

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

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: Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and United Arab Emirates,

3. Introduction:

This report summarized the activities of Parties between 65th Standing Committee Meeting (July 2014, Geneva) and 66th Standing Committee Meeting (January 2016, 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 Bangladesh

1. Participation in CITES meeting

- Representatives of Bangladesh participated in CITES related meetings or workshops in Lion, Singapore and Bangkok organized by INTERPOL this year.

2. Cooperation with the parties and others

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- Bangladesh is a part of the strengthening regional cooperation for wildlife protection project along with Nepal and Bhutan funded by the World Bank. Under this regional project Bangladesh organized 1st thematic meeting on March 11-12, 2015. 2nd thematic meeting will also be held in Bangladesh on 12-14 December, 2015.
- Last year, Bangladesh and India successfully completed three bilateral meetings on trans-boundary cooperation, tiger and elephant conservation and management. Another meeting has been planned in February 2016 on National Tiger Recovery Program (NTRP).
- 2nd Global Tiger Stocktaking Conference was held in Bangladesh on September 13-16, 2014.
- South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) 3rd regional annual meeting is going to be organized in February 2016.

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

- Wildlife (Conservation & Security) Act, 2012 is the new apex legislation for wildlife conservation and enforcement in the country.
- Under this act some policy/rule have been formulated by Forest Department and sent to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for notification. These are:

Wildlife Crime Control Rule 2015

Deer rearing rule 2015

Crocodile rearing rule 2015

Snake farm management rule 2015

Elephant rearing rule 2015

Cage bird rearing rule 2015 etc.

Crab rearing and management rule 2015

- To combat wildlife crime a new unit “Wildlife Crime Control Unit (WCCU)” inbuilt facilities of forensic lab has been established under Forest Department.
- For research, conservation and capacity building “Wildlife Centre” establishment is ongoing.
- Four wildlife rescue centres have been established in different part of the country.
- Government endorsed the recommendations prepared by the UNODC implementing ICCWC toolkits.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

- Under the regional project (SRCWP) reasonable number of staff training, awareness program conducted in the last 4 years.
- A new sub-project is being implemented on “Capacity Building Training Program for Forest Department Officials Through CITES” under the SRCWP project.
- A national level workshop was held on “Wildlife Trade and CITES” on 05 October 2015 at Dhaka. Representative from CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, RILO WCO, all national law enforcement agencies were present in the workshop.
- 2 days TOT training of Forest Officers was held in Dhaka on 06-07 October 2015 and facilitated by CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, RILO WCO representatives.
- 9 trainings on “Wildlife Trade and Law Enforcement” for frontline Forest Department staff are ongoing.
- 11 awareness programs have been planned at different boarder areas, airport and sea port.

5. Other CITES related activities

- Different thematic training, workshop and awareness program materials developed.

- “Guide Book on Wildlife Law Enforcement In Bangladesh” CITES Booklet publication that covers all the species of fauna and flora listed in CITES appendix I, II and III from Bangladesh with clarification of trade published.

4.2 China

Trade and Conservation species

Investigation and assessment of more than 50 categories sensitive species and species of significant trade has been carried out by the CITES Management Authority of China during 2015, such as: *Sclerophages formosus*, *Cercopithecidae*, *Mauremys sinensis*, *Mauremys reevesii*, *Pavo cristatus*, *Mustelinae*, *Andrias davidianus*, *Mobula*, sharks and so on. And more than two hundreds companies about international trade of CITES listed species have been inspected and monitored.

Participation in CITES meeting

During 2015, we organized and participated in more than 25 CITES regular and special meetings, including: the 22th Plants Committee, the 28th Animal Committee, the Convention on the Annual Report Workshop, Convention and Livelihood Workshop; Crack down on illegal wildlife trade Meeting in Kasane , the First Steering Committee on Leopard Protection, the High-level Dialogue and Rhino Horn Illegal Trade Control Ministerial Meeting, Crackdown on African Elephant Poaching and Illegal Trade Conference, the 13th Session of the UN Conference on Crime Prevention and criminal Justice to Crack down the Crime of Forests and Wildlife Crime, the 24th Meeting of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice , the Delivery Control of the Illegal Wildlife Trade International Conference, "Zero Tolerance" of poached seminars Workshop, Agarwood Resource Management Workshop, Saiga Protection and Trade Management Workshop, Pangolin Distribution Countries Meeting, APEC Reduce the Demand for Illegal Trade in Wild Animals and Capacity building Workshop, International Meeting on Curbing Illegal Ivory Demand.

Cooperation with Parties and others

We have cooperation with more than ten countries including: the United States, the European Union, Germany, Ethiopia, Laos, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nepal, Thailand, India and the association of South-East Asian nations Enforcement Network on bilateral communication and consultation of CITES implementation. And we also have cooperation with some organizations and NGOs, such as: WWF, TRAFFIC, CI, IFAW on CITES publicity, training, enforcement action, data collection and reports submitting.

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

The CITES Management Authority of China, together with the General Administration of Customs of China, enhanced supervision and management of international trade in borders of China in 2015 to curb the illegal trade in CITES species in the South-East coastal areas of China.

Revised Book for HS-code Listed Commodities of Wild Fauna and Flora in the end of 2015 accordingly, to concord with the updated Appendices of CITES etc.

The Inter-agency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group jointed together conducted many important special activities on wildlife enforcement operations all year, such as ‘ the Guardian Enforcement Action’ and ‘Tian Wang Enforcement Action’. Exchanging more Intelligences with other countries about the illegal trade and smuggling, revised the law interpretation on penalization of illegal wildlife trade, strengthened the routine communication and cooperation with many international and sub-regional law enforcement organizations such as Interpol, WCO, UNDOC, RILO/AP, LATF, ASEAN-WEN and SAWEN, worked with US, South Africa, LATF, ASEAN-WEN and SAWEN.

The Operation Cobra III 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 May of 2015. This operation focused on key species that are subject to illegal trade, achieved excellent results by law enforcement officers from 64 countries. In China it cleaned up 123 cases, there are a large number of

other wildlife products, and species refer to ivory, turtle, carol, rhino, pangolin rosewood, snake, hornbill, giant clam. China's authorities, including forestry, customs, and police, judiciary and quarantine departments involved in this operation.

On May 29. 6 2015, State Forestry Administration of China and the General Administration of Customs of China destroyed 662 kg of illegal ivory items in Beijing, to demonstrate the country's determination to discourage illegal ivory trade, protect wildlife and raise public awareness.

Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

CITES MA of China carried out more than 40 times of CITES trainings at the national and provincial levels all this year, and the total number of 5000 to participate these trainings.

We initiated so many activities this year, such as "World Wildlife Day", "Bird Protection Week", "Wildlife Awareness Month" to raise public awareness to protect the wildlife at the national and provincial levels.

We jointed with some authorities to decorate some boards in airports, put up posters in subways, distribute brochures of CITES publicity to improve the public's awareness of protection and performance. We published the press and news about enforcement of CITES nearly every two month.

Published the Identification Manual for Medicinal Endangered Plants, the Identification Manual for Products of the Common trade Species, the Identification Manual for Endangered and Precious Wood of Common Trade.

4.3

Implementation of Decision adopted at COP 16

In January 2015, Quarantine agency at Ngurah Rai International Airport and Timika Airport foiled smuggling effort to abroad of 8.860 heads of turtles (*Carettochelys Insculpta*).

In February 2015, National police foiled smuggling effort of hundreds of rare species from Papua to Java at Tanjung Perak port, Surabaya. Consists of 11 paradise birds, 100 flying squirrel, 4 great palm cockatoo, 30 snake and 25 monitor lizard.

In April 2015, National police in Medan foiled smuggling effort to abroad 5 tons of pangolin meat and 96 head of life pangolin, 77 kg pangolin scalp.

In May 2015, National police at Tanjung Perak port of Surabaya foiled smuggling effort of 21 *Cacatua galerita* eleonara put in mineral water bottle.

In July 2015, Custom agency of Juanda Airport foiled smuggling effort of 1.390 Kg pangolin packed in 43 box camouflage with fresh fish.

