

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 and 24-27 July 2017

Regional matters

Regional reports

ASIA

1. This document has been submitted by the regional representatives of Asia\*.
2. General Information
  - a) Representatives: Mr. Edwino S. Fernando (Philippines) and Mr. Byoung Yoon Lee (Republic of Korea)
  - b) Alternates: Ms. Joeni Setijo Rahajoe (Indonesia) and Ms. Shereefa Al-Salem (Kuwait)
  - c) Number of the Parties in the region: 34
  - d) Number of Parties who responded to the request for information: 8 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand)
3. This report covered activities on CITES implementation, especially plants conservation, taken by parties in Asia between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Plants committee.
4. Participation in CITES meeting/activities carried out(International & regional)
  - a) Asian parties participated in the 17th conference of the Parties CITES in Johannesburg, South Africa
  - b) Indonesia participated in the 11th meeting of the ASEAN-WEN, and 12th AEG-CITES, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 22-25 March 2016
  - c) Indonesia participated on a workshop on CITES and livelihoods, George, South Africa, 23-25 November 2016
  - d) Indonesia participates on ESABII Training of Trainers(ToT) on CITES Policy and Identification of Threatened Species, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 31 January–3 February
  - e) Thailand participated on International workshop on tree species in CITES, La Antigua, Guatemala 7-9 February 2016.

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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.*

## 5. Cooperation with Parties and others

### 5.1 Indonesia

MoUs between Indonesia CITES MA and other parties were signed for capacity building, wildlife conservation and management, and CITES implementation- facilitation on verification process and transparencies. The first, MoU between Indonesia CITES MA and Vietnam was signed on Information sharing, Public awareness, Capacity building and Training, Enforcement cooperation. The second, MoU between Indonesia CITES MA and The USA was signed on Conserving wildlife and combating wildlife trafficking - Cooperate to strengthen capacity for wildlife conservation and management in Indonesia, and cooperate regionally and globally. Lastly, 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 (UU) trading including exchange of information on disposal and confiscated specimens.

Implementing ITTO-CITES program phase II on 3 activities, namely: a) development of a Ramin Conservation Concept (*Gonystylus* spp) for Plantation Forest Concessions, b) Ensuring Genetic Diversity of Ramin Seed Sources and Ramin Population from Rooted Cuttings, c) Establishment of An Integrated Agarwood Cluster in Bintan Island, Indonesia.

### 5.2 Malaysia

Implementing ITTO-CITES program phase II on 5 activities, namely: a) In Vitro Propagation of *Gonystylus bancanus* (Ramin) in Sarawak, b) Use of DNA for Identification of *Gonystylus* species and Timber Geographical Origin in Sarawak, c) Reproductive and Genetic Studies Towards the Conservation and Management of *Aquilaria malaccensis* in Peninsular Malaysia, d) Development of an Information Database for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of *Gonystylus bancanus* (Ramin) and *Aquilaria malaccensis* (Karas) in Malaysia, e) Capacity Building of Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia's Staff in Identifying *Aquilaria* to Species Level and in the Grading of Agarwood.

### 5.3 Myanmar

Forest Department is cooperating with international and national organizations such as World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Myanmar Floriculturist Association to organize training, workshops, poster campaigns, meetings to strengthen illegal wildlife control, as well as to raise the capacity of staff in implementing CITES. European Union is planning to provide two short-term consultants for the support to the implementation of the CITES in Myanmar.

The Second Myanmar-India Wildlife Crime Control Nodal Points meeting was held at the Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 22-23 November 2016. The meeting was organized to coordinate in tackling transboundary wildlife crimes between the two countries and to share and exchange information of illegal wildlife trades. Forest Department and WCS are implementing two-year project of "Securing the Gateway: Reducing Wildlife Trafficking from Myanmar to China", from May 2016 to April 2018. The major focuses are "build understanding of the trafficking networks", "strengthen law enforcement", "enhance international cooperation" and "support awareness and information". Under this project, stakeholder consultation meetings and workshops were organized in 2016. Poster campaign on stopping selling wildlife meals and wildlife parts and transporting wildlife and parts were conducted across the country.

### 5.4 Pakistan

During the reporting period, Pakistan has been actively participating in the regional wildlife enforcement initiatives like; South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), which is a regional network of South Asian Countries for curbing illegal wildlife trade. Federal Cabinet formally approved SAWEN Statute in a meeting on 15 July 2016. Moreover to control illegal wildlife trade, CITES Management Authority of Pakistan has active interaction with CITES Secretariat and Parties for verification of CITES permits and related issues.

### 5.5 Singapore

Between 3 April to 12 May 2017, Singapore participated in the World Customs Organisation-led Operation Sessa II, targeted at the smuggling of CITES-listed wood, particularly Red Sanders Wood. During the period of Operation, WCO disseminated fortnightly newsletters, documenting seizures of Red Sanders Wood and agarwood made by other participating countries, and also shared pictures of concealment methods.

