

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



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Reports of regional representatives

ASIA

1. This document has been submitted by Kuwait*.

2. General information:

Regional Representative: Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait

Alternate Regional Representative: China, Jordan, Saudi Arabia

Number of Parties in the Region: 37

Parties providing information for this Report: China, Iraq, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand and United Arab Emirates,

3. Introduction:

This report summarized the activities of Parties between 64th Standing Committee Meeting (March 2013, Bangkok) and 65th Standing Committee Meeting (July 2014, Geneva).

Japan represents Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. **Indonesia:** Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Lao people's democratic republic, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam. **Kuwait** represents Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

4. Activities within each party

4.1 China

Trade and Conservation species

A programme on investigation and assessment of sensitive species and species of significant trade has been carried out by the CITES Management Authority of China since 2011. More than 20 categories of CITES-listed species are specified as priority. And an electronic platform for data collection has been established.

Implementation of decision adopted at CoP16

The CITES Management Authority of China, together with the General Administration of Customs of China, enhanced supervision and management of international trade in Asian fresh water turtle, shark species, Hump

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head Wrasse and *Scleropages formosus* in 2013 to curb the illegal trade in these species in the South-East coastal areas of China.

Following a total of nearly 140 timber species were successfully included in CITES Appendix II at CoP 16 (Bangkok, 2013), China, as one of the major importing and consumer countries, has taken a series of measures to implement the new listings, including establishing permits verification mechanism with range States, tightening the regulation on the import of timber species, giving priority to the oversight and supervision of imported timber shipments, and stepping up efforts in outreach initiatives.

CITES MA of China jointly with General Customs Administration promulgated the new version of Referential Book for HS-code Listed Commodities of Wild Fauna and Flora in the end of 2011, 2012, 2013 accordingly, to concord with the updated Appendices of CITES etc.

The Inter-agency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group is established in 2011. The Group conducted tens of national and provincial wildlife enforcement operations resulting in thousands of wildlife seizures each year, sent cell phone message to tens of millions of Chinese nationals arriving at other countries reminding them not to buy and bring home endangered species, revised the law interpretation on penalization of illegal wildlife trade, carried out hundreds of CITES and wildlife trainings at the national and provincial levels, strengthened the routine communication and cooperation with many international and sub-regional law enforcement organizations such as Interpol, WCO, UNDOC, RILO/AP, L ATF, ASEAN-WEN and SAWEN, worked with US, South Africa, L ATF, ASEAN-WEN and SAWEN. By January 2014, similar Inter-agency Group has been set up in all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in Mainland China .

In 2012, the CITES Management Authority of China called for an international operation to crackdown on wildlife crime, and led the first Operation Cobra in 2013. In China, the first Operation Cobra yielded hundred of arrests which included seizures of assorted wildlife specimens mainly 42,000kg red sander wood, 6,500kg elephant ivory, 1,550kg shahtoosh (around 10,000 Tibetan antelopes must have been killed to collect the wool of these animals), 2,600 live snakes, 324 hornbill beaks, 102 pangolins, 800 kgs pangolin scales, 22 rhino horns and 4 rhino horn carvings, 10 tiger and 7 leopard trophies, 31kg elephant meat as well as claws and teeth of protected animals and plants.

The Operation Cobra II was co-organized by China , the United States , South Africa , the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, and the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network in early 2014. This operation focused on key species that are subject to illegal trade, achieved excellent results by law enforcement officers from 28 countries. In China it cleaned up over 350 cases, capturing more than 3 tons of ivory and its products, over 1,000 hides, 36 rhino horns and a large number of other wildlife products. China 's authorities, including forestry, customs, police, judiciary and quarantine departments, put more than 100,000 staff on the operation, and uncovered over 200 cases involving more than 250 suspects.

On Jan. 6 2014, State Forestry Administration of China and the General Administration of Customs of China destroyed 6.1 ton of illegal ivory items in Dongguan, Guangdong province, to demonstrate the country's determination to discourage illegal ivory trade, protect wildlife and raise public awareness. Secretary-General Mr. John E. Scanlon was invited to participate in the activity.

Hong Kong government destroyed the first of a stockpile of 30 tons of ivory on May 15, 2014, and the remain is scheduled to be burned within two years. This action expressed the strong commitment of Hong Kong government to implement CITES and crackdown on illegal ivory trade .