In September 2015, National police of North Sumatra in collaboration with Natural Resources Conservation agency seized 1 sheet of tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) skin and arrest 4 suspects.

In October 2015, National police of Riau foiled smuggling effort of three heads of baby orangutan which would be sold to buyer in Pekanbaru for 25 million IDR each.

In October 2015, Government of Indonesia repatriate 1 of 2 baby orangutan which was smuggled to Kuwait in last September through Kuwait International Airport.

In November 2015, Government of Indonesia repatriate 14 heads of orangutan which was smuggled to Thailand.

In November 2015, National police of North Sumatera confiscated 91 heads of trenggiling which would be smuggled to Malaysia. 4 suspect is being investigated.

Cooperation/Event

Indonesia CITES MA Signing MoU with The USA on Conserving wildlife and combating wildlife trafficking - Cooperate to strengthen capacity for wildlife conservation and management in Indonesia, and cooperate regionally and globally.

Indonesia CITES MA Signing MoU with 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.

During 2015 with support from Freeland-NGO based in Bangkok, trained 20 forest ranger to improve their capacity.

On December 2015, Government of Indonesia in collaboration with Humane Society International and US Embassy, conducted Wildlife Trafficking Workshop in Ambon. Attended by law enforcement officer from Indonesia and representative from Philipina which aimed to share information on the implementation of wildlife trade in Indonesia, Philipine and USA and formulated actions to combat illegal wildlife trade/ trafficking.

On going process on the revision of the Act concerning Biodiversity Conservation in which penalties on wildlife related crimes will be substantially increased.

4.4 Iraq

1. The formation of the Administrative Authority and the scientific Committee from Ministry of Environment.
2. Designated of a program for Iraqi CITES certificates issuing (import, export, re-export), certificates seals, special and general provisions for the implementation of the terms of CITES in Iraq.
3. All Government Authorities informed about Iraq accession to CITES and how to implement the convention in Iraq.
4. A cooperation mechanism has been put between Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture for the issuance of CITES certificates (import, export and re-export).
5. The formation of a national committee for the preparation of the national legislation for the implementation of CITES in Iraq.
6. With regard to conservation awareness, a number of brochures and booklets produced about the Convention, regulations and its Annexes and the most important species that was traded in Iraq which included in the CITES Annexes.
7. The preparation of national data of wild animal and plant species that already found in Iraq and included within the CITES appendices.
8. Iraq organize training course on the convention, CITES listed species, procedures of certificates issuing for the customs and related authorities.
9. Iraq cooperates with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to organize training workshops for the workers in the CITES section in ministry of environment.
10. 10- Iraq submitted the First Annual Report on last October to CITES Secretary.

4.5 Japan

1. Participation in CITES meeting

- Dr. Ishii, an alternative member of the Animals Committee and an official of the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) participated in the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee in August-September 2015.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

- FAJ technically and financially supported the Core Expert Meeting on Sharks and Rays in Southeast Asian Waters convened by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in March 2015.
- As part of efforts to enhance taxonomic capacity under the East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII), Japan carried out an internship program on the taxonomy of bryophytes and pteridophytes in cooperation with the Government of Thailand and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity(ACB) in January 2015 and a training of trainers on CITES policies and identification of threatened species in cooperation with the Government of Malaysia and TRAFFIC in March 2015.
- Japan has been providing financial support to the FAO's project, "CITES and commercially exploited aquatic species, including the evaluation of listing proposals".

3. Implementation of CITES including legislation and law enforcement activities

- As CITES Management Authority of Japan, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) issued 2,889 export permits including re-export certificates in 2014. METI issued 728 import licenses for items concerning species listed in Appendix I in 2014. As for the items concerning live specimens and others listed in Appendix II or III which need a prior confirmation in the case of import enforced by domestic law, METI confirmed 2,162 cases in 2014.
- FAJ, as Scientific Authority of Japan for aquatic species, established the non-detrimental finding (NDF) guideline for aquatic species and submitted it to the Secretariat in March 2015.
- The Ministry of the Environment (MOE), the Scientific Authority of Japan for terrestrial animals, recognized that the current trends of exportation is detrimental to the survival of Yellow pond turtle (*Mauremys mutica*) included in CITES Appendix II, considering increased export volume and estimated total population size of the species in Japan. In light of this, MOE decided not to make its NDF in March 2015, until such situation is improved.
- METI and FAJ introduced a registration system for caviar processing plants and an universal labelling system for caviar based on Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP16) in Japan.

4. Training/ Capacity Building and public awareness activities

- On 3 March 2015, the World Wildlife Day, METI and MOE held an exhibition and a symposium on wildlife trade with the cooperation of Tokyo Customs, e-commerce companies and an NGO, TRAFFIC EAST ASIA-JAPAN.
- MOE and METI ran public awareness campaigns on regulations of wildlife trade, including posting announcements on the websites of MOE and major e-commerce companies, and distributing leaflets.
- Japan has been providing extra budgetary contribution to CITES secretariat since 2013 for projects for New Party briefing mission and National legislative support, and has provided USD 60,000 for 2013, USD 50,000 for 2014 and USD 51,000 for 2015 (in process).

5. Other CITES-related Activities

- In 2014, the Japanese police arrested or interrogated 41 persons in 22 cases for violation of Act on the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- For smooth introduction and successful implementation of universal tagging systems for the identification of crocodilian skins based on Resolution Conf.11.12 (Rev. COP15) in Japan, METI made studies in January 2015 how other Parties that have already introduced them manage and implement their systems.
- On the occasion of Kasane Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Botswana in March 2015, Japan sent its delegation. Sharing its efforts, Japan expressed its determination to deal with this challenge continuously in coordination with the international society.
- On 30 July 2015, UN General Assembly Resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife was adopted. Japan joined the adoption as a co-sponsor of the Resolution.

4.6 Kuwait

1. Participation in CITES meeting

- Kuwait participate in the Asian Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa Guwahati, Assam, India, 19–23 January 2015
- Kuwait participate as regional representative for CITES in the Second multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among biodiversity-related Multilateral Environment Agreements, 13-15 May 2015.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

- Kuwait participate as the coordinator of CITES Convention for the Arabic speaking countries, in the 14th meeting of Arab Team for The International Environmental Conventions of Biodiversity and Desertification, The Arab League – Cairo – Egypt September 2014. Kuwait submitted a report regarding the important activities that Kuwait contribute within the region.
- Kuwait Participate in December 2014 in the meeting of the regional convention on wildlife conservation in their natural habitats in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which deal with regional matters including CITES convention.
- Kuwait organize with the cooperation of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) Workshop on combatting illegal trade in Cheetahs in the period between 3 - 5 November 2015, Kuwait, to review and exchange information on the illegal trade in cheetahs and to formulate targeted recommendations to combat it, including recommendations concerning the disposal of confiscated cheetahs.
- The workshop brought together representatives from CITES authorities and enforcement agencies from 13 Parties (Algeria, Bahrain, Botswana, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe), the Chair of the Animals Committee, and cheetah experts from international and non-governmental organizations (Born Free USA, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Global Eye, International Fund for Animal Welfare, IUCN Cat Specialist Group, Kuwait Environment Protection Society, Panthera, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and Zoological Society of London).

