017, efforts included the following:
  a) Conduct of a series of “Orientation-Seminars on National and International Policies on Ivory and Wildlife Trade” - These seminars were held for officers/personnel from both public and private entities operating in/manning five (5) sea and air ports, such as: Lipata Port, Surigao City (7 June 2017); Matnog, Sorsogon (24 August 2017); Liloan, Leyte (7 September 2017); Clark, Pampanga (15 September); and, Iloilo International Airport and Port of Iloilo, Iloilo City (19 September 2017). The seminars were participated by representatives from the Enforcement Division and Wildlife Monitoring Units of the DENR Regional/Field Office, Philippine Ports Authority, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Department of Agriculture - Quarantine Offices, vessel operators, cargo forwarders and courier service providers.
  b) Production of materials - Three types of materials were produced and distributed to various agencies/offices for their reference and use in public awareness campaigns. These materials are tarpaulins on threatened species (60 pieces); 1,300 copies of Republic Act 9147 (“Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act” of 2001; and, 1,000 copies of pocket-sized version of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual of Operations.
  c) The “Orientation-Seminar on National and International Policies on Ivory and Wildlife Trade” continues for 2018, adding two (2) locations focusing on seaports: Batangas Port (8 February 2018) and Calapan Port (20 February 2018).

- Wildlife Forensics and Criminal Investigation Training
  To further enhance the skills and knowledge on wildlife law enforcement, the DENR, through BMB, in partnership with the US-DOI and USAID-Protect Wildlife conducted a Wildlife Forensics and Criminal Investigation Training from 18-24 March 2018 at the Green Canyon Eco Art Resort, Clark, Pampanga. The training was participated in by 45 individuals from by various Philippine law enforcement agencies and DENR Regional Offices,

- Attendance to Conservation Managers’ Leadership Course, International Conservation Chiefs Academy (ICCA), Shepherdstown, West Virginia, U.S.A
  Dr. Esteven Toledo, enforcement staff of BMB attended the training “Conservation Managers’ Leadership Course” held from 10-23 March 2018 at the International Conservation Chiefs Academy (ICCA), Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA. The training was organized by the US Government through the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and designed to strengthen global law enforcement relationships to combat illegal wildlife trafficking, with emphasis on creating a shared undertaking of the illegal wildlife trafficking problem globally, and in strengthening individual and international relationships, including building adaptive leadership. The training catered primarily to officers in law enforcement agencies whose responsibilities include providing leadership and training in the enforcement of laws on endangered species, carrying out wildlife law enforcement, and related operations.

- The 3rd National Wildlife Quiz Bee
  As part also of the 2018 World Wildlife Day celebration, with the global theme “Big cats: predators under threat”, the DENR, through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), hosted the 3rd 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. The cash prizes for the winners and incentives for non-winning students were sponsored by USAID and USDOI. The DENR-BMB provided the tokens.

14. Singapore
Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species ( ROUTES) – Workshop on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, organised by Singapore Airlines and partly funded by USAID on 31 October 2017. The workshop focused on the significance of the illegal wildlife trade and various risks posed to the airlines industry.

IBM i2 Analyst’s Notebook Training on 13-17 November 2017, organized by Interpol Global Complex for Innovation, Singapore. The participants were introduced to the software programme that is able to analyse information in a database so as to identify links between several suspects to different cases.

Briefing on CITES reaching a total of 181 logistics companies (primarily shipper, freight forwarders) with a total of 261 attendees, organized by Singapore Customs Academy, on September 2017 to April 2018

Customs-Competent Authorities Joint Seminar, where CITES and related matters were briefed to a total of 175 attendees from 123 companies, organized by Civil Service Club @ Tessensohn On 21 May 2018.

15. Thailand

Training on “Elephant Ivory Trade Control” on 13 December 2017.

Trainings on “The increase of efficiency in import/export inspections, transit, aquatic wildlife products, and factors of production” for wildlife checkpoint officials October – November 2017 at Bangkok, Thailand.

