

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November - 1 December 2017

Reports of regional representatives

ASIA

1. This document has been submitted by Kuwait.

2. General information:

Regional Representative: Chain, Indonesia, Kuwait

Alternate Regional Representative: Japan, Nepal, Republic of Korea

Number of Parties in the Region: 38

Parties providing information for this Report: China. Macao SAR of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

3. Introduction:

This report summarized the activities of Parties between 68th Standing Committee Meeting (October 2016, Johannesburg) and 69th Standing Committee Meeting (November 2017, Geneva).

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

4. Activities within each party

4.1 China:

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

From Sept. 24 to Oct. 5, 2016, participated in the 17th Conference of the Parties in South Africa.

In November, 2016, China has participated in the livelihood meeting held in South Africa on China has participated in the CHINESE, UNITED STATES AND MEXICO TRILATERAL MEETING ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING OF TOTOABA IN THE UPPER GULF OF CALIFORNIA.

From Jan. 11 to 15, 2017, participated in the Enforcement and Communication Conference of CITES holding by Viet Nam.

From Mar. 29 to 31, 2017, participated in the 3rd Regional Dialogue on Preventing Illegal Logging and Trade of Siamese Rosewood in Bangkok, Thailand,

From March 28 to April 2, 2017, participated in the workshop of the artificial breeding and captivity animal specimens on trade management under CITES control in the UK, which was organized by CITES secretariat;

From Apr.24 to 28, 2017, participate in the "CITES tortoises and freshwater turtle task force meeting" in Singapore, holding by the CITES secretariat.

From Jul. 18 to 22, participated in the 29th animal committee meeting.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

China visited Indonesia in November 2016, discussing CITES issues on how to improve management on wildlife trade bilaterally especially in agarwood and how to effectively implement the revised resolution and new inclusion of species into CITES appendix.

From May 8 to 11, 2017, conduct bilateral exchanges on the implementation of the transaction between China and Japan.

Joint Group including CITES MA of China, SFA, custom and NGOS went to Namibia, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Uganda in 2017 to make publicity to Chinese Citizens the law and regulation of protection of wildlife.

CITES MA of China, Forestry Police and 2 wildlife identify institution visited the State Forensic lab of Fish and wildlife of US in May, 2017 to communicate the identify technology of wildlife.

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

The new Wildlife Protection Law was adopted and promulgated on July 2th 2016 by the Standing Committee of National People's Congress and came into force as of January 1st 2017. The following contents have been added: It is prohibited to produce and market any food made by the key national protected wildlife and its products or illegally traded wildlife and its products; It is prohibited to illegally purchase any key national protected wildlife and its product for edible purpose; It is prohibited to publish any advertisements for selling, purchasing or using wildlife or the restricted hunting tools; It is prohibited to publish any advertisements for illegally selling, purchasing or using the product of wildlife. It is prohibited that any trading sites including the online trade platform and commodity trading market provide services for illegal selling, purchasing or using of wildlife and its product as well as restricted hunting tools. To organize and carry out international cooperation and communication of the wildlife protection and relevant law enforcement operation. To establish a inter-agency coordination mechanism to prevent and combat the smuggle and illegal trade of wildlife and its product, and conduct operations to prevent and combat wildlife crime. To develop and publish the methods and criteria for evaluation of the value of wildlife and its products.

The State Council published the notification to suspend the commercial product and sale of ivory and its products in order on December 30th, 2016. The SFA published the list of suspend product and sale place of ivory on 20th March, 2017. 12 factories and 55 outlets was closed at the end of March. The rest 22 factories and 88 outlets will be shut down by the end of the year.

In a renewed effort led by the Fisheries Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Market Enforcement Department of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, and CITES Management Authority of China to tackle illegal trade in critically endangered totoaba and Chinese bahaba fish bladders, Guangdong Ocean and Fisheries Department, Guangdong Administration for Industry and Commerce and CITES Guangzhou branch office took coordinated action on regional market sweeps between Jan 9 and Feb 9, 2017, with a focus on major cities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Shantou. The efforts were focused on dried seafood markets, fish markets, retail, hotels, and restaurants. On January 9, 2017, the agencies hosted a crackdown and awareness & education campaign launch ceremony in Guangzhou to start the market sweeps and public awareness activities.

On November 3-4, 2016, CITES MA of China organized the twelfth annual workshop on illegal trade of endangered species, and invited ministries and NGOs to attend. This workshop analyzed the current illegal wildlife trade situation, reviewed the progress and proposed further actions to strength law enforcement

In the 6th meeting of NICECG in December 2017, National Tourist Administration Joined. Now, China's National Inter-agency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group have (NICECG) 12 Departments member from 9 Ministries or Administrations

3 ICCWC Toolkits including "The Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit", "ICCWC indicator framework for wildlife and forest crime" and "Guidelines on methods and procedures for ivory sampling and laboratory analysis" were translated to Chinese and published.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

More than 50 trainings for over 5000 individuals in CITES were held each year by CITES MA, Local Office, Custom, police, wildlife authority, market authority and CITES SA.

3 training course for law enforcement and wildlife management officers from Asian countries, Africa countries and developing countries were held in 2017.

4 endangered species trade management training bases(Northeast Forestry University, Nanjing Forestry Police College, Forestry Management Staff Institute, and China National Bamboo Research Center) were built in 2017.

To raise public awareness of wildlife protection and CITES implementation among overseas Chinese enterprises and citizens, China conducted two training workshops in Gabon and Cameroon respectively in April 2017, focusing on import management policy on CITES timber species.

A training workshop in totoaba held in Guangzhou, the capital city of Guangdong Province in December 2016. The workshop – organized by the Chinese CITES Management Authority (CNMA), Bureau of Fisheries of Ministry of Agriculture (BOF) and State Administration of Industry and Commerce (SAIC) – featured information sharing sessions with representatives from Hong Kong SAR, Mexico and the U.S., who shared their hands-on experience and efforts to combat the trafficking. About 100 enforcement officers from fisheries, market control, customs, and coast guard in Guangdong province attended the workshop, where they learned the conservation status of Totoaba and Vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*) and to identify Totoaba maw. A mobile version e-tutorial was introduced to help quick on-site identification of Totoaba and its maw.