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

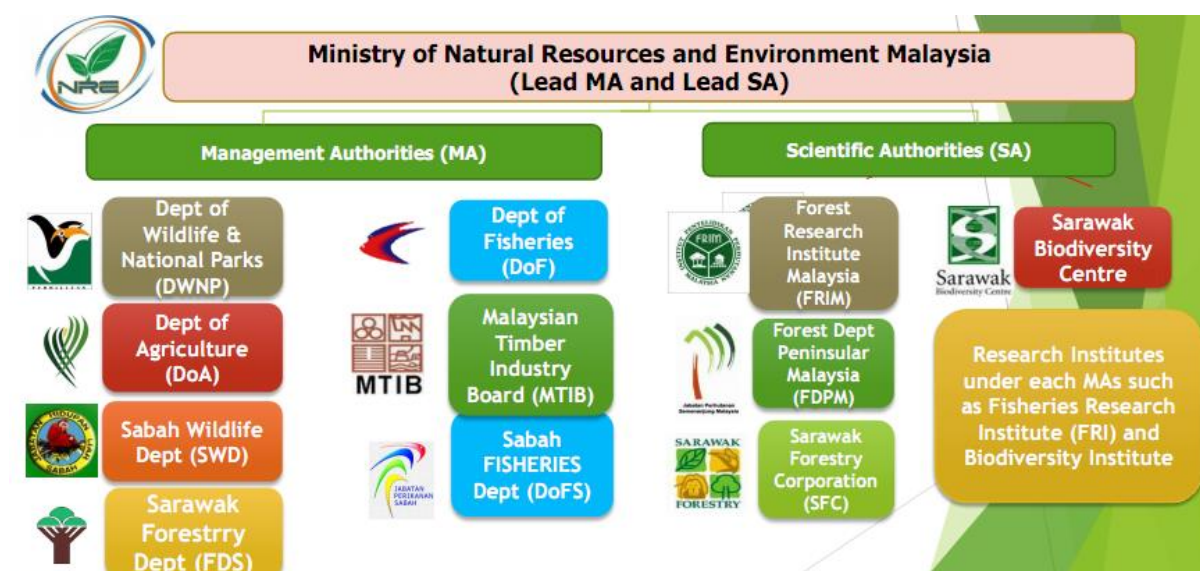
- Kuwait issue new national legislation regarding CITES (Law 42/2014) regarding Environment Protection and revised the modified of the current CITES “Resolution No.93/2003 regarding Sale and Trading in Endangered Wild Species”, to fulfil the requirement for classification the current legislation to grade I.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

- Several campaigns in Kuwait Friday market for the public awareness.

4.7 Malaysia

Organizational Structure Of CITES Authorities In Malaysia



Cooperation by CITES Malaysia

Regional

- Billateral cooperation on wildlife enforcement with Thailand
- 9th and 10th ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)
- 10th and 11th ASEAN Expert Group on CITES (AEG-CITES)
- Operation COBRA II & III

International

- Cooperate with Parties and CITES Secretariat
- Participated in 65th Standing Committee, 28th Animal Committee and 22rd Plant Committee
- National Central Bureau cooperation with INTERPOL/ ASEANAPOL
- Customs cooperation through World Customs Organization (WCO)
- Cooperation with International Tropical Timber Organization – CITES (ITTO-CITES)
- Cooperation with international NGOs such as TRAFFIC and WWF

CITES Implementation in Malaysia

- Submission of National Ivory Action Plan and progress report (Sept 2015)
- Inventory of government-held stockpiles in accordance with CITES resolution (submitted in Feb 2015)
- DNA Sampling for confiscated ivory (large seizures) in Sept 2014 and Nov 2015
- Amendment of Schedules Species on Act 686 based on CITES' current Appendices
- Implement the necessary action based on the Resolution in CoP16

Capacity Building Conducted In Malaysia

ACTIVITY/PROGRAMME	LEAD AGENCY
Species Identification For Flora under CITES Listings	DoA
Conducted and participated in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 capacity buildings particularly on timber CITES listed species to the relevant enforcement authority; • 3 Seminars to the public and industries. 	MTIB
Publication of "Guidelines on Classification of Agarwood Products, Malaysia".	MTIB
Workshop on MIST National Parks	DWNP and SFC

ACTIVITY/PROGRAMME	LEAD AGENCY
Workshop for Enforcement on Act 716 and Act 686	DWNP
Routine In-house Trainings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic and advance course for Investigation Officer • Basic and advance course for Raiding Officer • Basic and advance course for Prosecution Officer 	DWNP
Forensic Science Courses (Crime Scene Investigation)	DWNP
ESABII Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species	DWNP,FDS, SWD
Workshop in Strengthening The Enforcement Capacity of DWN	DWNP
Workshop on 1 Malaysia Biodiversity Enforcement Operation Network (1MBEON)	DWNP
Workshop on Ivory Sampling and Marking Techniques	DWNP
National Occupational Standard Skill (NOSS) Development Workshop in Elephant Conservation	DWNP
National Occupational Standard Skill (NOSS) Development Workshop in Avian Conservation	DWNP
Species Identification For Sharks and Manta Rays Under CITES Course	DoFS
Regional Consultative Workshop on Capacity Assessment for the Implementation of New CITES Listings of Sharks and Manta Rays.	DoF Malaysia
Intergovernmental Regional Workshop to Develop Measures Implement & Enforce New Shark & Manta Rays Listing on Appendix II, CITES.	DoF, Malaysia and DoFS
Workshop on Import And Export Inspection Procedures	SWD
Introduction to Species Identification For Endangered Species under CITES	FDS
Standard Enforcement Training on Wildlife and Forest Crime	DoA, FDS, DWNP
Small Mammal Specimens Identification and Catalogue Workshop	DWNP
Forensic Science Course (Forensic in the Field)	DWNP
Species Identification for Endangered Species under International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 [Act 686]	Custom Malaysia
Wildlife Trade Regulations Workshop	Custom Malaysia
Regional Capacity Building Workshop on CITES Appendix II Listing of Sharks and Manta Rays for Bay of Bengal Countries.	DoF Malaysia and DOFS
Species Identification for Endangered Species under International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008	DoF Malaysia
Introduction to Species Identification For Endangered Species under CITES	DWNP
Introduction to Species Identification For Terrestrial Species under CITES	FDS
Workshop to Strengthen Monitoring and Controlling Trades for Aquilaria Spp.	MTIB
Introduction to Species Identification For Endangered Species under CITES	SWD
Workshop for Management and Enforcement of Marine Species under International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008	DoFS
Comprehension of Act 686 for Judges and Prosecutors Workshop	NRE
Species Identification for Plant Species under International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008	DoA
Knowledge Sharing Session for MA and SA of CITES Malaysia	NRE



The Identification of Scheduled Flora Species Under CITES Course (DoA)



Species Identification For Sharks and Manta Rays Under CITES Course (DoFS)



Introduction to Species Identification For Endangered Species under CITES



ESABII Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species



Enforcement Activities

ACTIVITY/PROGRAMME	LEAD AGENCY
1,293 cases recorded under International Trade In Endangered Species Act 2008 [Act 686], Wildlife Conservation 2010 [Act 716], Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997 (Sabah) and Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998 (Sarawak), Fishery Act 1985 [Act 317]. (these cases are for national's totally protected and protected species including non cites species)	CITES Malaysia
MIST-Based Patrolling in National Park	DWNP, FDS
Patrols in areas (Protected Area) other than National Park	DWNP
Establishment of Wildlife Forensics Labs	DWNP, SWD
Collaboration with Malaysian Army through 1MBEON	DWNP



Technical audit activities for registration of Agarwood Plantation at Sabah, Malaysia



Collaboration with detecting enforcement agency Royal Malaysian Custom with MTIB and Department of Wildlife & National Parks on confiscation of CITES listed species.