China invited the CITES and wildlife enforcement officers from L ATF, EU, CITES Secretariat, US, UK, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Indonesia and Nepal to China for dialogue/cooperation, deployed some wildlife enforcement officers to work at ASEAN-WEN and L ATF as the seconded officers

Cooperation

China announced to provide US\$ 10,000,000 to Africa for supporting their wildlife conservation and enforcement in May 2014.

Difficulties

The biggest challenge facing China in the process of regulation on the import of endangered timber and marine species is identification at the species level. In this regard, China is expected to share the most updated identification techniques, and to obtain the authenticated samples of species involved, including DNA samples and physical materials from any potential partners

4.2 Iraq

Iraq has become the 180-member party to the Convention on (05.02.2014); and entered into force on (06.05.2014). Regarding the activities that Iraq participated as listed below:-

Iraq participated in the Conference of the Parties (CoP 16) which was held in 2013 as an observer member.

Iraq has been working with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to organize training workshops for CITES. Two workshops were held, one in the Kurdistan region in 2012 and another workshop in Baghdad in 2013.

Iraq has been invited to participate in a workshop on strengthening regional cooperation to combat wildlife crime in West Asia, 29 to 31 October 2013 in Kuwait, but Iraq could not attend the workshop due to visa issues for the Iraqi delegation from Kuwait.

Regarding issuing the implementation of the articles of the convention; Iraq has been working on the formation of the management and scientific authorities of CITES in Iraq. Also the Secretariat of the Convention was informed regarding the nomination of the focal points to the Convention and we are currently preparing for the issuance of CITES certificates or permits.

We are working on the preparation of national list of animal and plant species that already taken from CITES appendices, especially in Iraq.

The preparation of folders and publications to raise the public awareness about the Convention.

4.3 Indonesia

Implementation of decision adopted at CoP16

- In September 17, 2013, Kerinci Seblat National Park Ranger and Local Police seized 1 sheet of tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) full body skin, 2 suspects were sentenced 6 months to prison and IDR 5 million fines.
- In September 18, 2013, National Police seized at least 12 kinds of protected animal from a market at Muntilan Regency, Jawa Tengah Province. 1 suspect was investigated.
- In November 6, 2013, Forest Ranger from Natural Resources Conservation Agency - West Java Province seized 238 living slowlorises (*Nycticebus sp.*) and 1 car in Merak Seaport. 1 suspect was investigated.
- In November 28, 2013, Forest Ranger from Natural Resources Conservation Agency - Jambi Province seized 1 sheet of tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) skin without head and legs. 1 suspect was investigated.
- In January 3, 2014, Police of Aceh Province seized 1 tiger stuff, 2 golden cat stuffs, 1 head of wild goat stuff, 1 head of deer, 1 sheet of bear skin, and 1 sheet of wild cat from 2 suspects in Takengon City, Aceh.
- In January 7, 2014, Quarantine Agency at Soekarno-Hatta Airport Jakarta foiled smuggling effort of 2.986 heads of turtles (*Carettochelys insculpta*) and delivered to Natural Resources Conservation Agency – Jakarta to be investigated.
- In January 8, 2014, Forest Ranger from Natural Resources Conservation Agency - Papua Province foiled smuggling effort of 5.544 heads of turtles (*Carettochelys insculpta*) at Sentani Airport Papua. The suspect was investigated.
- In January 20, 2014, National Police seized life animal: 2 langur and 1 Javan Gibbon at Cikarang-West Java Province. At least 24 kinds of protected wildlife and its derivatives seized in this operation. The suspect is still being investigated.
- In April 8, 2014, National Police raided "Golden Shop" in Jakarta. At least 24 kinds of protected wildlife and its derivatives seized in this operation. Shop owner is still being investigated.
- In November 28, 2013, Forest Ranger from Natural Resources Conservation Agency - Jambi Province confiscated 1 sheet of tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) skin without head and legs. 1 suspect was investigated.