On 3rd March 2017 World Wildlife Day, the “Listen to the Young Voices” event in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, was co-hosted by China’s CITES MA and Nanjing Forest Police College. The World Wildlife Day event attracted more than 300 participants from the National Inter-agency CITES Enforcement Collaboration Group (NICE-CG), including representatives from the State Forestry Administration, Forestry Police, Customs, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Public Security, the State Administration for Industry & Commerce, China Wildlife Conservation Association and other domestic and international conservation organizations, together with relevant business and industry associations including the China Traditional Medicine Association. During the event in the morning, Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent (BAT) – the top three internet service providers in China -- made speeches respectively stating their position and resolution on combating wildlife cybercrime and signed an initiative as leading Internet companies in China to call for an industry-level cooperation and collaboration with various other internet business entities to eradicate online illegal wildlife trade.

5. Other CITES related activities

To translate all the documents including new resolutions and decisions and effective Appendices I , II , III after CITES Cop17.

To formulate the action plan from 2017-2019 of China, in order to conduct the relevant authorities to implement the new resolutions and decisions of CITES Cop17.

4.2 Macao SAR of China

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

The Macao SAR has participated in the 66th Standing Committee and the 17th Conference of the Parties, under the delegation of China.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

With the view to ensure a full compliance of CITES, revised domestic legislations of the Macao SAR, namely the Enforcement Law of CITES (Law No.2/2017) and its complementary regulation (Administrative Regulation No.19/2017), have been entry into force from 1 September 2017. Besides the designation of scientific authority, the Enforcement Law prohibits the trade in specimens in violation of CITES, which covers a ban on commercial trade regarding Appendix I specimens. To express the strong commitment on cracking down illegal trade, the Enforcement Law also imposes heavier penalties on offences and confiscation on smuggled specimens.

English courtesy translation of the above-mentioned legislations is available and will be submitted to the CITES Secretariat for analysis.

3. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

Since the revised legislations had been adopted in May 2017, the Macao SAR government has held a series of activities in promoting CITES and the new legislations, conveying the message of wildlife conservation and legitimate trade in CITES species. These include commercial ads and print ads promotion, as well as seminars for traders and residents. For effective publicity, leaflets have been delivered to household of the Macao SAR, while promotional materials have been set up in major ports to draw attention of the general public.



4.3 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)

1. Participation in CITES meeting

Representatives of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD, CITES Management Authority of HKSAR) attended the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to CITES as members of the delegation of the People's Republic of China, which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 4 October 2016. Representatives of AFCD also attended the 66th, 67th and 68th meetings of Standing Committee, 29th meeting of the Animals Committee as well as 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee as members of the delegation of the People's Republic of China.

In January 2017, representatives of CITES Management Authority of Singapore visited Hong Kong and had a meeting with AFCD on 26 January 2017. Information on CITES enforcement issues, disposal of confiscated CITES specimens, the plan of ivory ban were exchanged and discussed in the meeting.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

Shortly after the large seizure of raw ivory in Hong Kong where 7 tonnes of ivory was found in a sea container shipped from Malaysia in July 2017, Gabon CITES Scientific Authority proposed to carry out a rapid DNA test to identify the origin of the seized tusks. From 20 to 22 September 2017, 3 ivory DNA experts from Gabon National Parks Agency, Malaysia Department of Wildlife and Nations Parks, and TRACE Wildlife Forensic Network came to Hong Kong and worked together with AFCD to extract ivory samples from 90 seized tusks. This was an international collaboration to assist enforcement work to combat illegal ivory trade.

AFCD also provided samples of confiscated CITES specimens to CITES authorities of exporting countries and scientific institutes to assist their enforcement work and/or study of illegal wildlife trade. For instance, samples of rhino horns were sent to CITES Management Authority of South Africa in August 2017 and samples of pangolin scales were sent to local institutes in January and August for their DNA study in relation to mapping of illegal pangolin trade.

AFCD exchanged intelligence and seizure information with the exporting countries. For instance, the information of European eel seizures in Hong Kong in early 2017 were sent to enforcement authorities of Spain and France, which helped with their court case and enforcement works respectively.

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

Hong Kong Government announced in December 2016 a three-step plan to phase out the local trade in ivory by the end of 2021, and to impose heavier penalties to enhance deterrent against illicit trade in endangered species. This was to demonstrate Government's commitment in combating the illegal ivory trade and to contribute to the global efforts in protecting wild elephants. The process of legislative amendment has been started where the corresponding Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017 was gazette on 2nd June 2017. A Bills Committee was formed and meeting to vet the amendment bill was held on 7 July 2017.

Hong Kong enforcement agents endeavoured to maintain momentum to curb illegal trade in endangered species. Between Jan 2016 and August 2017, there were a total of 601 seizure cases related to smuggling of CITES listed endangered species into or out of Hong Kong. 232 of the cases were resulted in successful prosecution and conviction. Some major enforcement cases are highlighted as below:

- a. In July 2016, Hong Kong Customs acted on intelligence and intercepted an inbound sea shipment from Thailand and found a total of 73 tonnes of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* in 3 containers without the required CITES permit. The wood logs were seized for further investigation.
- b. In May 2017, Hong Kong Customs intercepted a sea shipment from Nigeria. The shipment was declared as charcoal but it was 7200 kg of pangolin scales that found in the container. The pangolin scales were seized for further investigation.
- c. In May and September 2017, Hong Kong Customs intercepted at the airport 1 and 2 travelers respectively that smuggled altogether nearly 110 kg of worked ivory from Zimbabwe. The ivory was found concealed in false compartment of computer tower cases inside their luggage. All the offenders were prosecuted, convicted and sentenced for an imprisonment ranged from 2 to 3 months.
- d. In July 2017, Hong Kong Customs intercepted an inbound sea cargo from Malaysia. The shipment was declared as frozen fish. However, upon inspection, there were 7 tonnes of raw ivory hiding behind the frozen fish. The case is the largest seizure of raw ivory so far.
- e. In May 2016, Hong Kong Customs intercepted an out bounded vehicle with an Indonesian passenger who exported 98.68kg of ivory, 6.82kg of helmeted hornbill and 1.78kg of agarwood without permit. The offender was prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to a fine of \$5,000 and 2 months imprisonment.

Apart from smuggling cases, AFCD stepped up measures and inspection to local ivory trade. Among the measures, hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis was employed to determine the age of ivory to assist law enforcement. In August 2016, AFCD officer purchased a pair of ivory chopsticks from a local art and craft shop. Ivory samples cut from the pair later found in radiocarbon dating analysis to be come from ivory obtained after trade ban. Prosecution was initiated against the proprietor and operator of the shop. They were consequently convicted and sentenced for a fine of HK\$8000 and HK\$6000 respectively.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

Training and Capacity Building

A six-day training course was organised for 14 officials of different branches of the China CITES Management Authority from 4 to 9 July 2016. The training course aimed at enhancing the participants' knowledge in CITES and its implementation in Hong Kong. It provided a good opportunity for experience sharing, as well as building up networks and working relationship which would benefit future cooperation between both sides on various CITES matters. A similar training course was organized in August 2017 for another 14 officials of China CITES Management Authority.