Red Sanders seized (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) at North Port, Port Klang, Malaysia



Seized Timber Marking activities



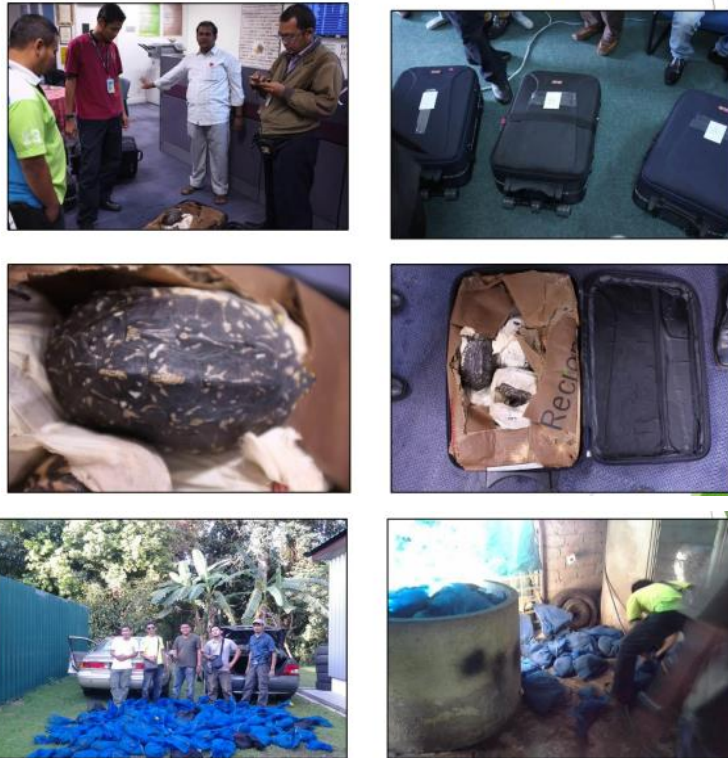
Lorikket seized in Animal Hotel, KLIA , Malaysia



2 Pairs of Watch Strap from Crocodile Skin Seized in KLIA



138 Black Pond Turtle Seized in KLIA, Malaysia



Pangolins seized in Perlis, Malaysia



4.8 Maldives

1. Participation in CITES meeting

- Capacity Building workshop on CITES Appendix II listings of Sharks and Manta Ray Species, 26-28 Aug 2014, Chennai, India

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

- CITES Law drafted with the financial assistance from Japan. The law was drafted after extensive stakeholder consultations. The draft Law will be sent to the parliament at the end of this year for adoption.

3. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

- Introductory Session to Custom Officers 09 Nov 2014, Male', Maldives
- Training Workshop for Custom Officers 12 March 2015, Male', Maldives

- Introductory session to Addu Custom Officers, 18 Feb 2015, Addu, Maldives
- Introductory session to Kulhuduffushi Customs, 05 April 2015, Kulhuduffushi, Maldives
- Introductory session to Custom Officers, 26 Aug 2015
- Training Workshop for Custom Officers, 22 Oct 2015

4.9 Myanmar

Prepared by Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

1. Participation in CITES Meetings

Myanmar participated in the following CITES meetings or events during the year 2014 and 2015:

- (a) The meeting of CITES-MIKE sub-regional steering committee for Southeast Asia on 3 and 4 November, 2014 in Myanmar
- (b) Training of Trainers on CITES Policies and Species Identification Course in Malaysia from 18 to 21 February, 2014
- (c) Seminar on Asia CITES Implementation and Wildlife Conservation in China from 8 to 28 June, 2015
- (d) First Pangolin Range States Meeting by CITES in Vietnam from 24 to 26 June, 2015
- (e) Regional Capacity Building Workshop on CITES Appendix II Listing of Sharks and Manta Rays in Chennai, India from 26 to 28 August 2014

2. Cooperation with the Parties and Others

Myanmar has been actively participating in regional wildlife enforcement networks like: ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), INTERPOL: Wildlife Crime Working Group and TRAFFIC by sharing the information on combating illegal timber and wildlife trafficking in the country. In connection with ASEAN-WEN, Myanmar participated in “**Operation COBRA II and III**” which was operated by global, regional and national law enforcement agencies.

Recognizing the necessary of stakeholder participation in CITES implementation, Forest Department is cooperating with Government agencies such as Department of Fisheries, Myanmar Police Force, Custom Department, Directorate of Trade and General Administrative Department, as well as with INGOS/NGOs like WWF (World Wildlife Fund for Nature), WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society), FFI (Fauna and Flora International), Myanmar Floriculturist Association etc..

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

From July 2014 to December 2015, a total of 14 CITES Export Permits and two Import Permits were issued for the export of plants and animal species, and for the import of animal species. Among these, only one export permit for agarwood species was issued for commercial purpose and the rest were issued for the scientific and exhibition purposes.

Upon the available resources, Myanmar is doing the best to enforce the Forest Law (1992) and the Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Law (1994) by extension activities, environmental education campaign, patrolling, special operation etc. However, such the efforts could not stop illegal activities on wildlife and timber.

Between the year 2014 and 2015, 11,524 illegal timber trafficking cases were detected. From those illegal timber trafficking cases, a total of 82557.90 ton of logs and lumber were confiscated together with several accessories used in illegal timber trafficking. For the case of wildlife and their parts, a total of 50 illegal wildlife crimes were detected in 2014 and 2015.

4. Training/Capacity Building and Public Awareness Activities

In order to promote the implementation of CITES as well as to strengthen combating wildlife crimes in the country, we conducted the capacity building programs as follows:

- (a) Training for Media in reporting wildlife crimes on November 26 to 28, 2014 in collaboration with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

- (b) Capacity building training course on CITES implementation and combating wildlife crimes in Myanmar on August 4 to 5, 2015 in collaboration with WWF Myanmar Office and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
- (c) Basic Knowledge of CITES and departmental procedures on registration of orchid farms in collaboration with Myanmar Floriculturist Association

Besides, Forest Department prepared educational materials to raise awareness about CITES such as in banners and leaflets in collaboration with WWF Myanmar Office. CITES banners were given to Custom Officers to display at domestic and international arrival/departure terminals of Yangon and Mandalay International Airports. CITES leaflets were prepared into five languages such as Myanmar, Shan, Karin, English and Chinese, and were distributed to Township Officers from Forest Department, Customs Department and Myanmar Police Force working at the border areas, as well as to officers from line departments from the places where illegal wildlife trades are mostly occurred.



5. Other CITES-related activities

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4.10 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

National Capacity Building

The Sultanate of Oman represented by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs organized a national training course on combating illicit trafficking in wildlife during the period from 15 February 19 2015 in cooperation and coordination with the International Fund for Animal Welfare - Middle East and North Africa office.

Regarding the participation in national, regional and international CITES's meetings and events,

Oman participate in the regional Training Workshop for the Prevention of Wildlife Trafficking from 17th to 21st of November 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

4.11 Pakistan

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

- During the reporting period, Pakistan participated in the following international meetings/workshop:
 1. South Asia CITES Workshop: on Implementing the Sharks Appendix II listing, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 30-31 July, 2014.
 2. Second Annual Meeting of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), 26-29 August, 2014, Katmandu Nepal.
 3. First Pangolin Range States Meeting 24-26 June 2015. Da Nang, Viet Nam.
 4. Regional Meeting of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) Focal Persons, 4-6 November, 2015, Katmandu Nepal.
- At national level discussions with stakeholders were held for implementation of new CITES listing of sharks and manta ray species.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

- 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. 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.

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

- Rules for enforcement of The Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act 2012 (Exclusive law for CITES in Pakistan) are being finalized.
- Provincial wildlife laws are being amended to give protection to the species appeared in illegal trade. Provincial Wildlife Laws of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been amended. Moreover

Provincial Wildlife Law of Sindh Province has recently been amended to declare all freshwater turtle species of Pakistan as protected.

