

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 20, 21 and 23-26 July 2018

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 (China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Viet Nam)
3. This report covered activities on CITES implementation, especially plants conservation, taken by parties in Asia between the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Plants committee.
4. Cooperation with Parties and others

4.1 China

During the reporting period, China attended the workshop CITES Legal Acquisition Findings in Brussels Belgium; and the workshop to discuss implementation of Madagascar's use plan ("Business Plan") for securing and disposing of stockpiles of rosewood and other precious woods in Antananarivo, Madagascar. China also attended CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Asia and The Second Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

4.2 Malaysia

Malaysia in collaboration with UNODC had conducted Rapid Assessment of Criminal Justice Response to Wildlife Crime in Malaysia from May – September 2017 whereby strengths and weakness of the various enforcement agencies were identified and recommended certain actions to enhance

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effectiveness in combating wildlife crime. Malaysia participated in the CITES Tree Species Programme, in cooperation with CITES Secretariat and European Union. A project to be implemented in Malaysia shall focus on conservation of a threatened agarwood species, *Aquilaria malaccensis* by reducing harvest pressure on natural populations. Malaysia and Wildlife Conservation Society hosted the Tri-Lateral Workshop between Malaysia, Lao PDR and Thailand on Enforcement Modus Operandi in 5-7 March 2018. The workshop was supported by the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs which promoted intelligence sharing mechanisms and conducted case reviews between the countries.

4.3 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 had active interaction with CITES Secretariat and Parties for verification of CITES permits and related issues.

4.4 Viet Nam

Viet Nam delegations attended the 4th Regional Dialogue on Combating Trafficking of Wild Fauna and Flora 12-14 September 2017 in Thailand. One of the topics of the Dialogue is to discuss the mechanism to strengthen the cooperation in the regional level to control the illegal trade on *Dalbergia* spp. specimens. The CITES MA of Viet Nam has a Bilateral meeting with Nigeria in March 2017 and CITES Secretariat representative to establish the mechanism on CITES permit confirmation related to timber issues.

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

5.1 China

From 1st June 2018, Chinese CITES MA has fully implemented electronic examination and approval of administration licensing, and the Customs can verify the electronic data of import and export of wildlife on the network.

5.2 Indonesia

Indonesia has enacted an implementation of registration mechanism on agarwood plantation through director general regulation. Indonesia is also renewing conservation act, updating the species list under protection, and preparing a national strategy to combat illegal trade on wildlife.

5.3 Malaysia

Malaysia has several laws and legislations for implementation of CITES and enforcement of wildlife trafficking. On 30th November 2017, the Malaysian Border Security Agency Act 2017 was gazetted to provide for the establishment of the Malaysian Border Security Agency, to secure the Malaysian land border against any smuggling activities. The Royal Malaysian Customs Department together with Malaysian Timber Industry Board conducted regular enforcement operations at the entry ports which resulted in cases, majority involving confiscation of *Pterocarpus santalinus* (red sanders).

5.4 Myanmar

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. CITES management Authority submitted CITES annual report-import and export, CITES implementation Report and CITES Annual Illegal Trade Report for 2017.

5.5 Pakistan

Pakistan has enacted an exclusive legislation for implementation of CITES titled the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012. Rules under the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012 have been finalized and shall soon be notified. A draft of 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. The NPOA will be approved shortly and will serve as a policy document to control illegal wildlife trade in Pakistan. During the reporting period, two meeting of CITES Management Authority of Pakistan were held in which policy level decisions were taken regarding implementation of CITES in Pakistan. Besides other decisions, a mechanism was approved regarding import/export of products of *Dalbergia* species, including registration fee and import/export fee structures.

5.6 Singapore

Significant enforcement case

In September 2017, Singapore seized a total of 64 containers consisting of 1,238.67 tonnes of African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) logs from Guinea-Bissau in transit via Singapore to Viet Nam. The rosewood was mis-declared as Burmese rosewood (*Pterocarpus macrocarpus*), non-CITES species and hence, was not accompanied by any CITES permits. Information pertaining to this case has been shared with Guinea-Bissau and Viet Nam authorities, through ecomessages, for their investigation.