One frontline enforcement officer attended a two-week Wildlife Trafficking Investigators Course organised by the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2016.

A shark fin identification workshop was organized in collaboration with PEW Trusts from 25 to 27 April 2017 which covered morphological identification of shark species listed after CoP16 and CoP 17. A total of 98 frontline officer and Hong Kong Customs and AFCD participated in the workshop.

A one-day training workshop on Skill on Wildlife Crime Investigation and Prosecution was organized on 20 Sept 2017 in collaboration with a professor from Law Faculty of the University of Hong Kong and local expert

ecologists. The workshop demonstrated how to precisely present the impact of wildlife trafficking case at court to assist sentencing judges to pass sentences reflecting the true environmental costs of the crime committed. 48 officers from AFCD and Hong Kong customs attended the training.

Public Awareness Activities

To enhance the awareness and vigilance of the public about the licensing control over the import, export, re-export and possession of CITES listed species, a series of publicity works was carried out:

(a) A TV and Radio Announcement in the Public Interest (API) on control of endangered species in Hong Kong was produced and broadcasted from 24 March 2016 to 23 March 2017. The TV API had also been uploaded to various social media channels as well as video walls and TVs of various control points. A corresponding radio API was also produced and has been broadcasted since March 2016.

(b) Publicity / Consultations Targeted at Control of Ivory

- ☐ An advertisement was launched at 53 railway stations from 19 March 2016 to 1 April 2016 and on the in-flight magazines of 2 airlines from August to October 2016.

- ☐ A publicity program was organised with Hong Kong Customs to remind the public on the control of ivory. A series of publicity materials, including poster, banner, roll-up panel and pamphlet were displayed at all control points and airport since mid 2016;

- ☐ The ivory poster showing the licensing control on ivory was demonstrated on the flight information display units in Hong Kong International Airport for one year from December 2015 to December 2016;

- ☐ An advertisement in form of TV broadcasting was arranged at border control points from 21 December 2016 to 21 April 2017. Visitors on both Hong Kong side and the Mainland China side would be able to see the broadcast;

- ☐ Regarding the proposed phasing out of the local trade in elephant ivory, liaison and consultation with the traders and relevant stakeholders has been maintained through consultation meetings and issuing circular letters

(c) Consultations in relation to CITES CoP17

Before CoP17, a circular letter was delivered to some 8,500 relevant traders in August 2016 to inform them the amendment proposals. Three briefing sessions were also arranged for selected trades in August 2016 to seek their views and comments on the amendment proposals.

(d) Meeting with 5 major express couriers

The courier and express parcels industry has become an important channel in smuggling of endangered species in recent years. To keep the industry, particularly the frontlines, abreast of the endangered species under the Ordinance and their relevant licensing control, an officer from AFCD attended five sharing sessions in March 2016 organised by the Hong Kong Customs to five major express courier operators

5. Other CITES-related activities

On 29 June 2016, the last batch of Government stockpiled ivory of 1.5 tonnes was incinerated and it marked the end of ivory destruction of some 28 tonnes of ivory seized in previous enforcement actions. The ivory destruction action sent an unequivocal message, both locally and internationally, that Hong Kong was determined to curb illicit trade in ivory.

4.4 Iran (Islamic Republic of)

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

In 17th COP meeting, a team consisting from Department of the Environment, Ministry of Foreign affairs and Fisheries Research Organization attended the meeting.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

-Since 2017, Iran CITES office has started to use CITES security stamps in the issued permits to increase and put more confidence and security on the permits. All the permits issued in I.R.Iran would be valid with the CITES security stamps.

-Following its responsibilities and better implementation, CITES Management Authority of Iran has prepared and submitted a proposal to Department of Environment to secure needed financial supports to establish CITES rehabilitation center in the country. Considering the seizures and illegal trades, establishment of the center seems to be necessary in the country.

- According to the National and International Rules and regulations, illegal trade of wildlife species is prohibited in the country, and based on that and request by CITES Management Authority, Department of the Environment by the approval of Environment High Council, has put fine for any illegal trade on CITES Listed species. So any illegal trade on CITES species in Iran would be subject to extra fines.

3. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

-In order to increase the public awareness and informing the people about the CITES Regulations, several reports, papers, interviews and notifications have been published in the mass media.

4. Other CITES related activities

- In the last Cop and standing Committee meeting, Mr. Asghar Mobaraki, Scientific Authority of Iran, has appointed as Asian member in CITES animal committee.

4.5 Iraq

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

During 2016, Iraq participated in the seventeenth meeting of the conference of the parties in Johannesburg, September 2016.

Coordinating meeting of the Management authority of the CITES convention in the Arab states and NGOs in Amman, Jordan to discuss the important document of the seventeenth of the parties to the CITES convention, May 2016.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

Iraq joined the CITES convention in early 2014 and became the 180th Member State. We have cooperation with more than five countries including: the United States of America, Kenya, Jordan, Kuwait, United States of Emirates and we also cooperate with some organization and NGOs, such as: IFAW, UNDP, VIER, PFOTEN International /Four Paws international Organization, AI-MAWA For NATURE and WILDLIFE, on CITES publicity, training, enforcement action, data collection and reports submitting.

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

As CITES management authority of IRAQ, the Ministry of Environment, from January 2016 to September 2017, a total of (4) CITES re-Export permits and (3) Import permits were issued for the re-export and for import of animal species.

With regard to legislation and laws, the Management authority of the Convention in the Ministry of Health and Environment formed a national committee from all ministries, institutions and relevant bodies to implement the agreement. The first meeting of the National Committee for Legislation was held in 2016, while the second meeting was held in 2017,

The National Committee for Legislation has completed the second final draft of the Iraqi national legislation for the CITES and the formation of technical and legal subcommittees of the ministries and the competent authorities to follow the paragraphs and articles of Iraqi legislation, which included about 37 articles covering all definitions, permits, duties of management authority and scientific authority, international trade, documents and

fees, measures to preserve trade in infringing samples, judicial control officers, exceptional provisions, penalties and final judgments.