- CITES Management authority under the Chairmanship of the Federal minister for Climate Change has been notified under “The Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012”. It is an apex body having representation of all stakeholders to decide policy issues for implementation of CITES in the country. In a meeting of CITES Management Authority on 27th May 2015, trade of wildlife was reviewed and various national level policy decisions were made. A brief detail is as follows:
 1. Designation of CITES Scientific Authorities in Pakistan
 2. Review of provincial efforts to curb illegal wildlife trade
 3. Imposing ban on commercial export of reptiles and mammals
 4. Imposing ban on commercial export of parrots/parakeet species.
 5. Allocation of annual trophy hunting quota
- To control illegal trade of wildlife species, a list of non-CITES species of Pakistan was submitted to the CITES Secretariat. The CITES Secretariat included some of those species in CITES Appendix-III. For listing of more species on CITES Appendices, provinces/territories are being consulted and required legislative amendments are under process.
- Provincial wildlife authorities, Pakistan customs and other line agencies confiscated a number of consignments of CITES listed species being traded illegally. These consignments, where possible were rehabilitated back to wild and the violators proceeded under the laws. A brief detail is as under:
 - In September 2014 Customs officials seized 200 Black Spotted Turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) at Karachi Airport, which were being smuggled to Thailand: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1133251>
 - In October, 2014 Sindh Wildlife Department officials at Jamshoro seized 38 poisonous snakes, including 18 black cobras and 20 vipers: <http://animals.org/2014/10/11/38-snakes-rescued-in-sindh-while-being-smuggled/>
 - In October, 2014 Punjab Wildlife Department officials seized 2 Chinkara gazelles and 60 partridges in a raid at Bahawalpur: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/777683/saving-the-endangered-chinkara-deer-recovered-in-raid/>
 - In October, 2014 Sindh Wildlife Department officials seized 78 Common Cranes at Hyderabad. <http://www.dawn.com/news/1139396/78-cranes-seized-three-poachers-fined>
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/778446/spread-your-wings-wildlife-officials-rescue-78-cranes/>
 - In October, 2014 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife Department officials seized 4 falcons at Laki Marwat. <http://www.dawn.com/news/1139378/four-precious-falcons-seized>
 - In November 2014, Customs officials at Karachi Airport seized five falcons which were being smuggled to Dubai: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/790789/clipped-wings-five-falcons-saved-from-being-smuggled-abroad/>
 - In January 2015, Sindh Wildlife Department seized 4 falcons at Hyderabad: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/820849/smuggling-bid-foiled-wildlife-department-officials-rescue-four-falcons/>
 - In February 2015, a huge consignment containing dried body parts of freshwater turtles was seized at Karachi Port which was being sent to Hong Kong. Body parts of over 4,000 freshwater turtles were declared by the offenders as fish meat. <http://tribune.com.pk/story/848454/shells-in-trouble-meat-of-over-4000-turtles-seized-from-karachi-port/>
 - <https://vimeo.com/121417869>

- In July 2015, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife Department officials at Mansehra seized 1 stuffed Markhor and one stuffed Ibex: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1191834>
- In July 2015, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife Department officials at Mansehra seized a female Common Leopard cub: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/913780/forest-and-fauna-wildlife-authorities-seize-leopard-cub/>
- In August 2015, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife Department officials at Laki Marwat seized two Houbara bustard and 24 Grey Partridges which were being smuggled to Afghanistan. <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-335759-Bid-to-smuggle-precious-birds-foiled>
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1202290> <http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/329393/wildlife-foils-bid-to-smuggle-precious-birds-to-afghanistan/>
- In August, 2015 Sindh Wildlife Department officials seized over 50 protected birds and mammals in a raid at Karachi. <http://www.dawn.com/news/1202611> <http://tribune.com.pk/story/944631/unprotected-animals-wildlife-officials-fear-dealers-more-than-the-animals/>
- In September 2015, Sindh Wildlife Department officials at Jamshoro seized 150 Spiny-tailed Lizards (*Uromastyx* sp.). <http://tribune.com.pk/story/951464/wildlife-officials-seize-150-desert-lizards/>
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1205138>
- In September, 2015 Customs officials at Lahore Airport seized 120 Black Spotted Turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*), which were being smuggled to Thailand.
<http://nation.com.pk/national/08-Sep-2015/customs-officials-recover-120-rare-turtles-at-lahore-airport>
<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/national/08-Sep-2015/customs-officials-foil-smuggling-bid-recover-120-rare-turtles>
- In September 2015, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife Department officials seized skins of various species (including monal pheasant, common leopard, lynx, foxes, hog deer etc) from Peshawar: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/962386/a-matter-of-hide-shopkeeper-caught-selling-skins-of-endangered-animals/> <http://dunyanews.tv/index.php/en/Pakistan/297708-Lahore-Customs-officials-foil-smuggling-bid-reco>
- In October 2015, Sindh Wildlife officials in a raid apprehended falcon trappers at Jamshoro: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/966384/illegal-hunting-wildlife-dept-nabs-five-hunters-rescues-as-many-falcons/>
- In October 2015, Sindh Wildlife Department seized 12 falcons in a raid : <http://tribune.com.pk/story/967871/illegal-hunting-wildlife-officials-rescue-12-laggar-falcons/>
- In October 2015, Sindh Wildlife Department seized 22 falcons in a raid : <http://tribune.com.pk/story/970732/caught-mid-flight-22-rare-saker-falcons-seized-by-wildlife-officials/>
- In October 2015, Sindh Wildlife Department seized 40 falcons in a raid: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1212881>
- In October 2015, Ranger personnel seized 29 falcons: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1212421>
- In October 2015, 7 falcons were seized by Coast Guards near Karachi: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/974771/foiled-seven-rare-falcons-recovered/>

- In November 2015, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife Department officials seized 2 falcons at Peshawar: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/983406/smuggling-bid-foiled-at-least-two-saker-falcons-recovered/>

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

- All important biodiversity related days like; World Wildlife Day, World Biodiversity Day, World Wetlands Day, Earth Day etc. were celebrated at national level by involving scientific community, local community, academia and other stakeholders. Presentations on CITES and other relevant MEAs were delivered at the events. Awareness activities are regular component of relevant projects of government and NGOs, which include preparation and dissemination of awareness material.

4.12 Qatar

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

- State of Qatar has participated in the working group on illegal trade in cheetah, held in Kuwait from 3 to 5 November 2015.

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

- Confiscated one chimpanzee on 31 October 2015.
- Confiscated one cheetah on 1 November 2015.
- Confiscated one lion on 3 November 2015.
- Seized 156 Kg of worked elephant ivory arrived on transit without CITES permits.
- Seized 150 Kg of Rhino horns arrived on transit without CITES permits.

All seized animals are placed in the government zoo and offenders are arrested for court proceedings.

4.13 Saudi Arabia

1. Participation in CITES meeting.

Saudi Arabia has attended the following CITES Meetings:

- The 65th meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva (Switzerland), 07-11 July 2014.
- The Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee, Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others.

- Saudi Arabia has an ongoing cooperation with the GCC Member States for the enhancement of the Implementation of CITES and compacting illegal wildlife trade in the region, and it is a member at the CITES working group under the umbrella of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
- Saudi Arabia has attended the Workshop on combating illegal trade in Cheetahs, 3 – 5 November 2015, Kuwait.

3. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities.

Saudi Arabia held a training workshop for CITES Management and Enforcement Authority staff in Saudi Arabia about the Implementation of CITES, Riyadh 11-14/08/2014.

4. Other CITES-related activities.

- Saudi Arabia has celebrated the World Wildlife Day 2015.
- Saudi Arabia has attended the following workshops :
- Regional Training Workshop for the Prevention of Wildlife Trafficking from 17th to 21st of November 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Regional Conference on Environmental Security – Best Practice Examples of Preventive Measures and Law Enforcement, from June 14 to 16, 2015 - Amman, Jordan.

4.14 Singapore

1. Participation in CITES meeting

Date	Meeting	Venue
30-31 July 2014	South Asia CITES workshop on Shark Listing on CITES Appendix II	Colombo, Sri Lanka
5-6 May 2015	10 th Meeting of the ASEAN-Wildlife Experts Group (ASEAN-WEG)	Brunei Darussalam
7-8 May 2015	11 th Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group on CITES Meeting (AEG-CITES)	Brunei Darussalam

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority or AVA (also the CITES Management Authority of Singapore) hosted a visit by Mr John Scanlon, Secretary General of CITES Secretariat on 17 November 2015. The Meeting discussed a few significant seizures by AVA of illegal wildlife such as black pond turtles, ivory and rosewood. Other matters discussed during the meeting were the use of tools and services provided for by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and updates on the preparation for the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to CITES, in South Africa, 24 September – 5 October 2016.

On 19 November 2015, AVA participated in an interview conducted by Mr Ben Janse van Rensburg, Head of Enforcement at the CITES Secretariat. The objective of the interview was to assist the Secretariat to build a general understanding of what CITES Parties would do when they seize large shipments of CITES specimens, identify best practices and common capacity building needs. AVA shared the case study on the smuggling of black pond turtles via Singapore during the interview.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

Between 29 June and 3 July 2015, AVA participated in the Operation PAWS II Regional Investigative Support Meeting at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting, facilitated by Interpol and attended by several ASEAN and South Asian countries, served as a platform for participating countries of Operation PAWS II (aimed at targeting the illegal trade of key species such as tigers, pangolins, ivory and rhino horn, reptiles and red sanders) to each provide an update on the outcomes, on-going investigations and priority targets arising from the Operation. Following the updates, the Meeting also mapped out a target development framework and investigative follow-up actions.