#### 5.6 Thailand

A repatriation ceremony was held for Siamese Rosewood to be transferred from Malaysia to Thailand, 25 April 2016.

### 6. Implementation of CITES, including conservation, legislation and law enforcement activities

#### 6.1 Indonesia

Indonesia Implemented registration mechanism on agarwood plantation through Director General Regulation, renewed Indonesia's Conservation Act, and updated the list of protected species. In order to combat illegal wildlife trade, Indonesia prepared a National Strategy, identified Gaharu Buaya (*Aetoxylon sympetalum*, Agarwood producing taxa) in Sampit, Kotawaringin Timur Regency, Central Kalimantan, and recommend quota on CITES export commodities. Indonesia hosted 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.

#### 6.2 Malaysia

Malaysia has enacted two regulations to protect forests within its boundary in 2015; Sabah Forest (Timber) Enactment and Sarawak Forests Ordinance.

#### 6.3 Myanmar

Following the CITES notification 057/2016 dated on 7-11-2016 to include *Dalbergia* species in Appendix II, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation issued notifications of the enforcement on trade of *Dalbergia* species in line with CITES regulation, as well as the ban on export of timber confiscated from illegal trafficking. In 2016, CITES Management Authority issued 11 CITES Export Permits and two CITES Import Permits. The majority of permits were concerned for scientific study and zoological exchange programs, while the only one CITES export permit was for commercial trade.

Upon the available resources and fund, Myanmar is doing the best to enforce the Laws related to wildlife, as well as to combat the illegal timber trafficking and wildlife trade. The major activities were extension activities, environmental education campaigns, patrolling and special operation etc. 49,033 ton of logs and lumber were confiscated together with several accessories used in illegal timber trafficking. The statistics showed that Bago Region is the highest with 3,349 cases, followed by Sagaing Region with 3,022 cases and Mon State with 1,486 cases. In 2016, Myanmar seizure 40 cases of illegal wildlife trade. The statistics of the illegal wildlife crimes indicated that most of the detections were from the areas near border or from the area leading to border, and it might be due to high demand on wildlife and their products in the neighboring countries.

#### 6.4 Pakistan

Pakistan has enacted an exclusive legislation for implementation of CITES titled the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012. Rules for the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012 are finalized and waiting notification. A draft National Plan of Action (NPOA) to control illegal wildlife trade has been developed in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan, provincial/territorial wildlife departments and Pakistan customs. On 24th August, 2016 a national consultative workshop was held to get recommendations of stakeholders on draft NPOA. The workshop was jointly organized by WWF-Pakistan and Ministry of Climate Change. The draft NPOA will be finalized soon and will serve as a policy document to control illegal wildlife trade in Pakistan.

#### 6.5 Republic of Korea

Regulations related to CITES were amended following the decisions of annex in January, 2017. Information of CITES-listed species in Korean were constructed and operated (<http://www.kbr.go.kr/bridge/frameView.do?menuKey=453>). Electronic permitting systems and information technologies are now in preparation for improving management of CITES trades by CITES MA of Korea.

## 6.6 Singapore

### Significant enforcement case

On 5 March 2016, AVA (Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority) and Singapore Customs intercepted a 20-footer container and revealed 581 pieces of illegal Red sandalwood logs concealed behind sanitary wares. The consignment was declared as 487 pieces of Kosso logs on the invoice/packing list and had arrived from India en route to Hong Kong via Singapore. The local consignee and freight forwarder were compounded S\$5,000 and S\$2,500 respectively under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act, for failure to exercise due diligence to ensure the consignments was legitimate.

On 16 March 2016, 31 cartons of agarwood, weighing 509.507kg, declared as “Mamul materials” were seized during a joint investigation by AVA and Singapore Customs. The consignment was meant to be exported to Qatar and was estimated to be worth about S\$500,000. An agarwood trader who was the consignor was compounded S\$2,500 by AVA for exporting agarwood without an AVA CITES export permit under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act, and the consignment was forfeited.

## 7. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

### 7.1 Indonesia

To raise public awareness, Indonesia conducted two training workshops on CITES Implementation at Makasar and on the Review Significant of Trade Species Appendix II CITES at Bandung in 17 November 2015 and 26-28 November 2015, respectively. Technical Assistance for Management Authority and the parties (Quarantine officer, Customs officer, etc) about CITES Appendices and capacity building of Scientific Authority on CITES Implementation especially for Negotiation, Diplomacy, and Lobbying, in 14-18 March 2016 and 28-29 November 2015, respectively. Socialization of the wildlife identification in Bogor and listing of *Dalbergia* spp. into Appendix II CITES were conducted in May 30-31, 2016 and February 2017. Public consultation also carried out regarding exposure by books in Bali, Indonesia.