Meeting of the National Committee for the Preparation of National Legislation for CITES

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

The CITES management authority in Iraq, represented by the Iraqi Ministry of Health and Environment in cooperation with the scientific authority of the Convention, has established several activities in the field of training, development, capacity-building and public awareness activities on combating illegal wildlife trade, as follows:

1. A team of the management and scientific authorities of CITES in Iraq was sent to the Kingdom of Jordan/Amman to participate in a training workshop on combating illegal trade in wildlife and the implementation of the CITES Agreement for the period from 8 to 11 January 2017. In cooperation with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) The Middle East and North Africa, the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSCN) and the Princess Alia Foundation. The workshop aimed to identify the largest possible number of government employees concerned with how to implement the CITES Agreement and to raise public awareness and raise the level of knowledge and challenges facing CITES implementation.



The training workshop was held in Jordan by the International Fund for Animal Welfare

2. The CITES management authority held a training workshop on the International Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for a period of two days from 20-21 February 2017 for a group of veterinarians of the Ministry of Agriculture / Participating veterinarians from the veterinary quarry, animal and epidemiological health departments and the veterinary hospital in Baghdad to raise awareness and awareness of the importance of the agreement and the most important procedures and achievements achieved and the most prominent obligations arising from them and how to grant permits and permits for the Iraqi CITES for import and export Exporting.



Training workshop for veterinarians working in the Ministry of Agriculture

3. The CITES management authority held a training workshop on the International Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for a period of two days from 20-21 February 2017 for a group of veterinarians of the Ministry of Agriculture / Participating veterinarians from the veterinary quarry, animal and epidemiological health departments and the veterinary hospital in Baghdad to raise awareness and awareness of the importance of the agreement and the most important procedures and achievements achieved and the most prominent obligations arising from them and how to grant permits and permits for the Iraqi CITES for import and export Exporting.



A wide and important meeting was held for ministries and institutions concerned with the implementation of the convention,

4. The CITES administrative authority organized a seminar on the World Wildlife Day in March, which targeted teachers, students and teachers in the presence of more than 70 teachers and school principals to highlight the importance of conservation and conservation of animal and plant resources and sustainable use in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. And focus on the importance of cooperation with school administrations and teachers and their role in the delivery and transfer of environmental concepts and guidance for the protection of species from extinction and trade.



A seminar on the World Wildlife Day was held in March, targeting teachers and students

4.6 Indonesia

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

Participates on The 66th Meeting of Standing Committee in Geneva, Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Attend the 11th Annual Meeting Of The ASEAN-WEN 22-23 March 2016, and 12th AEG-CITES) 24-25 March 2016, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Participates on The 67th Meeting of Standing Committee in Johannesburg, South Africa, 23 September 2016

Participates on the 17th Conference of the Parties CITES in Johannesburg, South Africa, 24 September – 5 October 2016

Participates on The 68th Meeting of Standing Committee in Johannesburg, South Africa, 4 October 2016

Indonesia participates on Workshop on CITES and livelihoods, George, South Africa, 23-25 November 2016

Participates on Wildlife Trafficking Investigators Course held at 27 February - 10 March 2017 at ILEA Training, Bangkok

Indonesia participates on ESABII Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policy and Identification of Threatened Species, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 31 January – 3 February 2017

- Indonesia participates on the Fifth session of the Plenary of the intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES-5) in Bonn, Germany, 7-10 March 2017
- Indonesia participates on Consultation Workshop on the Regulation of Trade in CITES Specimens of Captive breeding ranched source, in United Kingdom, 29-30 March 2017

Indonesia Hosting The 13th Meeting of The ASEAN Working Group on Cites and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG CITES – WE) in Parapat, North Sumatera, Indonesia 3 – 5 April 2017

Indonesia Hosting Asian Elephant Range States Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, 18-20 April 2017

Indonesia participates on CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force in Singapore Zoological Gardens, Singapore, 25 to 27 April 2017

Indonesia participates on NDF Workshop for Snake, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 3-4 Mei 2017

Indonesia participates on International Workshop on Helmeted Hornbill Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, Serawak, Malaysia, 19-20 May 2017

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

MoU between Indonesia CITES MA and Vietnam on Information sharing, Public awareness, Capacity building and Training, Enforcement cooperation.

MoU between Indonesia CITES MA and 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.

MoU between Indonesia CITES MA and 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.

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

- Renewing Indonesia's Conservation Act
- Updating the list of protected species
- Preparing a National Strategy to combat illegal wildlife trade

4. Implementation of Director General Regulation on registration mechanism of agarwood plantation.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

Socialization of the Wildlife Identification in Bogor, Indonesia, 30-31 May 2016

Consultation on captive breeding and artificial propagation activities in North Sumatra in 2016.

Socialization on listing of *Dalbergia* spp into Appendix II CITES, February 2017

Training for total 55 civil investigators from Environment and Forestry Law Enforcement Bureau on environmental and forestry crimes, including wildlife crime, in Jakarta, February 2017 and in Sulawesi, May 2017.

National Consolidation meeting of implementation on CITES resolution and decision on conservation and trade of Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*), Medan, North Sumatra, 16 May 2017.

Socialization on CITES Permit and Training Workshop on Wildlife Utilization in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, 8-10 May 2017.

4.7 Japan

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

Dr. Ishii, the acting representative of the Asian region, and an official from the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) participated in the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee in July 2017.

Mr. Nakano, Director of Office of Trade Licensing for Wild Animals and Plants, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) participated in the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee in July 2017.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

As part of efforts to enhance taxonomic capacity under the East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII), Japan carried out a training of trainers on CITES trade procedures and identification of species in Malaysia in January-February 2017.

In April 2017, Japan Customs conducted discussion with China Customs on cooperation to crack down on smuggling of ivory and ivory products between the customs authorities of the two countries. Both sides confirmed the importance of cooperation between the two countries and agreed to enhance their cooperation between their customs authorities.

METI, the CITES Management Authority of Japan, with the presence of relevant Ministries and Agencies, held a bilateral meeting in Tokyo in May 2017 with the CITES Management Authority of China to discuss and enhance cooperation on CITES related-issues between the two countries.

FAJ has been providing financial support for the FAO's project, "Contribution to responsible and appropriate application of CITES provisions to assist in the conservation and sustainable use of commercially-exploited aquatic species".

FAJ has also been providing financial support for two projects related to sharks and rays in the ASEAN region through the Japanese Trust Fund for the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), namely "Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia".

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

As the CITES Management Authority of Japan, METI issued about 3,800 export permits including re-export certificates in 2016. METI issued about 800 import licenses for items concerning species listed in Appendix I in 2016. As for the items concerning live animals and others listed in Appendix II or III which need a prior confirmation based on domestic law in the case of import, METI confirmed about 1,900 cases in 2016.