On 18-20 August 2015, AVA also participated in a Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting on Forest Crime at the Interpol Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI), Singapore. The event was attended by forest police and enforcement officers from the Asia- Pacific region. Besides country presentations, there were discussions and breakout group assignments to discuss various issues related to forest crimes and illegal timber trade. The participants also identified the common illegally logged species in SE Asia such as Siamese rosewood, etc, illegal trade routes, challenges in investigation of forest crimes, other associated crimes such as corruption and money-laundering and how Interpol could support countries in their investigations.

AVA was represented at the 2nd Interpol Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Events from 16-18 November 2015 at IGCI in Singapore. The Meeting focused on climate change, sustainable development goals and the role of law enforcement in ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. The event ended with the elections of members for the Advisory Board, and the adoption of

an action plan outlining concrete steps for the global community to enhance efforts in environmental enforcement.

AVA attended the 26th Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group meeting from 23-27 November 2015 at the IGCI in Singapore. The meeting aimed to strengthen cooperation amongst the stakeholders involved in environmental security and develop strategies to overcome the challenges in tackling wildlife crimes. During the meeting, several sub-working groups were formed such as a group looking into improving communications with National Central Bureaus in facilitating information and intelligence exchange, a wildlife case analysis project on collating past and current wildlife seizure information for intelligence analysis, and a suggested wildlife enforcement operation targeting at the illegal trade in shahtoosh wool.

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

The following highlights significant wildlife seizures made by Singapore:

- i. In January 2015, aviation security officers at the Singapore Changi airport detected a case of 190 heads of highly endangered black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) smuggled in 3 suitcases which arrived from Bangladesh and en route to Indonesia. The traveller was arrested and jailed 16 months for the offence.
- ii. In May 2015, AVA, with the support of Singapore Customs and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, interdicted a shipment of about 3.7 tonnes of illegal ivory. This was the second largest seizure of illegal ivory since 2002. The shipment, which was declared as 'tea leaves', was shipped from Kenya and en route to Vietnam via Singapore. Upon inspecting the shipment, AVA uncovered 1,783 pieces of raw ivory tusks (whole/cut) concealed among bags of tea dust. AVA also found 4 pieces of rhinoceros horns and 22 pieces of canine teeth which were subsequently analysed to be from the Lion, Leopard and Hyena. The haul, estimated at S\$8 million, was seized by AVA for further investigations.
- iii. On 9 July 2015, two Russian nationals were found smuggling 206 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) via Changi Airport. The turtles were packed in 3 luggage bags and lined with diapers. Both were convicted on 14 October 2015 and each jailed for 15 months for the illegal import. The remaining surviving turtles were donated to Wildlife Reserves Singapore.
- iv. On 12 December 2015, Singapore Customs and AVA intercepted an air shipment of illegal ivory tusks and pangolin scales at the Changi Airfreight Centre. The 0.8-tonne shipment, labelled as "complete wigs of synthetic textile materials", originated from Lagos, Nigeria, and en route to Vientiane, Laos, via Singapore. A closer inspection of the shipment by Singapore Customs and AVA officers revealed 255 pieces of raw elephant tusks weighing about 505kg and pangolin scales weighing about 324kg. The shipment, worth an estimated S\$1.3 million, was seized. A freight forwarding company in connection with the shipment is assisting AVA with the investigations.

From 28 October – 2 November 2015, a team of University of Washington researchers, led by Professor Sam Wasser arrived in Singapore to assist AVA with the sampling of 3.7 tonnes of ivory seized in May 2015. The objective of the sampling was to determine the geographic origin of the ivory through DNA analysis, so as to enhance enforcement efforts at the identified source. A total of 250 ivory samples were subsequently re-exported to the University of Washington.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

AVA extended the surveillance program to include new CITES shark species. The survey monitors the import, re-export and transshipment of shark fins (fresh, unprocessed, raw, dried, salted, chilled), targeting consignments of CITES-listed shark species. It involves sampling of targeted shark's fin shipments for DNA tests by AVA's lab for species identification. To engage the industry, AVA has had meetings with the traders and also issued circulars to seafood traders and declaring agents to inform them of the new CITES listing of sharks and rays and to comply with CITES permit requirements. To enhance public awareness about CITES sharks and compliance by the industry, an advisory notice on landing/import/sale of CITES sharks and rays by fishing vessel operators and fish traders was also circulated at the 2 AVA fishery ports.

In December 2014, Singapore participated in the ASEAN-WEN Regional Stakeholders Law and Policy Workshop on Wildlife Crime, at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) in the National University of Singapore. The workshop brought together representatives from the legal, prosecution and CITES authorities to discuss a strategic approach towards an array of key non-specific wildlife national laws for tackling wildlife criminals. The workshop comprised of presentations by the UN Office on Drugs

and Crime, ASEAN-WEN, US Department of Justice and the environmental division of the Supreme Court of Thailand, discussions on the adequacy of wildlife laws and presentations on wildlife enforcement efforts. There were also breakout groups to discuss and share about standards to improve criminal legal systems, how various organisations such as NGO, enforcement, prosecution and judiciary authorities could jointly curb the illegal wildlife trade, the challenges faced in wildlife enforcement efforts and proposed solutions.

On 7 March 2015, AVA delivered a talk on tackling illegal wildlife trade and the role of AVA in wildlife enforcement in Singapore. The talk was conducted at the Singapore Zoo, in conjunction with the launch of their 'You Buy, they die' campaign with TRAFFIC SE Asia, which aims to reduce consumer demand for wildlife products that drives illegal wildlife trade. The talk highlighted the role of AVA in curbing illegal wildlife trade in Singapore, the legislation that gives legal effect to CITES, and the international cooperation that AVA has with national, regional and international enforcement agencies.

On 26 June 2015, AVA delivered a presentation on Wildlife Enforcement in Singapore to Biological Sciences students at the National University of Singapore (NUS). The talk included 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. Students also had the opportunity to share with AVA on their views towards the sustainability of wildlife trade and wildlife smuggling.

In July 2015, AVA sent a circular to remind shipping and logistics companies, declaring agents about CITES and to be careful when accepting jobs for import/transit shipments which may contain illegal wildlife and timber. The circular also served to seek the industry's cooperation to report any suspicious shipments to AVA for investigations.

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 the illegal wildlife trade. The talk included an overview of CITES, the role of AVA in the implementation and enforcement of CITES in Singapore, and also highlights on significant seizures of illegal wildlife. TRAFFIC presented an overview of the wildlife trade and smuggling techniques.

In November 2014, AVA donated confiscated wildlife specimens to the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum. The specimens included rhinoceros horn, raw/worked elephant ivory tusks/cut pieces, giant clam shells, crocodile skulls, clouded leopard skin, saiga horns, hawksbill turtle scutes, ginseng roots, shark's jaws, bear bile, etc, would be used for educational, exhibition and research purposes at the newly opened Museum.

5. Other CITES-related activities

Singapore submitted its CITES annual report for 2013 and 2014 to the CITES Secretariat on 30 September 2014 and 30 September 2015 respectively. 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.

The inclusion of the oceanic white-tipped shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*, *Sphyrna mokarran*, *Sphyrna zygaena*), porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) and manta rays (*Manta* spp.) on CITES Appendix II entered into effect on 14 September 2014. Prior to the implementation, the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2014 was gazetted.

In November 2014, Singapore gazetted the Endangered Species (Import and Export) (Amendment of Schedule) Notifications 2014 to align with the amendment of the listing of *Capra hircus aegagrus* in CITES App III by Pakistan. An annotation "Specimens of the domesticated form are not subject to the provisions of the Convention" has been added for clarity.

In November 2014, AVA implemented LicenceOne, an electronic permitting system for issuance of water-marked CITES permits and certificates. The enhanced system included a 'stock card' module for tracking of imported, exported and re-exported CITES specimens. It also allows foreign CITES authorities to verify online the authenticity of CITES permits and certificates issued by Singapore.