16. Viet Nam

Training courses on the Penal Code for investigation and judicial officers working in the wildlife fields

e. Other

17. Cambodia

There were many law enforcement activities done during 2017: 45 cases compiled to the court, issued 70 letters to stop the sale of wildlife meat and specimens, confiscated by law enforcers 621 cases, 3067 heads donated by public, and confiscated 5,111 heads of live wildlife, 3030 dead wildlife and 1254 kgs of meat and specimens.

18. Indonesia

Significant seizure:

- August 2017: Balai Gakkum LHK and INP seized 2 babies orang utan (Pongo pygmaeus) from an online seller at Ketapang region, West Kalimantan province.

- September 2017: INP and Balai Gakkum LHK Jakarta seized 20000 deer antlers and 10000 turtles shells from a warehouse at Tangerang Region.

- October 2017: Indonesian Navy seized 3000 belangkas/ horseshoe crab (Tachypleus gigas) at Lhokseumawe Seaport, Aceh Province.

- January 2018: Balai Gakkum LHK Papua seized 200 protected species (offset) from a Foreign citizen at Sentani Airport, Jayapura Region.

- February 2018: Balai Gakkum KLHK Papua, Balai KSDA, INP, Quarantine and Airport Authority seized 1195 pig nose turtle (Carettochelys insculpta) at Mopah Airport, Merauke Region.
February 2018: Custom seized 2 boxes of reptiles at Ngura Rai Airport, Bali Province.

February 2018: Custom seized boxes of snakes skin at Soekarno Hatta Airport, Jakarta Province.

19. Philippines


- Implementation of the USAID-Protect Wildlife Project and ADB-GEF 6-funded Project “Combatting Organized Environmental Crime in the Philippines.”

The Protect Wildlife Project is part of the technical assistance program of the US Government to the Philippines. This five-year project aims to address the threats to biodiversity, including illegal wildlife trade concerns in target sites in the Philippines, and to demonstrate the integration of conservation and socioeconomic development. The Project envisions achieving these objectives through a holistic and strategic approach that combines capacity building and technical assistance, conservation financing and partnerships, science and technology, wildlife law enforcement and behavior change.

The three-year World Bank-GEF funded project, on the other hand, aims to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines through legal and institutional reforms, capacity building in the law enforcement chain, and demand reduction measures. Specific activities would include economic valuation studies for two priority species and production and dissemination of audience-segmented communications materials engaging Key Opinion Leaders and other influencers.

- Conferment of Fifth Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards
  The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) honored last 02 March 2018, 28 officers from the NB1 and PNP for their valuable contribution to the 2017 wildlife law enforcement operations. The awarding ceremony once again served as a venue for the DENR to call for stronger support and greater commitment from each of the awardees and their respective institutions/agencies to curb illegal wildlife trade. It was also a way to encourage support from a wider sector of the society and the Filipino citizenry in protecting wildlife.

20. Singapore

- Collaboration with international partners
  - To mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brazil and Singapore, the Singapore Jurong Bird Park (JBP) imported 2 Spix’s macaws and 4 Lear’s macaws (both endangered species native to Brazil) from conservation and breeding facilities in Germany and Qatar. The blue macaws were on a 10-year loan to support the breeding and conservation
of the species. The project aims to support the re-introduction of the rare macaws in Brazil.

- On 23-27 April 2018, Dr Sam Wasser and his team from the University of Washington visited Singapore and collaborated with AVA to collect ivory samples from a shipment of 1,787 pieces (weighing ~3,500 kg) of tusks seized in March 2018. DNA analysis will be carried out to determine the origin of the ivory and elephants population. US Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) was present to support in the DNA sampling process. The collaboration between the US and Singapore aims to support African countries to identify poaching hotspots and strengthen enforcement, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on Trade in Elephant Specimens.

