

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

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES

This information document has been submitted by the Management Authority of the People's Republic of China* in relation to the agenda item 45 on *Tortoises and freshwater turtles*.

* *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.*



The Endangered Species Import and Export

Management Office of the People's Republic of China

Ref: 2014-AL-013

April 11, 2014

To: Mr. David Morgan,
Chief of Scientific Services of the CITES Secretariat
Email: David.MORGAN@cites.org

Subject: Information on tortoises and freshwater turtles to be submitted for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee

Dear Mr. Morgan

First of all, I would like to extend my gratitude for your continuous support to the implementation of CITES in China.

According to Notification No. 2013/062, Parties are encouraged to submit the reports requested in Decision 16.118 paragraph d) and Decision 16.121 paragraph b), to the Secretariat by 31 March 2014. By this chance we would like to provide the following information for you. We appreciate it a lot if you could include them into your report to the 65th Meeting of the Standing Committee.

Legislation: China published the *List of National Key protected Wild Animal Species* in 1988, regional protection lists are also promulgated subsequently. Both the CITES listed and national protected tortoises and freshwater turtles are included in the Custom Harmonized System Code and trade is regulated.

Species review: A programme on investigation and assessment of freshwater turtles, especially of the 9 species of genus *Cuora* distributed in China has been carried out by 2 research institutions and funded by the CITES Management Authority of China since 2013. The final outcome of the programme is planned to be finished in the second half of year 2014.

Reintroduction: Categories of CITES-listed turtle species were re-introduced into the wild for the wild population reconstruction and recovering. From year 2010 to 2012, more than 1000 heads of *Mauremys sinensis* and more than 1000 *Cuora flavomarginata* were released into the wild in Hainan province and Henan province of China respectively.

Enforcement: Enforcement activities to deter, detect and address illegal international trade in CITES-listed live turtles are enhanced by Chinese Customs. According to the data provided by General administration of Customs of China, 16 cases of illegal trade of CITES-listed live turtles were dealt by the anti-smuggling department of Customs from 2009 to 2013 in Mainland, 1 case was dealt by Macao SAR Government.

Public awareness: In collaboration with National Turtles and Tortoises Association, lectures are given to increase conservation awareness of farmers raising these species

Thank you again for your great support.

Sincerely yours,

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