In 2016, the Japanese police handled 29 cases involving 51 persons for violation of the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (LCES).

The amended LCES, which includes stricter regulations both on domestic trade of species listed in Appendix I and business operators involved in domestic ivory trade, was enacted on 2 June 2017.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

METI and relevant Ministries put up posters informing ban on import and export of ivory and ivory products. In addition, on the occasion of the World Wildlife Day in March 2017, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and METI conducted awareness-raising activities on the necessity of protecting wild animals and plants to the general public by posting panels on regulations under CITES and LCES in 17 zoos and botanical gardens in Japan.

5. Other CITES related activities

As a countermeasure against poaching of African elephants and illegal trade in ivory thereof, under the Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme, Japan made a voluntary contribution in the amount of USD \$60,000 via CITES Secretariat in 2016 for the establishment of a strategic anti-poaching operations centre in Zimbabwe. The centre is expected to be handed over to Zimbabwe authorities in 2017.

In September 2017, a UN General Assembly Resolution on Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife was adopted. Japan joined the adoption as a co-sponsor of the Resolution.

4.8 Kuwait

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

Participating in CITES preparatory meeting for Arab speaking countries and non-governmental organizations to discuss the agenda of the Seventh Conference of the Parties Which was held on 25-26 May 2016 Jordan – Amman.

Participate and chaired Asia CITES / CBD Regional joint preparatory meetings, Bangkok, Thailand, 1-5 August 2016.

Participate in Shahtoosh (Tibetan Antelope) Workshop in the period 30 June and 1 July 2016 in Lyon, France. Organized by INTERPOL with the cooperation of Switzerland CITES Management Authority.

Participate and chaired Asia CITES / CBD Regional joint preparatory meetings, Bangkok, Thailand, 1-5 August 2016.

Participate in the 17th CITES conference of the Parties, Johannesburg – South Africa, 24 September – 5 October 2016.

Participate in Twenty-third meeting of the Plants Committee Geneva (Switzerland), 22- 27 July 2017.

Participate in Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee Geneva (Switzerland), 18- 22 July 2017.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

Kuwait confiscate 3 Orangutan and send them back to their origin with the cooperation of Indonesia CITES Management Authority.

Kuwait participate as the coordinator of CITES Convention for the Arabic speaking countries, in the 16th and 17th meeting of Arab Team for The International Environmental Conventions of Biodiversity and Desertification, The Arab League – Cairo – Egypt April 2016 and April 2017. Kuwait submitted a report regarding the important activities that Kuwait contribute within the region.

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

Kuwait has issued biodiversity regulations (100-110) of environmental law, and the first level of CITES legislation was achieved.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

Kuwait celebrate World Wildlife Day March 2017

4.9 Malaysia

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

66th Meeting of Standing Committee in Geneva (Switzerland) on 11 – 15 January 2016.

11th Meeting of the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network dan 12th ASEAN Expert Group - CITES in Siem Reap (Cambodia) on 22 – 23 March and 24 – 25 2016.

Regional Joint Preparatory Meetings for CITES and CBD Meetings of CoP and COP/MOP in Bangkok (Thailand) on 1 – 5 August 2016.

67th and 68th Meeting of Standing Committee in Johannesburg (South Africa) on 23 September and 4 October 2016.

17th Conference of the Parties CITES in Johannesburg (South Africa) on 24 September – 5 October 2016.

13th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Cites and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG CITES – WE) in Parapat, North Sumatera (Indonesia) on 3 – 5 April 2017.

CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force Meeting, Singapore on 25 – 27 April 2017.

29th Meeting of the Animals Committee and 23rd Meeting of the Plant Committee on CITES on 18 – 22 and 22 – 28 July 2017.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

Special Investigation Group (SIG) meeting in Bangkok (Thailand) on 13 – 17 February 2017.

Multilateral Workshop on Combating Wildlife Crime, collaboration with US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on 10 – 12 April 2017.

Asian Elephant Range States Meeting in Jakarta (Indonesia) on 17 – 21 April 2017.

Interpol Investigation Support Meeting, 3 – 5 May 2017.

Prosecuting Environmental Crimes Course in Bangkok (Thailand) on 26 – 30 June 2017.

DETECT: Counter Transnational Organized Crime Course with Freeland and USAID Wildlife Asia in Lusaka (Zambia) on 15 – 25 June 2017.

Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting on Rhinoceros Horn Trafficking by INTERPOL at Kruger National Park, Kruger (South Africa) on 26 – 27 June 2017.

Africa-Asia Pacific Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime in Bangkok (Thailand) on 4 – 5 July 2017.

4th Regional Dialogue on Combating Trafficking of Wild Fauna and Flora in Bangkok, Thailand on 12 –14 September 2017.

Rapid Assessment of Criminal Justice Response to Wildlife Crime in Malaysia, collaborated with UNODC on May – September 2017.

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

Destruction of government-held stockpile was made on 14 April 2016 involving 9.5 tonnes of ivory

Repatriation of Siamese Rosewood from Malaysia to Thailand. A ceremony was held in Hatyai on 25 April 2016

Report on CITES Range State Consultation Concerning Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) [Decision 17.265]

Report on status, trade and conservation of pangolins [Decision 17.239]

Declaration of stocks of rhinoceros horn [Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev. CoP17)]

Declaration of government-held stockpiles of ivory [Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17)]

Submit National Ivory Action Plan Progress Report [June 2016 – September 2017]

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

Participated in:

The Inter-Regional Conference on Illegal Wildlife and Timber Trafficking between ASEAN, Asia and African Countries in Bangkok (Thailand) on 20 – 22 Jun 2016

2017 Training Seminar on Asia CITES Implementation and Wildlife Conservation by CITES MA China, 21 June – 11 July 2017

Training on Transcontinental Controlled Delivery in Nairobi, Kenya by INTERPOL, 5-8 September 2017

Justice for Silent Victims III: Combatting Obstacles in Wildlife Crime Prosecution Program organized by U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur for Malaysia's enforcement, legislative and judiciary department/agencies in National Park, Pahang (Malaysia) on 11 – 15 September 2017

Co-Hosted:

ESABII Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policy and Identification of Threatened Species in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on 15 – 18 March 2016

ESABII Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policy and Identification of Threatened Species in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on 31 January – 3 February 2017

Expert Workshop on the Making of Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for Trade in CITES-listed Snakes in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) 3 – 4 May 2017

Helmeted Hornbill Conservation Strategy and Action Plan Workshop in Kuching, Sarawak (Malaysia) on 19 – 20 May 2017

Conducted for MA/SA/EA:

Sarawak CITES Enhancement Course on 17 – 19 May 2016.