- Significant enforcement case(s)
  The following highlights a few significant wildlife (including parts and derivatives) seizures made by Singapore:
  - On 2 August 2017, a Vietnamese man was fined $10,000 for smuggling ivory products (2 bird cage accessories and 2 bracelets) into Singapore for sale. The ivory products were forfeited. In accordance to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), the seizure was reported to ETIS, and details of the case were shared through the Ecomessage system.
  - On 26 February 2018, a Vietnamese man was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment for smuggling 8 cut pieces of rhino horns and 1 bag of horn shavings through Singapore. The man had flown from Dubai to Laos, in transit via Singapore, when the illegal rhino horns were detected in his luggage. The rhino horns were forfeited and samples were shared with the Forensic Science Laboratory of the South African Police Service for DNA analysis to trace the origin. Details of the case were shared through the Ecomessage system.
  - On 5 March 2018, Singapore authorities seized a container of groundnuts from Nigeria while en-route to Vietnam and uncovered 61 bags of elephant ivory tusks (1,787 pieces), weighing about 3,500kg. The illegal shipment was detected as a result of inter-agency risk assessment and collaboration. A local company had been assisting the authorities with the investigation. The details of the case were shared through the Ecomessage system. In accordance to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17), the seizure was reported to ETIS, and DNA sampling of the seized ivory was conducted. This was performed in collaboration with Professor Sam Wasser (University of Washington), with DNA analyses currently in progress.

- CITES annual report
  Singapore submitted its CITES annual report for 2016 to the CITES Secretariat on 2 October 2017. The timely submission of a CITES annual report is an obligation of a Party to the Convention. The report recorded the type of CITES permits and certificates granted, quantities, species, origin and types of specimens traded for that year.

21. Thailand
  - Significant seizure:
    - 11 Jan 2018: 148 kg of ivory (3 tusks, 31 pieces) from Nigeria seized in cargo of Suvarnabhumi Airport.
- 9 November 2017: 43 pieces of cut ivory (116 kg) and 15 kg of pangolin scales from Congo at Suvarnabhumi Airport.
- 30 August 2017: 136 lived pangolins and 450 kg of pangolin scales.
- 11 December 2017: 14 pieces of rhinoceros horns (11.16 kg) from South Africa at Suvarnabhumi Airport.

22. Viet Nam
   - Significant seizure:
     - 10 July 2017: 3,500 head of fresh water crocodile (juvenile) were seized in Tay Ninh province.
     - September 2017: 1.4 tons of ivory seized at Cat Lai Seaport in Ho Chi Minh City.
     - 18 September 2017: Over 1.4 tons of ivory was confiscated in Bac Lieu Province.
     - 19 October 2017: 32 heads of pangolin, 22 bear arms, 69 heads of Big-Headed Turtle and 1.4m3 timber were seized in Hoa Binh province.
     - 27 October 2017 in Binh Phuoc province: Confiscation of 12 heads Java pangolin, 16 heads of King Cobra 52 long-tailed macaca.
   - International cooperation:
     - 11 July 2017: Viet Nam and South Africa had a bilateral meeting on strengthening the implementation of the MoU and the Action Plan on cooperation to conserve biodiversity.
     - 1 August 2017, Viet Nam and Mozambique Governments signed the MoU on Cooperation in Wild Species Protection and Conservation, setting the foundation for cooperative conservation and monitoring wildlife trade activities.

23. Japan
   - For the fiscal years of 2015-2019, the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) provided financial support to the project of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) with the aims to: i) understand the current situation of resources, fisheries and utilization of catadromous eels in Southeast Asia; ii) improve data collection and statistics of catadromous eel catches in Southeast Asia, and; iii) enhance knowledge and capacity for the conservation, management and sustainable utilization of catadromous eel resources.
   - For the fiscal years of 2015-2019, FAJ provided financial support to the FAO’s project to improve knowledge of the impact and implication of CITES listings, including the development of operational tools for use in by-catch monitoring and assessment.

24. Iran
   - Proposal to list the Spider Tailed Viper in Appendix II.
- Seizure of illegally taken falcons and Hubara and illegally traded bird species especially parrots.

Activities of Regional Representatives


Regional cooperation

26. **Indonesia**
   - 1 August 2017: Indonesia and Viet Nam had a bilateral meeting on strengthening the prevention of illegal wildlife trade, enhance cooperation and high-ranking commitment.

