

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

Forty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 March 2002

Reports

Reports of regional representatives

ASIA

1. The attached report has been submitted by China.
2. As it was received by the Secretariat some time after the deadline for submission of documents, it is provided herewith only in English.

ASIAN REGIONAL REPORT

(June 2001- January 2002)

Introduction

This report was prepared by China as the Regional Representative for Asia. It outlines the activities that have taken place in Asian Parties represented by China to implement CITES during the period between the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Paris, France, 19-22 June 2001, and the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee. However, this report only covers the progress on the implementation of CITES in Brunei Darussalam, China, the Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam from June 2001 through January 2002, and no information available from other Asian Parties represented by China has been received.

Legal Building

China

China's legislation in CITES implementation was analyzed and identified as Category 2 in Phase 2 of the National Legislation Project. To facilitate the process that the legislation is in full compliance with CITES requirements, China has prepared draft legislation for implementing CITES, namely Regulations on Import and Export of Wild Fauna and Flora of the People's Republic of China, and will submit it to the State Council for imminent consideration and ratification.

In accordance with the Overall Plan for Projects on National Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserves Construction that have been approved by the State Council, the Project on National Management System Construction of Wildlife Import and Export and will be officially launched this year as a subsidiary project of the overall plan. Undoubtedly, the implementation of the project will greatly improve China's capability in CITES enforcement, especially in the terms of infrastructure construction and human resources building.

Singapore

The Schedules of Endangered Species (Import & Export) Act (ESA) have been amended to include Appendix III species into the provisions of ESA. As a result, the CITES Secretariat believes in its report to the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee that Decision 11.18 no longer applies to Singapore and Singapore's current legislation meets all of the requirements for CITES implementation and qualifies for Category 1 status in the National Legislation Project.

The Philippines

Republic Act No. 9147, also known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act was finally enacted and approved by the President of the Republic of the Philippines on 30 July 2001. The law aims to pursue the commitments on international conventions like the CITES. At present, the CITES Management Authority is in the process of drafting the implementing rules and regulations of the said Act and expects to have this completed within the 3rd quarter of this year, which will provide adequate legal basis for enforcing and monitoring activities on wildlife trade.

Viet Nam

Under the support of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, the CITES Management Authority of Viet Nam has been drafting a special Decree on CITES Implementation in collaboration with relevant agencies. The Decree ensure that all CITES requirements will be implemented seriously in order to make the wildlife resources better managed and conserved. The final draft is being submitted to the Central Government for consideration, and expects to be ratified soon.

Law Enforcement

Brunei Darussalam

The first seizure of specimen of Appendix I species took place on 31 December 2001, when four smuggled parts (not specified in the report) of Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) from Hong Kong SAR of China were confiscated in the International Airport of Brunei Darussalam.

China

During the time period between June 2001 and January 2002, the CITES Management Authority of China assisted departments of Public Security and Customs at various levels in investigating and prosecuting many criminal cases involving smuggling or illegal trafficking of specimen of CITES-listed species, which included elephant ivory, tiger bone, saiga horns, bear palms and live pythons etc..

At the requests of the CITES Secretariat and management authorities of some nations, such as the United States of America and Thailand, the CITES Management Authority of China provided adequate cooperation and assistance for investigating cases involving smuggling of saiga horns, live falcons, ivory and illegal trafficking of Tibetan antelope skins as well as forgeries of CITES permits or certificates. Such activities have intensified cooperation and coordination between China and the CITES Secretariat and pertinent management authorities.

Activities Related to Permanent Committees

China

As the Vice Chair and Regional Representative for Asia of the Standing Committee, China participated in all of 3 working groups established at its 45th meeting, namely Strategic Plan Working Group, Implementation Committee Working Group, and Time-sensitive Research Samples Working Group, and actively intervened in the work of these Working Groups. Also, China is active in organizing a regional meeting prior to COP 12 that Mongolia has offered to host with the financial support provided by the Japanese government.

China sent a four-person delegation and a three-person delegation respectively, to participate in the 17th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (30 July – 3 August 2001, Hanoi, Viet Nam) and the 11th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (3 – 7 September 2001, Langkawi, Malaysia), both as an observer Party.

As a member of the working group established at the 16th meeting of the Animals Committee on trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises in Southeast Asia, China is dedicated to discussions on this issue and preparations for a technical workshop on this issue. Finally, the workshop entitled Technical Workshop on Conservation of and Trade in Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises was determined to be convened in Kunming City, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan Province, 25-28 March 2002. At present, the various preparations for this workshop are proceeding orderly.