On 20 January 2015, AVA hosted a visit by 4 officials from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan and Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC). The delegation comprised of Mr Shin-ichi Hirakawa, Deputy Director/METI, Mr Yasushi Mizukami, METI, Mr Sukenao Iida, researcher/JWRC

and Dr Osamu Harada, Technical Director/Hyogo Prefectural Institute of Technology, was informed about how Singapore implemented the CITES Universal Tagging System (UTS) for identification of crocodilian skins under CITES Res. Conf. 11.12 (Rev. CoP15) and the reptile skin trade and UTS in Singapore. This was followed by a visit to a CITES-registered farm, Long Kuan Hung Crocodile Farm, and a meeting with the Singapore Reptile Skin Trade Association (SRSTA) on the following day.

On 25 February 2015, AVA hosted a visit by Dr Tatsuya Horikiri, a Senior Researcher from the Japan Wildlife Research Center, to discuss the marking, tracking and trade regulation of the Asian arowana (*Scleropages formosus*) or Dragon fish in Singapore. Dr Horikiri also visited a local CITES-registered Dragonfish farm to view the harvesting and tagging of Dragon fish. The visit also included presentations on captive-breeding and CITES permit issuance for Dragon fish by AVA. Through the study trips, both Japan and Singapore gained a better understanding of each country's regulatory practices for the trade in these species.

4.15 Thailand

1. Participation in CITES meeting

- Asian Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa Guwahati, Assam, India, 19–23 January 2015
- The 10th Meeting of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEANWEN) and the 11th Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group on CITES (CITES AEG) during -58 May 2015, Brunei Darussalam.
- The First Pangolin Range States Meeting in Vietnam during 26 – 24 June 2015.
- Twenty-eighth meeting of the Animals Committee on August 30th - September 3rd 2015, Israel.
- The 69th Session of the United Nation General Assembly, topic title “Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking – Towards Joint Action by the International Community on September 26th, 2015”. Thai delegates insisted the strong will and sincerity of Thai Government in combatting illegal wildlife trade.
- The Plants Committee Meeting, Tbilis, Georgia, 21 -25 October 2015

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

- Hosted the 1st bilateral meeting with Cambodia to strengthen law implementation between two countries, 19 – 18December2 014, Ubonrachathani Thailand
- Hosted the 16th meeting of Asian Regional Partner's Forum on Combating Environment Crime. January15th, 2015, Bangkok.
- Hosted the bilateral meeting with Lao PDR to strengthen cooperation in intelligence sharing, wildlife protection, law enforcement including ivory issues in order to enhance effectiveness in preventing illegal wildlife trade along Thai – Lao PDR. January 21st – 24th, 2015, Chiangrai Province.
- Co-hosted the World Wildlife Day and attended the UN General Assembly, March 3rd – 4th, 2015, New York, USA. Thai delegates made a speech emphasizing the sincerity in solving problems on internal ivory trade and combating wildlife crimes as well as the utmost attempt in implementation of NIAP under its commitments on CITES
- Co-hosted, with WCO, workshop on “Controlled Deliveries of Illegally Traded Wildlife Products”. Participants come from African and Asian countries which are also related to illegal wildlife trade issues. January 26th – 28th, 2015, Bangkok.
- Attended meeting titled “Towards Zero Poaching Symposium”. The aims of this symposium are to exchange experiences and make understanding about protection of Asian elephants and other threatened species in the region. February 2nd – 6th, 2015, Nepal.
- Attended Regional Dialogue on Preventing Illegal Logging and Trading of Siamese Rosewood Bangkok, Thailand 18-19 December 2014

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

- Implementing Thailand's National Ivory Plan in accordance to recommendation to the Standing Committee.
- Enactment of the Elephant Ivory Act 2015
- In the process of drafting new Wildlife Act, and reviewing the Plant Act
- Total ivory seizures is 12 cases in year 2014 and 20 seizures made in year 2015

- Notification subordinate law in Gazette on the rules, procedures and conditions for the registration of agarwood plantation.
- Using the electronics for issuing CITES Permit

4. Training/Capacity building and public awareness activities

- Held "The training of effectively use CITES permit for aquaculture products trade under the CITES Convention" (28th – 29th May 2014) Chonburi, Thailand.
- Held the Workshop on e-Permit using though Fisheries Single Window" (1st – 5th September 2014) Department of Fisheries Technology Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Joined the campaign organized by WWF Thailand "Chor Chang Chuay Chang" starting from January 12th, 2015 to engage the general public and raise awareness on the issue. The campaign aimed to stop buying ivory and ivory products.
- February 16th, 2015, Bangkok, a workshop held for officers to improve understanding on implementation of the Elephant Ivory Act 2015 with 70 participants with the ivory traders and DNP officials.
- Launched Campaign on the implementation of ivory-related legislations, presided in the opening ceremony by Prime Ministry, on February 25th, 2015 at Central World, Bangkok.
- Launched Campaign in the World Wildlife Day Celebration at Chatuchak Weekend Market and on March 3rd, 2015 at Phukiew Wildlife Sanctuary, Chayabhum, on February 28th, 2015.
- March 10th, 2015, Bangkok, DNP held a meeting for increasing understanding about registration of African elephant ivory. 50 DNP officers attended.
- Attended ESABII Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species, 9th -12th March 2015, Malaysia.
- Celebrated a Thai Elephant Day 2015 at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Chiangmai Airport, Phuket Airport and Thai Elephants Conservation Center in Lampang in order to reduce demand for ivory on March 13th, 2015.
- March 19th - 20th, 2015, Department of Provincial Administration held a meeting for making understanding on registration under the Beasts of Burden Act with 80 DoPA participants. DNP representatives served as resource person and performed a presentation regarding ivory trade control to participants.
- March 27th, 2015, Royal Thai Police held a training course for 200 police officers in order to enhance the efficiency in investigation and provide contexts of new legislation. DNP served as resource person.
- Organized campaign on anti-illegal ivory trade nationwide during March – April 2015
- Attended 2015 Training Seminar on Asia CITES Implementation and Wildlife Conservation, June, 8th 28 –th, 2015, China
- Held a reinforced meeting about requirements on ETIS report with participants from key enforcement agencies including Royal Thai Police, Customs and DNP. Mr. Tom Milliken, TRAFFIC's head of elephant and rhino programme accepted the invitation as resource person and performed his presentation to participants
- Developed guidelines, identification guide and provided the necessary equipment for officers to order to enhance the efficiency of law enforcement.
- More than 10 meetings/trainings held in year 2015 to improve understanding law implementation and strengthen cooperation among relevant enforcement authorities.
- Attended the training course on Identification of Rosewood which organize by Royal Forest Department, Thailand
- Organized the training course on Identification of Succulent plant in CITES listed at Bangkok, Thailand
- Organized the training course on Procedure of Litigation offender in Plant Act

5. Other CITES-related activities

Conducting research on Non-detriment Findings of various plant species:

- *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.

- *Aerides* Lour.
- *Vandopsis lissochiloides* (Gaudich)
- *Grammatophyllum speciosum* Blume
- *Cibotium barometz* (Linn.) J.Smith
- *Cycas siamensis* Miq.

4.16 Viet Nam

1. Participation in CITES meeting

- Vietnam has actively participated in international conferences related to the implementation of CITES such as the CITES Animal Committee Conference in Israel on September 28, 2015.
- Participated in the 2nd International Wildlife Trade conference in Kasane, Botswana in March 2015.
- Participated in the meeting organized by the Interpol on the application of Controlled Delivery method against illegal trade in wildlife in the Czech Republic in March 2015.
- Cooperated with the United States in organizing the First Pangolin Range States Meetings in Danang, Vietnam in June 2015;
- Participated in the inter-ministerial meeting on “Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade” in Germany, from 13 to 18 September, 2015.
- Participated in the Wildlife Crime and International Security Strengthening Law Enforcement at Wilton Park, London from 26 to 28 October, 2015.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

- Besides the Memoranda of Understanding signed between Vietnam and South Africa, Indonesia, Laos, and Cambodia on controlling wildlife trafficking, in 2015 Vietnam signed the Memoranda of Understanding with China and the Czech Republic. Vietnam also held bilateral and multilateral meetings with Mozambique, Tanzania, and Kenya to discuss how to strengthen cooperation against illegal trafficking of wild animals.
- Through the information channel of CITES, the Interpol and the WCO, Vietnam has actively and willingly exchanged information related to the transnational illegal wildlife trafficking activities.
- Vietnam also perform active checks and confirmations with the Member States in the certification of export, import and re-export licenses of specimens of wild animals and plants under the CITES Appendices.