- Confiscated live animals are in many circumstances need to be immediately released into the wild. This sometimes make difficulties for the prosecutor to provide physical evidences → It would be necessary for **Supreme Court** to provide “national legal edict” which would allow the evidence on live animal can be replaced by other forms such as photos, videos and other replacement of physical evidence.
- Disposal of confiscated specimens from illegally exported/imported CITES species:
 - The specimens are used as legal evidence
 - CITES Resolution Conf. 9.10 identified at least two problems faced by the importing countries: (1) cost recovery of the confiscation (enforcement) and (2) disposal of the confiscated specimens.
 - For live specimens, resolution Conf. 10.7 provides guidance for the confiscating Management Authority on the disposal of confiscated live specimens.
 - For dead specimens of Appendix II, the importing Authority may auction the specimens. But this has raised concern over unfairness for the exporting country
 - AMS are requested to support the CITES Standing Committee agenda on this issue
- Confiscated live animals are in many circumstances need to be immediately released into the wild. This sometimes make difficulties for the prosecutor to provide physical evidences → It would be necessary for **Supreme Court** to provide “national legal edict” which would allow the evidence on live animal can be replaced by other forms such as photos, videos and other replacement of physical evidence.
- In the law concerning wildlife, Sentence for actors is minimum. The guilty actors are mainly local people as the operators on the ground. The law enforcement rarely reaches the main actors or the top level traders. Therefore, enforcement on wildlife crime has so far little deterrent effects.
- There are also difficulties in the identification and verification of wildlife products and derivatives. It is importantly necessary to use hightech to develop wildlife forensic. But this is regarded expensive → need to find cost effective technology.
- Difficulty in giving sanctions to foreign actors who made an illegal trade of protected wildlife from other countries → need close bilateral cooperation

Cooperation

London Declaration on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade, February 2014; Indonesia with other countries took part on making a political commitment to combat wildlife crime. This initiative will strongly complement the implementation of CITES, regional agreements, networks and task forces, on the ground. With strong commitments by high level political leaders on curbing wildlife crime, the illegal wildlife trade would be substantially reduced.

MoU between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the United States of America on Conserving Wildlife and Combating Wildlife Trafficking.

- This MoU aims to implement parts of the London Declaration
- The MoU also has mutual objective of combating the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products through, inter alia, enhanced dialogue and sharing of best-practices, capacity building efforts, and strengthening cooperation in regional and global.
- In line with the MoU, the US Government committed to support funding through a Debt for Nature Swap (DNS) scheme called Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA), specifically allocated for wildlife conservation, including combating wildlife crime

Initiative by Indonesian Attorney General on the formation of Sub-Task Force on Wildlife under the Task Force of Natural Resources.

Initiatives by NCB Interpol to conduct operations related to wildlife crime.

Ongoing process on the revision of the Act Concerning Biodiversity Conservation in which penalties on wildlife related crimes would be substantially increased.

4.4 Japan

1. Participation in CITES meeting

□ Dr. Ishii, an alternative member of the Animals Committee, and the officials of Fisheries Agency participated in the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee in April-May 2014 and the subsequent joint sessions with the Plants Committee.

□ Officials of Fisheries Agency attended FAO/CITES Regional consultative workshop on sharks for Asia in Xiamen in May 2014.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

□ Fisheries Agency supported the Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status in October 2013.

□ As part of efforts to enhance taxonomic capacity under the East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII), Japan carried out training programs for identifying CITES Appendices Species in cooperation with the Government of Malaysia, TRAFFIC and the ASEAN-WEN in February 2014.

□ Japan has provided extra budgetary contribution for the amount of USD 60,000 in 2013, USD 50,000 in 2014 (in the process) with the projects for New Party briefing mission and National legislative support.

3. Implementation of CITES including legislation and law enforcement activities

□ Fisheries Agency has developed its Guideline for the NDF of aquatic species in 2014.

□ As CITES Management Authority, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) issued 2,920 export permit including re-export certificates in 2013. Also, METI issued 832 import licenses for items concerning species listed in Appendix I in 2013. As for the items concerning species listed in Appendix II or III which need a prior confirmation in the case of import, METI confirmed 1,944 cases in 2013.

□ Japan has ensured the implementation of Amendments to Appendix III based on the Notification dated 26 March by putting its translation on the official gazette for the public in June 2014.

4. Training/ Capacity Building and public awareness activities

5. Other CITES-related Activities

□ The Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (LCES) (June 5, 1992, Law No. 75), which controls the domestic trade in CITES Appendix I species among others, was amended in June 2013. The amendments include the following;

- Strengthened penalty for illegal domestic trade.

- Explicit prohibition on “advertisement” on a website or a paper for the purpose of selling or distribution. Formerly, “advertisement” was interpreted as falling into the concept of “display” which has been prohibited.

- Improved procedure for registration of CITES Appendix I species. Re-registration became necessary when the property of specimen changes (e.g., from live to stuffed specimen). Reporting became necessary when the specimen possessor’s name or address change.

□ National Police Agency arrested 26 suspects in 17 cases charged with violating the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (LCES) (June 5, 1992, Law No. 75) in 2013.

