

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



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 13-17 July 2020

Regional matters

Regional reports

ASIA

1. This document has been prepared by Giyanto and Saeko Terada as member and alternate member, respectively, of the CITES Animals Committee for Asia.* This document reports on activities undertaken in the Region since the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 17 – 28 August 2019).

General information

- a) Animal Committee (AC) members for Asia: Giyanto (Indonesia) and Ashgar Mobaraki (Iran). Alternate members: Arvin C. Diesmos (Philippines) and Saeko Terada (Japan).
- b) Number of Parties in Asian Region: 38.
- c) Parties contributed information to this report: Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Overview of major developments

- a) Review of Significant Trade
 2. Viet Nam. During this period, Vietnam did not have any wildlife species recommended by the Animal Committee to conduct the Review of Significant Trade. The export of Vietnam's wild animal specimen comes from legally captive breeding farms according to the provisions of Resolution 12.10 Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes and 10.16 Specimens of animal species bred in captivity.
- b) Periodic Review of the Appendices
 3. Singapore. At the 18th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (17 – 28 August 2019, Geneva, Switzerland), Parties adopted amendments to the CITES Appendices. Following the COP18, Singapore has gazetted the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2019 to reflect the amendments adopted at COP18 such as inclusion of new species (eg. mako sharks, wedgefish, guitarfish) on CITES Appendices I and II, which came into effect on 26 November 2019.

* 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) Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes

4. Indonesia. In 2020, Indonesia has registered 2 (two) captive breeding operation of *Scleropages formosus* as follow:

No	Registration Number	Captive Breeder	Date of Establishment	Date of CITES Registration
1.	A-ID-554	PD Chris –Dusun Pinang Baru, Kalbar	March 17, 2015	January 27, 2020
2.	A-ID-555	CV. Altamira –Taman Kopo Indah, Margahayu- Kota Bandung Bandung West Java	September 19, 2017	April 21, 2020

5. Singapore. On 11 Feb 2020, Singapore has successfully registered Sentek Arowana dragon fish (*Scleropages formosus*) captive-breeding operations (A-SG-539) with the CITES Secretariat.

6. Thailand. The Department of Fisheries (DoF) as CITES Management Authority for aquatic fauna of Thailand submitted a proposal to register the operation that breed Appendix I animal species in captivity for commercial purpose for Mekong giant catfish (*Pangasionodon gigos*).

d) Non-detriment findings

7. Indonesia: After completing the Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for Silky Shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), Indonesia is currently developing a formulation of NDFs for other marine species included in Appendix 2 such as Hammerhead Sharks (*Sphyrna* spp.) which is now in the stage of improvement by updating information on the species production and capture fisheries condition. In addition, Indonesia is currently formulating the NDFs for Mako sharks (*Isurus* spp.) And Wedgefish (Family Rhinidae; *Rhynchobatus* spp. And *Rhina ancylostoma*). The formulation process is conducted through broad national consultations as well as data collection and gathering.
8. Viet Nam: During this period, Vietnam did not issue permit to export wild specimens that taken from the wild and in near future Viet Nam have no policy to allow exploit wild specimen so Vietnam did not conduct NDF assessments.

e) Capacity building

9. Indonesia

- National Workshops on NDFs in September 2019 held by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) in collaboration with The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).
- The capacity building programs are developed by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) and in collaboration with The Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture (CEFAS)-United Kingdom and Wildlife Conservation Society-Indonesia are as follows:
 - a) Sharks and rays identification training modules and curricula. It composes of 8 modules in sharks and rays identification which were applied in Technical Assistance in November 2019 and Training of Trainers in January 2020. The modules and curricula are nationally standard and already internalised into MMAF routine training program.
 - b) Training of trainers in sharks and rays identification. On January 2020, MMAF, CEFAS and WCS Indonesia trained 20 sharks and rays product inspectors from MMAF Marine and Coastal Resources Management Agencies as future trainers in shark and rays identification. The training is a part of Reducing Illegal Sharks and Rays Product Trade Project funded by the UK Government, under the International Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund.

10. Myanmar. Capacity Building Trainings were delivered to law enforcement agencies in border townships in Myanmar as follows:

- 1) 27-11-2019 to 29-11-2019 (Kale Township, Sagaing Division)
- 2) 15-1-2020 to 17-1-2020 (Hpa-an Township, Kayin State)
- 3) 8-1-2020 to 10-1-2020 (Dawei Township, Tanintharyi Division)
- 4) 19-2-2020 to 21-2-2020 (Hakha Township, Chin State)
- 5) 11-3-2020 to 13-3-2020 (Monywa Township, Sagaing Division)

During the trainings, the new law (the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law, 2018), CITES and its works, most commonly traded wildlife parts and the method of trade were shared to the participants. The participants also discussed and shared experiences regarding wildlife trade in Myanmar.