Disposal of confiscated red sandal wood, African rosewood and agarwood

In March and April 2018, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority donated CITES wood specimens confiscated between 2013 - 2017 to the Singapore National Parks Board for the construction of park facilities. The Singapore National Parks Board is the government body managing public parks and conservation measures in Singapore. This is in compliance with Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species).

5.7 Republic of Korea

A domestic law was enacted for the implementation of the Conf. 16.8 (Rev. CoP17), Frequent cross-border non-commercial movements of musical instruments. In addition, the requirement was strengthened to exemption of the application of the CITES control under Article VII paragraph 6 of the agreement only for the loan and exchange of non-commercial specimens between scientists or scientific institutions registered by a Management Authority of their state. A legal framework was provided for the prohibition of permission on the specimens secured in a brutal manner or obtained in areas where the population size of the organism is unclear or is decreasing. Meanwhile, the research project was initiated to establish sites related to electronic permit and tracking. DNA bar code information of CITES species based on NCBI Genbank is being deployed at the National Institute of Biological Resources (NIBR), one of the CITES scientific institutions and will be released at the end of 2018.

5.8 Viet Nam

Viet Nam has approved the Forestry Law 2017, in which contains Articles related to management of Endangered Flora species. Viet Nam's Parliament has approved the Penal Code 2017, in which illegal trade on endangered Flora species may be punished with years in jail.

6. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

6.1 China

From July 2017 to now, the CITES Management Authority of China has organized or participated in as trainer more than 40 training sessions or activities to publicize CITES implementation and law enforcement among officers of departments of agriculture, forestry, customs, our branch offices as well as staffs from relevant enterprises. From May to June 2018, the CITES Management Authority of China, Chinese embassy in relevant Country and TRAFFIC coordinated some workshops for approximately 800 Chinese nationals from State-owned enterprises, private businesses and local residences in Malawi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique and Zambia.

6.2 Indonesia

Indonesian management authorities have training workshops on socialization on CITES permits, wildlife identification in trade and utilization.

6.3 Malaysia

Malaysian management authorities and enforcement agencies, had conducted several training activities to increase capabilities of the officers particularly in species identification and enforcement of wildlife crime among others, Training in Trade Control of CITES-listed Tree Species in 3-4 October 2017 and Cactus, Hoodia and Succulent Species Identification Programme on 24–27 July 2017. Malaysia also participated in many capacity building programs through cooperation with ASEAN Member States and other international bodies such as the 4th Regional Dialogue on Combating Trafficking of Wild Fauna and Flora in Bangkok, Thailand on 12–14 September 2017 and Workshop on Customs Best Practices to Identify Illegal Timber and Wood Products, 18-19 Aug 2017, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

6.4 Pakistan

Important international events, World Wildlife Day, World Environment Day, Earth Day, International Day of Forests and World Biodiversity Day were celebrated across the country by involving all stakeholders to raise awareness about wild fauna and flora and related issues. During the reporting period two capacity building workshops to control illegal wildlife trafficking were held in which relevant field staffs were trained on implementation on CITES and controlling illegal trafficking of wild fauna and flora.

6.5 Republic of Korea

Guideline III was published and disseminated in order to enhance the understanding of the stakeholders and the general public on the overall CITES agreement and the management of plant specimens import and export. It is also translating ' Guide to the Application of CITES Source Codes, ' published in February 2017, into Korean to help the source code understood.

6.6 Viet Nam

The Viet Nam CITES MA in cooperation with Custom and with support from IGOs, NGOs have conducted number of training courses on wildlife ID, especially the timber ID and legislation systems for estimated 300 rangers, Customs, Polices, Market Control in 2017 and early 2018.

7. Other CITES-related activities

7.1 Republic of Korea

The application of DNA barcoding techniques is being examined on a trial basis to identify the CITES species used in cosmetics.

7.2 Viet Nam

Several limitations were proposed as follows; Lack of capacity of Enforcement Agencies on Plant species identification, especially the timber products on trade. Lack of resource to conduct research, study on the wild population of endangered flora species such as NDF for *Dalbergia* and *Pterocarpus* species. Lack of priority on Flora protection from national to regional and International levels in comparison with Fauna protection.