□ CITES Secretary-General, John E. Scanlon visited Tokyo in August 2013. During his visit, Mr. Scanlon exchanged views with officials from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Ministry of the Environment and the Fisheries Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Director-General for Global Issues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also participated in a seminar with the representatives of the Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) Committee on Nature Conservation, in a dialogue with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) representatives and in a symposium celebrating the 40th anniversary of CITES held by TRAFFIC East Asia with hundreds of audience.

□ Japan expressed political will from the viewpoint of establishing a global basis for addressing illegal wildlife trade by dispatching Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs with his statement, on the occasion of the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade in February 2014

4.5 Kuwait

Kuwait Participate in the International Scientific Symposium on Agarwood took place in the period between 3 -5 September 2013 Malaysia, Kuwait present in this symposium a lecture related to the recent decisions and resolution on agarwood producing taxa adopted in CITES CoP16.

Kuwait organize with the cooperation of CITES Secretariat and UNEP-ROWA Workshop on Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime in West Asia 29-31 October 2013 Kuwait city.

Kuwait Organize and national training course on CITES listed species for the Customs and related authorities, in November 2013 with the cooperation of IFAW and CITES Management Authorities of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Kuwait participate in the training workshop on “Combating illegal trafficking on sharks and Marine species” organize by IFAW/CMS in the period between 17-19 February Dubai.

Kuwait celebrate the first World Wild life day with the cooperation of Kuwait Scientific centre and aquarium, the celebration was concentrating on public awareness on CITES convention.

Kuwait Participate in the 27th meeting of the Animal Committee, held in Mexico from 28 April to 3 May 2014, and participated in 21st Meeting of the Plant Committee, held in Mexico, 2-8 May 2014.

4.6 Malaysia

- Preparing final draft of Guideline of Agarwood / Gaharu Product Malaysia
- NDF Studies of:
 - Use of DNA for Identification of *Gonystylus* species and Timber Geographical Origin in Sarawak
 - *Non-Detriment Findings* (NDF) Study on *Varanus salvator* and *Python reticulatus* in Peninsular Malaysia
 - Study on the NDF and management of *Crocodylus Porosus* in Sarawak.
 - NDF Study of *Python Reticulatus* of Sabah
 - Study on *Cibotium barometz* on *Non-Detriment Findings* (NDF) requirement

Enforcement and Implementation of decision adopted at CoP16

- In 2013;
 - 47 cases prosecute in accordance to Act 716 and Act 686
 - 2 cases involving Red Sanders , *Pterocarpus Santalinus*
 - 2 cases involving Siam Rosewood , *Dalbergia Cochinhinensis*
 - 17 cases involving pangolins, viper and eagle
 - 788 offences under (International Trade In Endangered Species Act 2008 (Act 686) and (Wildlife Conservation 2010 (Act 716) recorded by the DWNP
- Wildlife Markets (Petshops) Enforcement Operation (DWNP) & Operation Stocktake II (INTERPOL): 25 April – 14 May 2012
- 1NRE Enforcement Team (Joint Operation),29 Feb 2012
- Management Information System (MIST)-Based Patrolling in National Park (Jan – Dec 2013)
- Operation Cobra II (December 2013)
- Collaboration with TRAFFIC SEA in the capacity building training programs for the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (2013).

4.7 Nepal

- Organization of training to field and policy level staff of Nepal and China in Kathmandu, Nepal (August 2013)
- Organization of COBRA Operation-II through South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network this year January
- Celebration of ZERO Poaching of Rhino: 365 Days +....(No Rhino Poaching from March 2013-2014 in Nepal)
- National Level Trans-boundary meeting with India on January 2013

- National level trans-boundary meeting with China in April 21-14, 2013 in Beijing China and March 26-30, 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal
- CITES Booklet publication that covers all the species of fauna and flora listed in CITES annex I, II and III from Nepal
- Clarification of trade of some NTFPs from Nepal exported to Europe Union Area
- National level workshop on CITES implementation focusing to flora
- Strengthening internal coordination among the law enforcement agencies namely NTCC, WCCCC and WCCB
- Submission of CITES bill to the draft under discussion at parliament
- Initiation to implement ICCWC tool kits, final report is under preparation
- SAWEN 2nd annual meeting, which is going to be organized on August 27-19, 2014.

4.8 Oman

The Sultanate's Accession to the Convention

The Sultanate acceded to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on November 19, 2007 by Royal Decree No. (117/2007). The sultanate's instrument of ratification has been deposited on March, 19, 2014, making it a party. The convention has entered into force for Oman on 17th June 2008.