The Plants Committee requested the United State of America and China to conduct a review of the conservation status of *Taxus wallichiana* at its 10th meeting. The CITES Management Authority of China is

currently working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in assessing the feasibility of inclusion of additional species of genus *Taxus* in Appendix II, and reviewing whether traded commodities derived from *Taxus* species are readily recognizable and should be subject to the provisions of CITES.

Pursuant to the secondary recommendations on *Acipenser schrencki* and *Huso dauricus* raised by the CITES Animals Committee, China responded to them in due course. Furthermore, as of the second half of 2001, China has implemented the recommended universal caviar labeling system as outlined in Resolution Conf. 11.13 for all exports of caviar of *Acipenser schrencki* and *Huso dauricus*, registered and allocated a code to all exporters and processors of sturgeon caviar. Accordingly, the CITES Secretariat published the details of the system in its Notification No. 2001/087.

Domestic Management and Controls

China

From 12 June 2001 onwards, China has taken some concrete and effective measures to control the international trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises on primarily commercial purposes, these measures included: 1) Stop imports of specimens of Appendix II species of freshwater turtles and tortoises from those countries without establishing export quotas; 2) Suspend imports of specimens of Non-CITES species of freshwater turtles and tortoises from Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand that don't implement control measures for these species; 3) Designate 3 import ports for imports of specimens of freshwater turtles and tortoises in Provinces of Guangdong and Hainan, both of which are main consuming locations in China.

To ensure the sustainable use of specific Non-CITES species, the CITES Management Authority of China imposed an export ban on specimen of species in Family Lucanidae and carried out quota management for exports of specimen of species in Order Anura on the basis of population assessment and consultation with the Scientific Authority.

Following the promulgation of amendments for CITES Appendix III and the State Key Protected Wild Flora Schedule, the specimen of newly-listed species were entirely included in the Harmonized System Codes on Imported and Exported Wildlife Commodities by the Management Authority and the State Customs General Administration.

Along with the return of sovereignties of Hong Kong and Macao to the Chinese Government in succession, a cooperative and communicating mechanism has been established in the implementation of CITES among Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR. In late June 2001, the annual meeting for tri-sides was convened in Macao SAR, which focused on developing and taking concerted actions to control and combat illegal trade in wildlife.

Training and Publicity

China

In late January 2002, the CITES Management Authority of China completed an Identification Manual for Common Turtles and Tortoises both in Chinese and English version, which is designed in particular to help CITES enforcement staff to identify species of turtles and tortoises more quickly and efficiently.

International Cooperation

China

In November 2001, a delegation from the Management Authority paid an official visit to South Africa aiming to seek solutions with the counterpart of South Africa in effectively regulating and controlling trade in live

animals between the two countries. Both sides deeply exchanged views and experience on CITES implementation and reached comprehensive consensus, and pledged to deepen mutual cooperative ties in CITES field in the future.

The CITES Management Authority received visit of the delegation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in late October 2001, led by Mr. Kenneth Stansell, the current Chairman of the CITES Standing Committee. China introduced in detail the status of CITES implementation in China to the U.S. guests, particularly the export policies of Giant Panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) involved with cooperative programs of scientific research.

The CITES Management Authority of China met with the incumbent Chair of the CITES Plants Committee, Mrs. Margarita Clemente, on 19 October 2001 in Beijing. Both sides exchanged views on conservation of specific CITES plants species and discussed cooperative possibilities on jointly training CITES professional personnel.

In July 2001, two representatives from the CITES Management Authority of China participated in the Workshop on CITES which was hosted by Laos and organized by TRAFFIC East Asia. Also, they discussed the issue of Laos' accession into the CITES with their counterparts, as the Regional Representative for Asia of the CITES Standing Committee,

Other Activities

Brunei Darussalam

A National Committee for CITES Implementation has been established in 2001, which enables the CITES implementing system in the country to be more complete and sturdy.

China

China has agreed to host the second CITES regional legislative workshop in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) during the week of 22 – 26 April 2002. Participants' costs and documentary or other expenses in relation to the workshop will be covered by a counterpart contribution to the Secretariat that Hong Kong SAR provided for use in compliance and enforcement activities. The CITES Management Authority of Hong Kong SAR is working jointly with the CITES Secretariat to organize the workshop.

The second breeding operation for *Alligator sinensis*, namely Zhejiang Changxing Chinese Alligator Breeding Base, has been included in the CITES Secretariat's Register that breeds Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes. Currently, the review procedure set out in Resolution Conf. 11.14 is in process.