11. Singapore

Date	Event	Venue
26 November 2019	Briefing to South African Trade Mission on CITES trade requirements in Singapore	Carlton Hotel

12. Thailand. Thailand has sent the officials to attend some capacity buildings as follows:

- 1) Seminar on wildlife Protection and CITES Implementation for Developing Countries on 3-23 September 2019 in Beijing, P.R. China.
- 2) Seminar for Officials from Developing Countries in Charge of Import and Export Management and Protection of Endangered Species on 8-28 September 2019 in Beijing, P.R. China.
- 3) Counter Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC) Training Course on 16-21 September 2019 in Yaoude, Cameroon.
- 4) 40th Thailand Wildlife Seminar on 12-13 December 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 5) ESABII Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species on 24-29 February 2020 in Manila, Philippines.

13. Viet Nam. At least 10 training courses have been conducted by CITES Management Authority of Vietnam for Police, Ranger, Custom, Courts officers on law enforcement and identification of specimens of wild animals than common on trafficked.

f) Others

14. Japan

- For the fiscal years of 2015-2019, the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) had been provided financial support to the project of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). Under the project, field surveys were conducted to understand the current situation of stocks and fisheries of catadromous eels in Southeast Asia. A series of data of catadromous eel catches were collected in some member countries and several workshops were organized to discuss the strategic framework for establishing robust statistics. Other capacity building activities for better conservation and management of eels were also conducted. FAJ has decided to provide financial support to the subsequent project for the fiscal years of 2020-2024.
- For the fiscal years of 2015-2019, FAJ had been provided financial support to the FAO's project to improve knowledge of the impact and implication of CITES listings. In 2019, FAO published one report under the project, which collected information about impacts on shark fisheries in Sri Lanka and evaluated the effectiveness of governance measures after the entering into effect of

new CITES listings for seven shark and ray species at COP16 held in 2014. FAJ is going to continue financial support to the subsequent project for the fiscal years of 2020-2027.

15. Myanmar. The Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Rules, which is the major legal support for wildlife trade and implementation of CITES, was drafted and sent to the different Ministries in Myanmar for approval.

Updating the Protected Wildlife Species List in Myanmar is under progress.

Wildlife Crime Detection in Myanmar - 2019)

No	Division/ State	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Ma y	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	Kachin											1		1
2	Kayah		1			1						2		4
3	Shan	2		2	1	2			1	1				9
4	Kayin												1	1
5	Sagaing	1							1					2
6	Mandalay						1	1						2
7	Magywe			2										2
8	Yangon							1					1	2
9	Ayeyarwady				1		1	2			2			6
	Total	3	1	4	2	3	2	4	2	1	2	3	2	29

16. Singapore .Public Awareness activities:

- In November 2019, the CITES Management Authority of Singapore, National Parks Board (NParks), sent a circular to inform all stakeholders about the new and updated listings of wildlife and timber species on CITES which was adopted at the 18th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (17 – 28 August 2019, Geneva, Switzerland). The traders with existing pre-Convention specimens were required to declare to NParks. The circular served to create awareness of CITES and regulations to ensure the stakeholders comply with CITES regulations.
- To enhance public awareness about CITES sharks and compliance by the industry, advisory notices on landing/import/sale of CITES sharks and rays were distributed to the traders at the fishery ports. NParks also held briefings to the traders at the fishery ports in October 2019 and February 2020 on the regulations of CITES-listed species.

17. Viet Nam

- At CITES CoP18 Viet Nam successfully proposed 3 turtle uplist to CITES Appedix I, include Vietnamese pond turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*), Vietnamese box turtle (*Cuora picturata*), Bourret's box turtle (*Cuora bouretii*). In other hand, Viet Nam also co-component with China and EU successfully proposed a reptile genus of *Goniurosaurus* and two amphibian genus of *Paramesotriton* và *Tylotriton* into CITES Appendix II.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development in cooperation with Ministry of Education and training have completed development and testing of curriculum on wildlife protection for teaching at prime school and high school levels.
- CITES MA and CITES SA of Viet Nam have completed development guidelines for DNA testing of wildlife specimens confiscated from trade.

Activities of regional representatives

18. .Giyanto attended the 18th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Geneva (Switzerland), 17-28 August 2019.

Regional cooperation and priorities

19. Singapore

- *Handover of ivory and pangolin scale samples to China Customs.*
As part of Singapore and China mutual legal assistance, on 19 November 2019, Singapore handed over samples of ivory and pangolin scale seized by Singapore in April and July for China's further investigation and prosecution of Chinese nationals involved.