Since the convention's entry into force, the Sultanate has made great efforts to meet its obligations towards the convention through cooperation and coordination of efforts at local, regional and international levels with a view to monitoring and ensuring that the international trade in wildlife species does not impose a threat on their survival opportunities as well as the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

The Formation of the Administrative Authority and the Scientific Committee

The administrative authority has been established from the Biodiversity Department staff of the Directorate General of Nature Conservation of the Ministry and the members of CITES Scientific Committee have been selected from various government authorities as well as non-governmental associations; this committee has been formed by Ministerial Decision No. (108/2012) issued on 9 October 2012.

The Government Authorities are as follows: Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, SQU, The Research Council, Diwan of Royal Court and the Environmental Society of Oman.

National Legislations:

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs has developed the draft national law for the implementation of the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora "CITES" which is now under review by the concerned government authorities so as to legally finalize its issuance as per the procedures in force in the Sultanate and to be finally adopted as a national law for CITES.

The draft national law includes 7 chapters and 45 articles:

- Chapter One: Definitions
- Chapter Two: General Provisions
- Chapter Three : Scope of Application
- Chapter Four : Required Documents for the International Trade
- Chapter Five: Registration and Possession
- Chapter Six: Exemptions
- Chapter Seven: Enforcement and Penalties

Permits and Certificates of the Convention:

In 2011, the format of permits and certificates of import, export, and re-export of species listed in CITES Appendices has been developed as per the international format applied by the Convention. Now, all permits are issued according to this format.

National Capacity Building

With regard to national capacity building activities, the Sultanate, represented by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, held a local training workshop for CITES's administrative authority staff and other government bodies associated with the implementation of CITES in cooperation and coordination with CITES Secretariat and the Technical Assistance Program of the U.S Interior Department during the period from 16-18 March 2009. The workshop addressed a number of themes including the roles and responsibilities of the parties to CITES, the national legislations for the implementation of the Convention, the Convention Appendices, and the issues related to the implementation of the Convention.

A regional workshop for Arab countries was also held from 21-24 March 2009, which addressed various themes such as CITES compliance mechanisms, databases, procedures for issuing permits, procedures and mechanisms for the confiscation of the specimens included in CITES Appendices, joint cooperation between the administrative authority and Customs to implement the Convention and the coordination mechanisms between the government bodies associated with the implementation of the Convention.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs has also organized a national training course on combating illegal wildlife trade from 10-14 September 2011 in cooperation with the International Fund for Animal Welfare-Middle East & North Africa Office. Over 40 participants from different government bodies concerned with the implementation of CITES in Oman attended the course. The general objective of the course is to provide participants with knowledge and necessary skills for combating illegal wildlife trade and the implementation of CITES.

Regarding the participation in national, regional and international CITES's meetings and events, staff in the Sultanate's staff participated in the workshop on "Shark Conservation" held in UAE from 8-11 October 2012. The staff also participated in the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Thailand from 3-14 March 2013.

Furthermore, the staff participated in the workshop on "Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime in West Asia" held in Kuwait from 29-31 October 2013. They also participated in the training workshop on "Combating Trafficking in Sharks and Marine Species" from 17-19 February 2014.

4.9 Pakistan

1. Participation in CITES Meeting

During the reporting period representatives of Pakistan participated in the following CITES related meetings/workshops:

- o International Training Workshop on Environmental Crime Intelligence and Information Management Course, Dhulikhel, Nepal 17-21 December, 2012
- o Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Bangkok, Thailand, 03-14 March, 2013
- o The Asian Regional Consultative Workshop on Capacity Assessments for the Implementation of New CITES Listing of Sharks and Manta Rays, Xiamen, China 13—15 May, 2014

2. Cooperation with the Parties and Others

- o 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.
- o Moreover to control illegal wildlife trade, CITES Management Authority of Pakistan has active interaction with CITES Secretariat and the Parties for verification of CITES permits and related issues.