### 7.2 Malaysia

To improve prosecution, enforce, control trades on CITES timber species, Malaysia held workshops for enforcement agencies, in 17-19 February, 18-19 May, and 6-7 September 2016. For customs officers, a training course on CITES policy and trade enforcement was opened in 1 December 2016. Learning courses to improve Sarawak CITES enhancement and to identify Orchid and *Nepenthes* species were prepared in 17-19 May, 22-25 August 2016, respectively.

### 7.3 Myanmar

To strengthen the capacity of staff in implementing the CITES, Myanmar is organizing trainings, as well as sending staff to the trainings conducted outside the country. In 2016, Myanmar participated in ESABII Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 15-18 March 2016 organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan.

### 7.4 Pakistan

World Wildlife day was celebrated across the country by involving all stakeholders to raise awareness about wild fauna and flora. During 2016 a series of capacity building workshops was arranged in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan under USAID funded project at Islamabad. Lahore and Karachi in which wildlife law enforcement agencies were trained to control illegal wildlife trafficking.

### 7.5 Qatar

CITES Management Authority of the country has participated in the celebration of Qatar National Environmental Day, held in April 2016. To raise public awareness information on CITES issues were displayed including printed materials and confiscated items.

#### 7.6 Republic of Korea

To support CITES scientific authorities making science-based non-detriment findings (NDFs) for species listed in CITES appendix, Korea translated Cop17 Inf. 45(CITES Non-detriment findings, guidance for perennial plants NDF). A workshop is planned to build capacity of staffs working with CITES-listed plant species in September, 2017.

#### 7.7 Singapore

##### Public outreach and awareness activities

On 15 September 2015, AVA delivered a presentation on Wildlife Enforcement in Singapore to DHL staff from Cargo and Express. The half-day training course was organised by TRAFFIC to raise awareness of illegal wildlife trade. The talk provided an overview of CITES, the role of AVA in the implementation and enforcement of CITES in Singapore, and also highlighted significant case studies on seizures of illegal wildlife. TRAFFIC presented on introduction to wildlife trade and smuggling techniques. DHL shared on their current practice of parcel delivery, screening, risk assessment/policy when accepting packages. They also have regular briefings for new staff (courier, customer service etc.) and requested for training materials on wildlife and their parts which TRAFFIC would be providing.

In November 2016, AVA sent a circular to inform traders about the inclusion of new wildlife and timber species (eg. African grey parrot, pangolins, fish, rosewood) on CITES which was adopted at COP17. The traders were also informed about the CITES permit requirements for import, export/re-export of the newly listed species and companies with existing pre-Convention specimens were required to declare to AVA. The circular served to create awareness of CITES and regulations to ensure the stakeholders comply with CITES regulations.

Following the inclusion of all remaining rosewood (*Dalbergia* species) under CITES at COP17, AVA developed a factsheet on the new CITES regulations and permit requirements to educate the public, particularly the importers and exporters of rosewood musical instruments such as guitars.

#### 7.8 Thailand

Thailand opened training programs focused on an electronic system how to issue it for CITES permit by plant quarantine officers and how to use it for applying for CITES permit by exporters in January, 2016. The methods to identify succulent plants were educated to plant quarantine officers.

## 8. Other CITES-related activities

### 8.1 Myanmar

#### Constraints in CITES implementation

Though Myanmar is doing the best in implementing CITES, there are several limitations and constraints for the full implementation. The major constraints are limited budget, insufficient staff, limited capacity, and limited coordination across sectors. The most severe one is lack of law enforcement in border areas with arm forces control. The demand on timber and wildlife is growing in the neighboring countries and consequently, timber, wildlife and their parts are traded by several illegal means and ways. Such illegal businesses are cartel in nature and have strongly backed finance and man power, and are using modern information distributing techniques. Another challenge for combating illegal wildlife crime and timber trafficking is the security problem, particularly in border area where law enforcement is very weak, and often the officers are killed in the line of duty.

### 8.2 Pakistan

#### Comments to be considered by the Plants Committee

In Pakistan CITES MA is facing problems in implementation of listing of *Dalbergia* sp. in CITES Appendix-II. *Dalbergia sisso* raised in plantations is widely used in various handicrafts such as musical instruments, decoration pieces, furniture and cutlery for export. It is noted that limited quantity of *Dalbergia* wood is used in these articles (except furniture) and the wood is extracted from plantations. For every consignment CITES MA has to issue CITES permits which are hectic processes as there are many consignments to be exported and hardship is being faced by small enterprize/cottage industries. Pakistan would propose that Plants Committee may discuss any exception to be granted for the commercial export of articles made of limited quantity (less than 1 Kg or so) of *Dalbergia* woods.

### 8.3 Republic of Korea

Research to identify CITES plant species was initiated using molecular markers such as DNA barcoding.

### 8.4 Singapore

#### Review of the Appendices

Singapore gazetted the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2016 to reflect the amendments of the CITES Appendices adopted at COP17 such as inclusion of new species (eg. African grey parrot and pangolins, fish, rosewood) on CITES Appendix I and II, which came into effect on 2 January 2017.