27. **Singapore**
   - In January 2018, Australia and Singapore have collaborated through the exchange of information on 2 individuals suspected of smuggling live songbirds from Singapore to Australia. Investigation is still ongoing.
   - In May 2018, Vietnam and Singapore have collaborated through the exchange of information on the smuggling of Pangolin scales from Congo to Vietnam transited via Singapore. Investigation is still ongoing.

28. **Viet Nam**
   - 1 August 2017: Viet Nam and Indonesia had a bilateral meeting on strengthening the prevention of illegal wildlife trade, enhance cooperation and high-ranking commitment.

Meetings and Workshops

29. **Brunei Darussalam:**

30. **Cambodia:**

31. **Indonesia:**
CITES capacity development workshop on monitoring captive breeding and ranching facilities, and on conducting non-detriment finding (NDFs) for CITES-listed snakes, Bogor, Indonesia on 1-4 May 2018.

32. **Lao People’s Democratic Republic**
- Tri-lateral workshop between Malaysia, Lao PDR and Thailand on enforcement modus operandi in Putra Jaya, Malaysia on 5-7 March 2018.

33. **Malaysia**
- Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting on Rhinoceros Horn Trafficking by INTERPOL at Kruger National Park, Kruger (South Africa) on 26 – 27 June 2017.
- Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement Meeting For Customs Officers, 16-18 Oct 2017, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- The 7th International Hornbill Conference in Kuching, Sarawak (Malaysia) 16 – 18 May 2017.
- Expert Workshop on the Making of Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for Trade in CITES-listed Snakes 3-4 May 2017.
- Tri-lateral workshop between Malaysia, Lao PDR and Thailand on enforcement modus operandi in Putra Jaya, Malaysia on 5-7 March 2018.

34. **Myanmar**
- The Technical inter agency Workshop on CITES (Cooperation Forest department and EU) on 31 August 2017.
- Training-workshop on illegal wildlife trade and wildlife law enforcement, organised by Forest Department and WWF-Myanmar in Kyaing Tong and Tachileik on 24-25 August 2017.

35. **Philippines**
  This regional event took place last 11-15 September 2017 at the Miracle Grand Convention Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. Two representatives from the DENR, namely: Sr. Ecosystems Management Specialist Dr. Rogelio D. Demelletes, Jr. from BMB and Enforcement Division Chief Modesto Lagumbay from DENR-Region
XIII formed part of the Philippine delegation to the said event, along with NBI-Environmental Crime Division Chief, Atty. Czar Eric Nuqui and Mr. Niilo Estoya from the PCSDS. The Dialogue was organized by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) of the Kingdom of Thailand. It aimed to: a) update and report on current situation, and progress of enforcement efforts of ASEAN member-countries against trafficking of wild flora and fauna; b) strengthen collaboration and build strong partnership between member-countries; c) share best practices in combating trafficking of wild flora and fauna; and, d) elaborate and determine the detail of Plan of Action for Tire ASEAN Cooperation on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (2016-202Q) to support and promote implementation of the activities related to combating trafficking of wild fauna and flora.

o **International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade**

This Conference was held in New Delhi, India from October 2-6, 2017. It was attended by USEC Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr. and BMB enforcement staff, Dr. Esteven U. Toledo. The meeting hosted wildlife experts, leading practitioners across 19 GWP countries with the theme “Peoples’ participation in Wildlife Conservation”. The Conference provided a venue for knowledge exchange to combat illegal poaching of wildlife and improve governance on wildlife conservation. Participating nations included Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Botswana, Indonesia, Mali, Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique, Philippines, Republic of Congo, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

36. **Singapore**

o Transcontinental Controlled Deliveries Workshop in Nairobi (Kenya) on 5-7 September 2017.


o Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement Meeting for Customs Officers (WIRE-Customs) in Hanoi (Vietnam) on 16-18 October 2017.


37. **Thailand**


o Seminar on the registration of scientists and Science department of Thailand in accordance to the covenant of CITES on 7 July 2017.

o Tri-lateral workshop between Malaysia, Lao PDR and Thailand on enforcement modus operandi in Putra Jaya, Malaysia on 5-7 March 2018.

38. **Viet Nam**

o CITES Tortoise and Freshwater Turtles Task Force Meeting in Singapore