3. Implementation of CITES, including Conservation, Legislation and Law Enforcement Activities

o Import and export of wild fauna and flora in accordance with the provisions of CITES is being dealt by Forestry Wing, Climate Change Division (Cabinet Secretariat) in collaboration with provincial/territorial wildlife authorities.

o For effective implementation of CITES' provisions in Pakistan, an exclusive law entitled "Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act-2012" has been enacted. Rules for the smooth implementation of the Act are being drafted in collaboration with IUCN-Pakistan and expected to be finalized soon.

o Customs authorities in collaboration with the provincial wildlife department confiscated a number of consignments of CITES listed species being exported or imported illegally. These consignments, where possible were rehabilitated back to wild and the violators prosecuted under the existing laws. The species appeared in illegal trade include; fresh water turtles and falcons mainly. The relevant agencies are working on it to effectively enforce the legislation.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

o Three "Awareness and Capacity Building Workshops on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trafficking" were held in Lahore Karachi and Islamabad during January-February 2013. Officials of Pakistan Customs and provincial wildlife departments attended the workshops. These Workshops were aimed at training field officers of both departments who watch the entry and exit points at airports and sea-ports to prevent smuggling of wildlife.

o Awareness raising about importance of wildlife (including freshwater turtle and tortoise species) has been a regular component of different projects of government and non-government organizations.

o World Wildlife Day, World Wetlands Day, World Earth Day, Biodiversity Day and other relevant events were celebrated at national level and attracted vast media coverage

5. Other CITES-related activities

Community-based Trophy Hunting Programme: Trophy hunting of limited number of ungulates by involving local communities was launched in Pakistan during early 1990s. The main idea was to allow local communities to benefit from sustainable management of natural resources. Community-based Trophy Hunting Programme as a conservation tool proved successful and earned world recognition. The 10th Meeting of CITES Conference of Parties (COP.10) agreed to allocate annual quota of 6 Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) for Pakistan. In the CITES COP.12 recognising the successful implementation of Community-based Trophy Hunting Programme the annual quota was increased to 12 Markhor for Pakistan. Community-based Trophy Hunting of ungulates is being implemented by the provincial/territorial Wildlife authorities in collaboration with the CITES Management Authority. The local communities get 80% shares of the revenue generated, which is used for their socio-economic uplift, while 20% goes to respective government agencies as administrative fee. In return the communities protect wildlife with a sense of ownership. As a result of Community-based Trophy Hunting programme, populations of ungulates have shown considerable increase in addition to improvement in the socio-economic condition of the local communities. Export of hunted trophies is allowed in accordance with the provisions of CITES. On increase of ungulates species which is prey base for carnivores, an increase in Big Cats population has been noted in some parts of the country.

4.10 Qatar

State of Qatar has participated in the 27th meeting of the Animal Committee, held in Mexico from 28 April to 3 May 2014.

State of Qatar has participated in the joint sessions of the Animal and Plant Committees meetings, Mexico, 2-3 May 2014.

State of Qatar has participated in 21st Meeting of the Plant Committee, held in Mexico, 2-8 May 2014.

State of Qatar will participate in the 65th Meeting of the Standing Committee, to be held in Switzerland from 7-11 July 2014.

State of Qatar has already enacted law No. (5) of 2006 on regulation of trade in endangered wildlife species. It has placed 11 CITES employees at the airport and 14 employees at the land border passageway, to control entry and exit of specimens of endangered wildlife species.

With regard to conservation awareness, it has produced brochures and booklets on CITES regulations.

4.11 Singapore

Legislation and enforcement

Singapore reviewed and revised the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act [ESA], which was enacted in March 1989 to give effect to CITES in Singapore. The Act empowers AVA to investigate, take enforcement actions against offenders and seize illegal consignments of endangered species. The Act also include powers to investigate transshipment or transit cases, search, inspect, detain and seize any illegal CITES-protected species found in such cases. In addition, the Act covers fake CITES specimens (eg. traditional Chinese medicinal products like bear bile) which are traded or labeled as genuine. In the ESA, the maximum penalty for unauthorized import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea, of endangered species is SG\$50,000 per scheduled species (not exceeding an aggregate of SG\$500,000) and/or 2 years' imprisonment.

Singapore also gazette the ESA (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2013 to align with the amendments of listing/de-listing of several wildlife species including sharks, turtles, timber, etc adopted at the COP16. The amendments came into operation on 12 June 2013

Implementation of decision adopted at CoP16

From March 2013 and May 2014, AVA investigated 46 cases of illegal import, transit, possession and sale of CITES specimens, of which 7 cases were prosecuted in court, 18 cases were compounded between SG\$100 and SG\$3000, 14 cases were issued with advisory and warning letters, and 7 case pending investigations. Some significant cases are highlighted as follows:-

(i) In March 2013, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority officers of Singapore at Changi Airport found two travellers attempting to smuggle a total of 60kg of hawksbill turtle scutes from Seychelles into Singapore in 2 suitcases. Investigations revealed that one of the travelers was the owner of the two suitcases of turtle scutes. She was arrested and jailed three months for the illegal import.