- *Repatriation of leopard cats to Malaysia.*
On 22 January 2020, Singapore Zoo with the assistance of an NGO, the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) and support of NParks, repatriated 2 Asian leopard cats to Malaysia. The animals were confiscated locally in July 2018 and believed to be illegally imported, as genetic testing showed that their lineage originated from Malaysia. The animals were handed over to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks in Malaysia (Perhilitan) and then taken to the National Wildlife Centre in Perak for rehabilitation before being released in the wild for conservation of the species.

- *Sending of rhino horn samples to South Africa*
In February 2020, NParks sent rhino horn shavings from a seizure in January 2020 to the Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa for DNA profiling to determine the origin of the rhino. This will assist enforcement authorities to focus their efforts on poaching hotspots.

- *Ivory sampling by Dr Sam Wasser from the University of Washington*
On 2-4 March 2020, Dr Samuel K Wasser and his team of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) colleagues from the US Embassy, Mr George Kwai and Mr John Brown III visited Singapore and collaborated with NParks to collect ivory samples from a shipment of 8.8 tons of tusks seized in July 2019. The ivory (1556 pieces) was sorted, paired and selected for sampling. A total 236 pieces of ivory samples were collected for DNA analysis to determine the origin of the ivory and elephant population. 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*.

20. Viet Nam. Vietnam proposed that the Asian region should build a gene bank database for some endangered species such as Asia big cat and share information between countries to control the cross border trafficking of endangered specimen in Asia.

Meetings and workshops

21. Indonesia

- Indonesia participate on the 71th Meeting of Standing Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, 16 August 2019

- Indonesia participate on the 72th Meeting of Standing Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, 28 August 2019

22. Myanmar

- Myanmar Wildlife Officers under Forest Department were attended to 1st Workshop on ASEAN Guidelines for Detecting and Preventing Wildlife Trafficking held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at 2019 May 7-8 and 2nd Workshop on ASEAN Guidelines for Detecting and Preventing Wildlife Trafficking held in Bangkok, Thailand at 2019 July 9-10.

- Trilateral Meetings for Myanmar, Thailand and Laos PDR on Trans-boundary cooperation in Combating Illegal Wildlife Trafficking were organized in Keng Tung & Tachileik Townships, Shan State, Myanmar by Myanmar Government at 2019 December 19/21.

23. Singapore

Date	Meeting	Venue
8-9 April 2020	Virtual consultative workshop on CITES electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) for Parties from the UNECE and	Online via Webex
26-28 November 2019	Debrief Session on Operation Thunderball and Demeter V	Shenzhen, China
18-22 November 2019	30th Wildlife Crime Working Group Meeting	Singapore
25-26 November 2019	Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting (RIACM) on Large-Scale Wildlife Smuggling in Containers	Singapore

24. Thailand. There are meeting and workshop held in Asia relevant to the work of AC as follows:

- 1) The 18th CITES Conference of Parties (CoP18), 71st Standing Committee (71st SC) and 72nd Standing Committee (72nd SC) on 15-27 August 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2) Workshop on Reviewing and Developing a Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on CITES and Wildlife Law Enforcement: 2019-2025 on 3-5 September 2019 in Chonburi, Thailand.
- 3) Workshop on the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation's Revision and Development of Action Plan for CITES and Wildlife Law Enforcement on 10-12 September 2019 in Tak, Thailand.
- 4) Regional Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation in Combatting Illegal Transnational Wildlife Trade between Thailand and Myanmar on 22-24 September 2019, in Kanchanaburi, Thailand.
- 5) The 6th ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference on 21-22 October 2019 in Pakse Lao PDR.
- 6) Global Wildlife Program (GWP) Annual Conference on 29 October-1 November 2019 in Pretoria, South Africa.
- 7) Wildlife Trafficking Investigation Program, Africa-Asia exchange Program on 4-15 November 2019 in Gaborone, Botswana.
- 8) Consultation Meeting on Enhancing Cooperation and Synergy Among Biodiversity- Related Conventions in Southeast Asia Through the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and ASEAN Preparatory Meeting for the 23rd Meeting of the Subsidiary body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on 13-15 November 2019 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- 9) 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (13th AMMTC) and Its Related Meeting on 25-29 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 10) Consultation Technical Meeting on Developing Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement on 15 January 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 11) Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting (RIACM) on Ivory Trafficking on 17-18 February 2020 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 12) Exercise Justice 4 silent Victim 7 -Prosecutions Workshop on 24 September- 1 October 2019 in Kedah, Malaysia.
- 13) Workshop on Financial Investigations in Wildlife and Forestry Crime on 11-12 March 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand.