Learning Courses of Orchid Species and Nepenthes on 22 – 25 August 2016.

Workshop on Enforcement and Trade Control on CITES-Listed Timber Species for Enforcement Agencies on 18 – 19 May 2016 and 6 – 7 September 2016.

Training on Reducing Marine Turtles By-Catch through Turtle Excluder Device (TED) Implementation on 14 – 17 October 2016.

Course on Hard Corals Propagation, 8 – 9 November 2016.

Capacity Building for Customs Officers on CITES Policy and Trade Enforcement on 1 December 2016.

Counter Wildlife Trafficking Workshop on 10 April 2017.

Endangered Shark and Ray Identification Course on 23 – 26 May 2017 & 3 – 6 July 2017.

Cactus, Hoodia and Succulent Species Identification Programme on 24 – 27 July 2017.

Workshop on Prosecution Technique (Giving Statement as A Witness), a collaboration between Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (PERHILITAN) and Judicial and Legal Training Institute (ILKAP) on 14 – 18 August 2017.

Awareness Promotion: Procedure on International Trade of Wildlife on 21 – 24 August 2017.

Engagement with Stakeholder: Registration of Captive Breeding Operation for Appendix I Species on 30 August 2017.

Course on Giant Clam Identification and Breeding in Semporna, Sabah on 19 September 2017

Talks and Dialogues on the Management of Endangered Marine Species in Sabah on 9 August and 26 September 2017.

Sabah and Sarawak CITES Public Awareness Enhancement on 21 – 24 August 2017 & 13-14 September 2017

5. Other CITES related activities

7th International Hornbill Conference in Kuching, Sarawak (Malaysia) 16 – 18 May 2017.

Non-Detriment Finding study for *Crocodylus porosus* in state of Sabah for year 2017.

Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Sea Turtle Workshop in Philippines on 23 – 24 February 2017.

3rd CTI Fishers Forum in Philippines 4 – 6 July 2017

Southeast Asia Fisheries Management Planning Workshop in Thailand on 23 – 25 August 2017

4.10 Myanmar

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

Official from the Forest Department attended the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network and the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Groups on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 23rd-25th, March 2016, Cambodia.

Regional joint preparatory meetings of CITES and CBD representatives prior to the upcoming meetings of the respective Conference of the Parties (CoP/CoPs) 1st-5th, August 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

Two officials from the Forest Department and the Department of Fishery attended the CITES South Asia Pre-CoP17 Workshop, 29th-30th, August, 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Two officials from the Forest Department and the Department of Fishery attended the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17), 24th September-4th October 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa,

Officials from the Forest Department and Customs Department attended the CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force Meeting, 25th-27th April 2017, Singapore.

Official from the Forest Department attended the Sunda Pangolin Conservation Planning Workshop, 28th-30th June, 2017, Singapore.

Officials from the Forest Department and Union Attorney General's Office attended the Africa-Asia Pacific Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime, 4th-5th July 2017, Bangkok, Thailand.

Officials from the Forest Department attended the 4th Regional Dialogue on Combating Trafficking of Wild Fauna and Flora, 11st-15th, September 2017, Bangkok, Thailand.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

Meetings of National Wildlife Law Enforcement Taskforce, composed of Senior officials from the Forest Department, Ministry of Border Affairs, Myanmar Police Force, Customs Department, Union Attorney General Office, Directorate of Trade and General Administration Department, were organized on 30th September 2016, and 10th August 2017.

The Second Myanmar-India Wildlife Crime Control Nodal Points meeting was held at the Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 22-23 November 2016. The meeting was organized to coordinate in tackling transboundary wildlife crimes between the two countries and to share and exchange information of illegal wildlife trades.



Second Myanmar-India Wildlife Crime Control Nodal Points meeting, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 22-23, November 2016

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

European Union (EU), through the Institutional Strengthening and Policy Dialogue Support “My Governance Europe Aid/136228/DH/SER/MM”, is assisting the Forest Department to strengthen the implementation of the CITES. EU assigned two experts to assist the Forest Department to review gaps and necessary interlink ages between key laws relevant to CITES implementation.

With assistance with these two experts, some sections linking the CITES, particularly designation of authorities, prohibition of illegal trade, penalties, confiscation and prohibition of the illegal introduction from the sea, were added to the new law, namely Biodiversity and Protected Area Law draft, which will replace the Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Law 1994. Such the improvement of national legislation in linking with CITES will make Myanmar to change from CITES Category Three-member country to Category One member country.

Following the CITES's Notification 057/2016 dated on 7-11-2016 to include *Dalbergia* species in Appendix II, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation issued notifications of the enforcement on trade of *Dalbergia* species in line with the CITES regulation, as well as the ban on export of timber confiscated from illegal trafficking.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

In 2016, Staffs from the Forest Department participated in ESABII Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 15-18 March 2016 organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan.

The officials from the Forest Department lectured about the CITES in the “Trade Procedures Trainings” of the Ministry of Commerce as mentioned below:

“Trade Procedures Training No. 1/2017”, 25th January-24th February, 2017

“Trade Procedures Training No. 2/2017”, May 22nd-3rd July, 2017

“Trade Procedures Training No. 3/2017”, 10th July-23rd August, 2017

Forest Department and WCS are implementing two-year project of “Securing the Gateway: Reducing Wildlife Trafficking from Myanmar to China”, from May 2016 to April 2018. The major focuses are “build understanding of the trafficking networks”, “strengthen law enforcement”, “enhance international cooperation” and “support awareness and information”. Under this project, stakeholder consultation meetings and workshops were organized. Poster campaigns on stopping selling wildlife meals and wildlife parts and transporting wildlife and parts are being conducted across the country.



The following events have been organized under the WCS's project:

Project Inception Meeting, 30th September 2016, Nay Pyi Taw.

Regional level meeting, 25th November 2016, Mandalay Region.

Regional level meeting, 28th-31st March, 2017, Shan State.

Capacity building training on species identification for operation staff assigned at the check points, 18th-20th September 2017, Mandalay Region.

World wide fund for Nature (WWF) is implementing "Addressing Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Greater Mekong". In Myanmar, WWF Myanmar has conducted trainings on illegal wildlife trade and wildlife law enforcement for field level staffs to strengthen their knowledge and capacity in combating wildlife trafficking in August.