(ii) In May 2013, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority of Singapore officers at the sea port detected a vessel arriving into Singapore with 2 bags containing 31 pieces of live seahorses, 22 pieces of giant clams and 78 pieces of live hard corals. The shipment was not accompanied by CITES permits. An Indonesian seaman was arrested and jailed 4 months for the illegal import.

(iii) In June 2013, AVA officers investigated a residence keeping illegal wildlife. A total of 32 animals, including a Sunda slow loris, a marmoset, and several other reptiles, amphibians and small mammals, were seized from the owner. The owner was prosecuted in court and fined GS\$41,000 for having illegally imported wildlife in his possession.

(iv) In September 2013, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority officers of Singapore at a land checkpoint detected a car arriving from Malaysia with 12.83kg of marine turtle scutes without CITES permits. The importer was prosecuted in court and fined S\$10,000 for illegal import.

(v) Between October and November 2013, AVA and Singapore Customs jointly conducted a series of operations and interdicted three containers of illegal red sandalwood. The estimated value of the red sandalwood is about S\$5 million, and investigations are currently ongoing.

(vi) In January 2014, aviation security officers referred two cases of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory smuggling to AVA. Investigations revealed that the travellers were in transit via Singapore en route to Vietnam. One of them had 8 pieces of rhinoceros horns in his luggage, while two other travelers were found smuggling 14 pieces of elephant ivory tusks, 16 pieces of ivory bangles and 109 pieces of ivory cubes. The 3 Vietnamese nationals were arrested and jailed between 15 and 16 months for attempting to smuggle the rhinoceros horns and elephant ivory products in transit.

(vii) In March 2014, AVA and Singapore Customs worked together to intercept and detain a shipment of 106 pieces (about 1 ton) of raw elephant ivory tusks, estimated to be worth SG\$2 million, in transit from Africa through Singapore and destined for another Asian country. The case is currently under investigation.

(viii) In March 2014, AVA and Singapore Customs worked together and interdicted a shipment of about 3000 tons of rosewood logs from Madagascar. The case is currently under investigation.

Registration of operations breeding Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes

On 25 September 2013, Singapore successfully registered one operation with the CITES Secretariat for commercial breeding of Asian arowana (A-SG-538).

Others

Singapore submitted its CITES annual report for 2012 to the CITES Secretariat on 20 September 2013. The timely submission of a CITES annual report is an obligation of a Party to the Convention. The report recorded the type of permits and certificates granted, quantities, species and types of animal and plant specimens traded for that year.

10 On 23 April 2013, officials from the US State Department visited Singapore for a review of environmental cooperation under the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. AVA participated in the meeting which discussed environmental matters related to air pollution, energy efficiency, fisheries and wildlife trafficking etc. The US officials visited the Port to better understand port operations including how containers were screened for illegal wildlife.

Mr Don Ashley from Ashley Associates was a consultant commissioned by the CITES Secretariat to lead a study on the sourcing, marking and traceability of snake skins.

In June 2013, AVA obtained reference tissue samples of the Oceanic whitetip shark, Scalloped hammerhead shark, Great hammerhead shark, Smooth hammerhead shark and Porbeagle from Dr Demian Chapman, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, NY, US. As the CITES listing for the 5 species will come into effect in September 2014, there would be a need to correctly identify the species for enforcement cases or imported shipments. AVA's laboratory would be exploring combined techniques such as species-specific PCR as well as DNA bar-coding.

Participation on the CITES and regional meeting

Singapore participated at 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP16) in Bangkok-Thailand, 3-14 March 2013; Special Investigations Group (SIG) Meeting at International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok-Thailand, 18-22 March 2013; 8th ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) Meeting in Chiangmai-Thailand, 3-5 June 2013; Training of Trainers (ToT) Course in ASEAN in Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia, 18-21 February 2014; ASEAN-SOMTC Technical Workshop on Environmental Crime in Bangkok-Thailand, 23-24 April 2014; Regional consultative workshop on capacity assessments for the implementation of new CITES listings of sharks and manta rays in Xiamen-China, 13-15 May 2014; International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) Workshop to Combat the Smuggling of Timber from Madagascar to Asia in Seoul, South Korea, 19-20 May 2014; 9th ASEAN- ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) Meeting in Hanoi-Vietnam, 28-29 May 2014 and 10th ASEAN Experts Group (AEG) CITES meeting in Hanoi-Vietnam, 30-31 May 2014.