25. Viet Nam. Participating in a bilateral meeting between CITES Management Authority of Vietnam and CITES Management Authority of China in December 2019, discussing bilateral cooperation, including panda breeding and conservation.

Others

26. Singapore.

- *Implementation of electronic signature for CITES permits and certificates*
On 1 October 2019, NParks implemented electronic signatures on the current security-enabled watermarked Singapore CITES export/re-export permits and certificates. This greatly increased efficiency as it allows traders to self-print their CITES permits and certificates via a compatible watermark printer. The physical CITES export/re-export permits and certificates are still required to accompany the shipments to the destination countries.
- *Submission of CITES Annual Report and CITES Annual Illegal Trade Report*
Singapore submitted its 2018 CITES annual report and CITES annual illegal trade Report to the CITES Secretariat on 31 October and 29 October 2019 respectively. The timely submission of the reports is an obligation of a Party to the Convention. The CITES annual report recorded the type of CITES permits and certificates granted, quantities, species, origin and types of specimens traded for that year. The CITES annual illegal trade report recorded the seizures of CITES specimens at the borders and domestically.
- *Receiving of UN Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards*
NParks together with Singapore Customs (SC), Immigration & Checkpoints Authority of Singapore (ICA) and the National Forestry and Grassland Authority of China, won the UN Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards to recognise the collaborative inter-agency and international efforts with China in combating illegal wildlife trade. In 2019, NParks worked closely with SC and ICA to seize 3 large shipments of pangolin scales and ivory, upon tip-offs from China Customs. The close collaboration between Singapore and China also led to the arrest of 14 suspects which is a huge step in disrupting the illegal wildlife trade criminal network in Asia.
- *Significant wildlife seizures*
 - a) On 8 April 2020, a South African man was sentenced to 17 months' jail for smuggling 11 pieces of white rhinoceros horns through Singapore Changi Airport. He was in transit via Singapore from Johannesburg to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 2 January 2020, when the illegal rhino horns were detected in his suitcases. The rhino horns were forfeited. Details of the case were shared through the Ecomessage system.
 - b) On 1 April 2020, a Singapore man was fined S\$6,600 for offences under section 4(1) Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Cap. 92A) by abetting another person to import six Anthony's Poison Dart Frogs (*Epipedobates anthonyi*) into Singapore without CITES permits. This species is listed in Appendix 2 of CITES.
 - c) On 25 March 2020, a Singapore student was fined S\$17,000 for importing 23 tarantulas via parcel post from the United Kingdom and possession of another 20 in his residence. These included the endangered Mexican red knee, Mexican red leg and Gooty sapphire ornamental tarantula. He also kept a hedgehog, 3 leopard gecko, 1 fat-tailed gecko and a jumping spider.
 - d) On 11 March 2020, a Singapore man was arrested in a sting operation, and fined S\$9,000 and jailed for trying to sell a False Gharial (CITES Appendix 1). He was charged under section 4(2) Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Cap. 92A) for offering to sell the crocodylian which has been illegally imported.
 - e) On 21 July 2019, NParks, SC and ICA inspected a 40-foot container that was on its way from the Democratic Republic of Congo to Vietnam. The container was declared to contain "coniferous sawn wood and chips". Upon inspection, 11.9 tonnes of pangolin scales, packed in 237 bags and worth about S\$48.6 million, and 8.8 tonnes of raw elephant ivory, packed in 137 bags and worth about S\$17.6 million, were uncovered.
 - f) On, 8 April 2019, SC and ICA inspected a 40-foot container that was on its way from Nigeria to Vietnam. The shipment was declared to contain "cassia seeds". Upon inspection, 12.7 tonnes of pangolin scales, packed in 474 bags and worth about S\$51.6 million were uncovered. The

pangolin scales that were seized came from two species and are equivalent to around 21,000 pangolins.

- g) On 3 April 2019, NParks and Singapore Customs (SC) inspected a 40-foot container at Pasir Panjang Export Inspection Station. The shipment was declared to contain “frozen beef”, and was on the way from Nigeria to Vietnam. Upon inspection, 12.9 tonnes of pangolin scales, packed in 230 bags and worth about S\$52.3 million, were uncovered. This was the largest single seizure of pangolin scales globally in recent years. The shipment also included 177kg of cut up and carved elephant ivory estimated to be worth about S\$120,000.
27. Viet Nam. In 2019, Vietnam continues to hand over 55 rhino horn samples from an illegal import case to South Africa, so far the analysis results have not been received. In the past, Vietnam has handed over DNA samples to South Africa at least 4 times, so it is recommended that the Animal Committee consider the effectiveness of the analysis of these samples.