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

- The National Assembly of Vietnam has adopted the amendment of the Penal Code, including those that involve wildlife crimes. Illegal trade, transportation, processing and selling of wild animals can be sanctioned for up to 15 years imprisonment.
- The law enforcement effort of Vietnam was also strengthened. In 2015, many illegal trades in ivory, rhino horns, pangolins, and big cats were discovered and seized by the law enforcement agencies such as the customs and the police. For example, the seizure of 4 tons of ivory, 1 tons of pangolin scales in Cat Tien Sa Port, Danang dated 25 August, 2015.
- Regarding scientific research, Vietnam is developing the proposals to list 01 reptile species in Appendix I of CITES, 01 reptile species in Appendix II, 02 amphibian species in Appendix I of CITES and 02 pangolin species distributed in Vietnam were also considered to be included in the Appendix I of CITES.
- Implementation of mid-term reviews of the conservation and trade status of 03 tortoise species distributed in Vietnam for the consideration of the Animal Committee.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

The CITES Management Authority of Vietnam collaborated with non-governmental organizations such as WCS, HSI, UNODC to organize several capacity building workshops for 200 law enforcement officers in the Police, Customs, and Forest Rangers.

The CITES Management Authority of Vietnam also implemented campaigns to reduce the demand for rhino horn that involved thousands of students, entrepreneurs, and women in Hanoi, Hai Phong, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City, and Khanh Hoa, with the estimated number of people accessed through out the campaign being 05 million people.

5. Other CITES-related activities

- Cooperated with UNODC in the adoption of the wildlife and forest crime Engine analytic toolkit to evaluate the current state of the legal Documents and the current situation of law enforcement in Vietnam against the illegal wildlife trade.
- Coordinate with the International Trade Center (ITC) to conduct a survey on the demand for wild animals and plants in traditional medicine
- The CITES Management Authority of Vietnam also cooperated with the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Education in organizing activities to raise awareness of the traditional medical doctors and embed conservation in the official curriculum of the students.

4.17 United Arab Emirates

1. Participation in CITES meeting.

- The 15th Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in the Arabian Peninsula organized Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPPA) and The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 03-04 February 2014.
- The London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade 12-13 February 2014 “London Declaration”.
- 1st United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Program, 23-27 June 2014.
- 65th meeting of CITES Standing Committee, 07-11 July 2014.
- Sub-regional Seminar for the Arabian Gulf Countries titled “Countering Illicit Trade – A legal Perspective” in Bahrain, 20-23 October 2014.
- Regional training workshop on Prevention of Wildlife Trafficking Regional Training Workshop hosted by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) in partnership with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), 17-21 November 2014.
- Kasane conference on illegal wildlife trade in Botswana, March 2015
- Destruction of approximately 10 tons of raw and crafted ivory by The Ministry of Environment and Water and Dubai Municipality in Dubai, 29th April 2015
- The Ministry of Environment and Water in collaboration with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) participated in a training workshop for Oman authorities on combating illegal trade and implementation of CITES, 15-20 February 2015.
- CITES Training workshops for customs authorities in the UAE with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), 17-21 May 2015.
- Combating illegal wildlife trafficking and on the implementation of CITES for Etihad Airlines ,8-9 Sep 2015
- Third annual Arabian Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZAA) conference, 9-10 Sep 2015
- Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015
- Workshop on combatting illegal trade in Cheetahs, Kuwait, 3-5 Nov 2015.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others.

- Training workshop on Combating illegal trade on sharks and marine life in cooperation with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), 17-19 February 2014.
- CITES Training workshops for Dubai customs with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), 11-13 March 2014.

- UAE Organized Exhibition for Falconry and Hunting in Abu Dhabi, September 2014.
- “Smuggling ivory leads to prosecution” campaign at Dubai Airports, June 2014 .
- An illustrated Guide to the sharks of the Arabian Gulf.
- UAE is involved with other countries in forming An inter-sessional working group on the side of the 65th standing committee meeting of CITES on illegal trade in Cheetahs. UAE also participated in a number of international meetings, workshops and seminars on combating illegal trade in wildlife in neighboring gulf countries or other countries in the region .
- UAE is involved with other countries in forming An inter-sessional working group on the side of the 65th standing committee meeting of CITES on sharks.
- 2015
- CITES Training workshops for agriculture engineers and veterinary doctors at the Ministry of Environment and Water 8 February-30 May 2015.
- CITES Training workshops for customs authorities in the UAE with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), 17-21 May 2015.
- “Smuggling ivory leads to prosecution” campaign at Abu Dhabi Airports, August 2015.
- Published guide: Sharks of the Arabian Seas an identification guide, 2015.
- UAE Organized Exhibition for Falconry and Hunting in Abu Dhabi, September 2015
- Combating illegal wildlife trafficking and on the implementation of CITES for Etihad Airlines ,8-9 Sep 2015.
- Third annual Arabian Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZAA) conference, 9-10 Sep 2015
- Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015.
- Workshop on combatting illegal trade in Cheetahs-Kuwait 3-5 Nov 2015.

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

- The Scientific Authority (Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi) in UAE is running the following activities:
- Monitoring and assessment of important and threatened species is being undertaken, which helps UAE to provide advice on issues related to uplifting and down listing of species as well as on import and export of certain species.
- Use of photo identification method for assessing and monitoring dolphins
- Use of drones for assessment and monitoring of breeding birds and dugongs
- Using age-based population dynamics method for key exploited fish species
- Regularly provides input to the management authority on species listing.
- listing needs)
- Ministerial Decree No. 500 for the Year 2014 On Regulating the Fishing and Trading of Sharks
- The Ministry of Environment and Water is currently developing a new CITES e-permitting system.
- The Ministry of Environment and Water issued Ministerial Decree No. 224 for year 2015 on protecting wild plants species.

- During the process of developing Biodiversity National Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), there was a full review of CITES related issues including enforcement and legislations.
- CITES enforcement is also reviewed and fully assessed during the process of preparing CMS MoU's reports, where UAE is a party on four CMS related MoU's including raptors, marine turtles, dugong and sharks.
- In world wildlife day, MoEW issue a press release of the occasion as well as an awareness campaign to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife.
- Public awareness campaign targeting passengers at Dubai international airport, as well as awareness campaigns in shopping centers. other awareness campaigns through social media and website is also used as a platform to get the message through to the wider audience.
- CITES activities in the country, in respect to:
 - o Review of Significant Trade
 - o Review of the Appendices
 - o CITES projects
 - o Registration of operations breeding Appendix-I animal species for commercial purpos
- Questionnaire on current legislative or other controls that concern the conservation and protection of the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and the barbary falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*). A project lead by Canadian Scientific Authority.
- Questionnaire on illegal trade of Pangolins.
- Questionnaire on illegal trade of Cheetahs.
- UAE's Respond To Fishery Management Measures For Sharks
- Report on Illegal trade of Cheetahs in UAE
- Report special report format on measures taken in 2013 to address illegal wildlife trade
- The Ministry of Environment and Water is currently developing a new CITES e-permitting system.
- The country is breeding Houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulate*) and MacQueen's bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*) for commercial purposes, as well as, falcons including saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*), The gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) and The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).
- Report on the implementation of CITES provisions concerning ivory, sent to CITES secretariat.
- A contract by Jonathan Barzdo "CITES Expert" for review the current laws, resolutions and decrees that provide a basis for the implementation of CITES and review the proposal for a new electronic permitting system for import and export/re-export of specimens of CITES species.
- Review of progress: United Arab Emirates – "London declaration"