4. 11 Pakistan

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

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

- 17th Meeting of CITES Conference of the Parties, 24th September to 5th October 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force meeting, Singapore, 25-27 April 2017.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

During the reporting period, Pakistan has been actively participating in the regional wildlife enforcement initiatives like; South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), which is a regional network of South Asian Countries for curbing illegal wildlife trade. Federal Cabinet formally approved SAWEN Statute in a meeting on 15 July 2016. Moreover, to control illegal wildlife trade, CITES Management Authority of Pakistan 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:

Import and export of wild fauna and flora in accordance with the provisions of CITES is being dealt by Forestry Wing, Ministry of Climate Change in collaboration with provincial/territorial wildlife authorities and Pakistan Customs.

Pakistan has enacted an exclusive legislation for implementation of CITES titled the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012. Rules for the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012 are finalized and waiting notification. An exclusive national level consultation workshop was organized to finalize the draft and inputs of CITES Secretariat were also considered for the same:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1280695>

A draft National Plan of Action (NPOA) to control illegal wildlife trade has been developed in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan, provincial/territorial wildlife departments and Pakistan customs. On 24th August, 2016 a national consultative workshop was held to get recommendations of stakeholders on draft NPOA. The workshop was jointly organized by WWF-Pakistan and Ministry of Climate Change. Media coverage of the event is given below:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1279807/measures-to-curb-illegal-wildlife-trade-proposed>

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1169373/environmental-conservation-govt-stamp-illegal-wildlife-trade-says-wattoo/>

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2016/08/25/city/islamabad/wwf-organises-workshop-to-combat-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

<http://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/pakistan/wwf-pakistan-workshop-on-illegal-wildlife-trafficking/>

<https://timesofislamabad.com/illegal-wild-life-trade-in-pakistan-strategy-planned/2016/08/24/>

<http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2016-08-25/page-5/detail-4>

<http://pakobserver.net/scraping-unlawful-wildlife-trade-top-priority-moeen/>

The draft NPOA will be finalized soon and will serve as a policy document to control illegal wildlife trade in Pakistan.

Effective enforcement of wildlife related legislation was carried out by provincial wildlife departments and Pakistan customs. Line departments seized 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 relevant laws.

A detail of recent wildlife seizures is as under:

2016

In January 2016, a consignment of 144 Black spotted turtles live wrapped in plaster of Paris was seized. These turtles were carrying in a cutlery consignment in a Sri Lanka bound flight

https://wwfpak.org/newsroom/100216_combatillegalwildlife.php

<http://epaper.brecorder.com/m/2016/02/11/9-page/559859-news.html>

In January 2016, 5 falcons were seized at Karachi Airport which were smuggled to Pakistan from UAE:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1233693/five-falcons-seized-at-airport>

In January 2016, Sindh Wildlife Department recovered 90 migratory birds in a raid:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1037797/wildlife-dept-recovers-90-migratory-birds-from-poachers/>

In February 2016, Punjab Wildlife Department staff in collaboration with Customs officials seized 22 tortoises at Lahore Airport, which were being smuggled to Malaysia:

<http://nation.com.pk/laure/06-Feb-2016/anti-smuggling-team-of-wildlife-departments-recover-22-tortoises>

In March 2016, Customs officials at Faisalabad Airport seized 45 Black spotted turtles:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1061962/shame-man-caught-trying-to-smuggle-turtles/>

<http://arynews.tv/en/man-detained-with-45-rare-turtles/>

<http://www.customstoday.com.pk/faisalabad-customs-foils-attempt-to-smuggle-turtles-to-malaysia/>

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1245056>

In April 2016, 62 Black spotted turtles confiscated from a Malaysia bound flight, 42 of them expired of suffocation:

<http://cleanmalaysia.com/2016/04/11/dozens-of-rare-turtles-bound-for-malaysia-perish/>

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1251070>

In April 2016, Sindh Wildlife Department recovered 170 turtles in a raid:

<http://pkonweb.com/2016/04/rare-species-of-turtles-seized-in-karachi/>

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1255070>

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1093777/illegal-shipment-170-turtles-found-inside-wheat-bags/>

In August, 2016 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife department banned scorpion trade in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/746113/attempted-conservation-wildlife-department-bans-scorpion-trade-in-k-p/>

In August, 2016 Khyber Pakhtun Khwa Wildlife dept seized over 100 birds in Lakki, Bannu:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1279824>

In September 2016, Sindh Wildlife Department recovered 780 Black-spotted turtles in a raid from Karachi:

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=11_09_2016_118_005

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/149354-Three-Chinese-among-12-sent-to-jail-for-bid-to-smuggle-out-turtles>

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1180200/back-wild-recovered- turtles-released-indus-river- today/>

<http://www.brecorder.com/ general-news/172/84419/>

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/e-paper/2016-09-11/lahore/6538/ 37297>

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/114248-Wildlife-officials-seize-over-500-turtles-in-Karachi>

<http://feeds.pk/feed/51845/advertise>

<http://abbtakk.tv/en/karachi-police-recovers-over-700-rare-breed-turtles090916/>

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/10-Sep-16/human-hair-endangered-turtles-recovered-in-karachi>

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1179572/illegal-trade-700-turtles-recovered-dha/>

<http://www.epa.eu/human-interest-photos/animals-photos/wildlife-officials-seized-rare-turtle-species-photos-53009784>

In September 2016, over 300 black spotted turtles seized at Shaheed Benazirabad, Sindh province:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1287136>

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/154416-Four-arrested-as-bid-to-smuggle-307-spotted-turtles-foiled>

https://www.google.com.pk/search?q=turtles+benazirabad&rlz=1C1AOHY_enPK708PK708&oq=turtles+benazirabad&aqs=chrome..69i57.5326j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

<http://nation.com.pk/national/03-Oct-2016/307-pond-turtles-seized>

<http://www.thenation.pk/over-300-freshwater-turtles-seized-four-suspects-held.html>

In September 2016, 25 cranes were seized by Khyber Pakhtun Khwa wildlife department in Dera Ismail Khan

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1175933/busted-25-cranes-quails-seized-di-khan/>

In September, 2016 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa wildlife officials seized 80 Kestrel in Dera Ismail Khan which were being smuggled to Balochistan

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/151064-Briefs>

In September, 2016 Punjab Wildlife department arrested one poacher and nine poachers were fined in Lahore:

<http://pakobserver.net/one-held-nine-poachers-fined/>

In September, 2016, customs officials at Islamabad airport seized seven partridges from a passenger going to UK:

<http://www.customstoday.com.pk/customs-recovered-seven-partridge-from-benazir-international-airport/>

In September, 2016 Sindh Wildlife department arrested one poacher:

<http://www.brecorder.com/general-news/1141630/81803:ringleader-arrested-sindh-wildlife-departments-efforts-against-illegal-trade-lauded/?date=2016-09-02>