4.12 Thailand

Implementation of Decision adopted in CoP16

Conservation (DNP) and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia to monitor species of elephant ivory is introduced to make products sold in the market in Thailand using wildlife forensic laboratory of DNP (during January-June 2014)

DNP supports Elephant ivory to Mahidol University for method to develop the technical applications on inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) to distinguish and identify the source of elephant ivory.

Cooperation

Thailand and Lao PDR organized the 2nd Bilateral Meeting on Wildlife Law Enforcement Cooperation, in 25 – 26 July 2013, Vientiane.

Wildlife scientists from Thailand attended the forensic

Training course which was held during July 2013 at the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife forensic Laboratory (NFWFL) in Ashland, Oregon, USA

4.13 United Arab Emirates

1. Participation in CITES meeting

Participation:

1. Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties Bangkok (Thailand), 03-14 March 2013.
2. Workshop on Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime in West Asia 29-31 October 2013- State of Kuwait. UNEP, CITES, Kuwait.
3. Up Conference on the illegal wildlife Trade –Lancaster –London on 13/2/2014- London government
4. Conservation workshop (15) for the Biodiversity of Arabia (February 2014) in Sharjah organized Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPPA) and IUCN.
5. Workshop on conservation of shark in the Arab region (October 2012) with International animal welfare organizations (IFAW)
6. First National Workshop on Biodiversity Strategy Development for the United Arab Emirates(May 2013)
7. Second National Workshop on Biodiversity Strategy Development for the United Arab Emirates (June 2013)
8. Third National Workshop on Biodiversity Strategy Development for the United Arab Emirates (December 2013)

Organized:

1. CITES Training workshops for Doctors veterinarian at the Ministry of Environment and Water (May 2012)
2. CITES Training workshops for Engineers, agricultural at the Ministry of Environment and Water (May 2012)
3. CITES Training workshops for Dubai customs to implement the provisions of the law on (June 2012) with International animal welfare organizations (IFAW).
4. Workshop on conservation of shark in the Arab region (October 2012) with International animal welfare organizations (IFAW)
5. First National Workshop on Biodiversity Strategy Development for the United Arab Emirates(May 2013)
6. Second National Workshop on Biodiversity Strategy Development for the United Arab Emirates (June 2013)
7. Third National Workshop on Biodiversity Strategy Development for the United Arab Emirates (December 2013)
8. Workshop for shark and other marine species with International animal welfare organizations (IFAW) - 17-19/2/2014 DUBAI
9. CITES Training workshops for Dubai customs with International animal welfare organizations (IFAW) 11-13/3/2014

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others UAE cooperation with International Animal Welfare Organizations (IFAW) for training and awareness. Cooperation with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). 3. Implementation of CITES, including conservation, legislation and law enforcement activities 4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

Training/capacity building:

- 1) CITES Training workshops for Doctors veterinarian at the Ministry of Environment and Water (May 2012)
- 2) CITES Training workshops for Engineers, agricultural at the Ministry of Environment and Water (May 2012)
- 3) CITES Training workshops for Dubai customs to implement the provisions of the law on (June 2012) with International animal welfare organizations (IFAW).
- 4) Workshop on conservation of shark in the Arab region (October 2012) with International animal welfare organizations (IFAW)
- 5) Workshop for shark and other marine species with International animal welfare organizations (IFAW) -17-19/2/2014 DUBAI
- 6) CITES Training workshops for Dubai customs with International animal welfare organizations (IFAW) 11-13/3/2014

Awareness:

1. UAE cooperation with international animal welfare organizations (IFAW) for Awareness campaign travelers 2012.
2. Smuggling ivory leads to prosecution” campaign at Dubai Airports – May 2013.
3. UAE Organized Exhibition Falcons and Hunting in (Abu Dhabi) 2012 and 2013.
4. Issuance the manual an introductory manual to get acquainted with the common Fauna and Flora in wildlife under the CITES 2012.
5. Issuance Brochures for (Brochures for falconries- Falcons species and CITES convention - Definition of CITES in Arabic and English-Plants and CITES convention - Acipenseriforma (caviar) - Elephant products.
6. An illustrated Guide to the sharks of the Arabian Gulf (Sharks of the ARABIAN Gulf).
7. The CITES scientific Authority in UAE , Environmental Agency Abu Dhabi, published a handbook titled “UAE CITES Handbook” which include common CITES & Non-CITES species involved in UAE trade.
8. Smuggling ivory leads to prosecution” campaign at Dubai Airports – June 2014