In September, 2016 Sindh Wildlife department seized Flap-shelled turtles and snake meat in Karachi:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1175029/combating-trafficking-flap-shelled-turtles-snake-meat-seized/>

In December, 2016 Khyber Pakhtun Khwa Wildlife dept seized over two falcons and nine monkeys in Lakki Marwat:

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=05_12_2016_182_008

In December, 2016 36 turtles and tortoises were seized at Sunday bazaar in Islamabad:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1304518>

2017

In February, 2017 Sindh Wildlife Department seized freshwater turtles and hatchling of green turtles in a raids in Karachi:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/184743-Endangered-sea-freshwater-turtles-recovered-in-overnight-raids>

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1313338/nine-seized-turtles-40-hatchlings-released>

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1319848/curbing-wildlife-trafficking-49-turtles-confiscated-burnes-road-aquariums/>

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/08-Feb-17/wwf-pakistan-lauds-efforts-of-sindh-wildlife-dept>

In February, 2017 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa wildlife department seized 20 Spiny-tailed Lizards (*Uromastyx sp.*) in Lakki Marwat:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1315823/lakki-wildlife-officials-arrest-man-with-20-lizards>

In February, 2017 two illegal hunters of Ibex were arrested in Gilgit-Balistan:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1315824/two-illegal-hunters-of-ibex-arrested-in-ghanche>

In February, 2017 two illegal hunters of Ibex were arrested in Gilgit-Balistan:

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/02/12/two-held-for-illegally-hunting-ibex-in-gb/>

In February, 2017 two illegal hunters of Ibex were arrested in (Gulmit area Hunza valley) Gilgit-Balistan:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1324603/two-suspects-held-g-b-illegal-ibex-hunt/>

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1045083/sentenced-two-held-for-illegal-ibex-hunting-in-nagar-valley/>

In April 2017, customs authorities seized 350 Afghan Tortoises near Karachi:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1330031/350-afghan-tortoises-seized-trafficker-held>

In May 2017, 11 partridges seized at Islamabad airport which were being smuggled to UK:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1331173/partridge-smuggling-attempt-foiled>

In September 4 freshwater turtles were seized in a raid in Islamabad:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1357313>

In September, 2017 16 Kg of dried parts of freshwater turtles were recovered from a Hong Kong-bound consignment at Karachi Airport:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1358746>

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1510823/wildlife-dept-recovers-turtle-meat-consignment/>

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

Awareness raising about importance of wildlife (including; Indian pangolin, falcons, freshwater turtle and tortoise species etc.) has been a regular component of different projects of government and non-government organizations.

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

A series of capacity building workshops was arranged in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi in which wildlife law enforcement agencies were trained to control illegal wildlife trafficking. Media coverage of capacity building workshops is as under:

<http://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2016-01-26/page-14/detail-8>

<http://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/pakistan/combating-illegal-wildlife-trafficking-with-wwf-pakistan/>

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=286999>

<http://www.brecorder.com/general-news/172:pakistan/15119:workshop-on-illegal-wildlife-trade-held/?date=2016-02-11>

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=24_02_2016_118_006

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=24_02_2016_118_006

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1052954/illegal-wildlife-trade-karachi-biggest-market-for-endangered-species/>

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2016-02-24/page-4/detail-3>

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/100607-Chinese-nationals-smuggling-Pakistans-black-pond-turtles>

http://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=24_02_2016_118_006

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/100607-Chinese-nationals-smuggling-Pakistans-black-pond-turtles>

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1052954/illegal-wildlife-trade-karachi-biggest-market-for-endangered-species/>

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/sindh/24-Feb-2016/workshop-calls-for-curbing-illegal-wildlife-trade>

<http://thenaturenews.com/2016/02/wwf-pakistan-to-combat-illegal-wildlife-trade-in-pakistan/>

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1052954/illegal-wildlife-trade-karachi-biggest-market-for-endangered-species/>

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1241719/illegal-fishing-by-indians-causes-multi-billion-rupee-losses-to-pakistan>

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/100708-Pakistani-marine-resources-being-exploited-by-Indian-fishermen-claims-MSA>

<http://www.brecorder.com/general-news/172:pakistan/19836:some-600-indian-fishing-vessels-violate-borders-every-month/?date=2016-02-25>

<http://www.pid.gov.pk/?p=26302>

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.

CITES listing of *Dalbergia* sp.

In Pakistan CITES MA is facing problems in implementation of listing of *Dalbergia* sp. in CITES Appendix-II. *Dalbergia sisso* raised in plantations is widely used in various handicrafts like; musical instruments, decoration peices, furniture and cutlery for export. It is to be noted that limited quantity of *Dalbergia* wood is used in these articles (except furniture) and the wood is extracted from plantations. For every consignment CITES MA has to issue CITES permits which is hectic process as there are many consignments to be exported and hardship is being faced by small enterprize/cottage industry. CITES SC may discuss any exception may be granted for the commercial export of articles made of limited quantity (less than 1 Kg or so) of *Dalbergia* wood.

Note:

As detailed in the above report, CITES MA of Pakistan is working hard for effective implementation of CITES. Pakistan has been identified as Party that required attention as priority for CITES-related legislations. Representative of Asia region is kindly requested to highlight efforts of Pakistan at SC to improve CITES legislation category of the country.

4. 12 Qatar

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

Representatives of State of Qatar participated in the 68th meeting of the standing committee and the 17th conference of the Parties held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 23 September to 4 October 2016.

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

Confiscated on 7/4/2017 18 pieces of Rhino horns, on transit from Mozambique to Malaysia without CITES documents.

Confiscated on 20/5/2017, 17 pieces of raw elephant ivory, and 4 horns of Rhino horn, on transit from Uganda to Thailand, without CITES permit.

Confiscated on 1/6/2017, 13 pieces of Rhino horns, on transit from Mozambique to Malaysia without CITES permit.

Confiscated on 8/6/2017 a cargo shipment of 273,464 Kg of raw and worked elephant ivory, on transit from Democratic Republic of Congo to Indonesia via Morocco, without CITES documents.

Confiscated on 10/8/2017, three (3) Lar Gibbons (*Hylobates lar*), exported from Malaysia to Qatar without CITES permits.

3. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

CITES Management Authority has participated in the celebration of Qatar National Environmental Day, held in April 2017. It has developed and displayed public awareness materials on CITES issues, including printed materials and confiscated items.

4. 13 Singapore

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

Singapore participated or co-hosted in the following meetings.

Date/Venue	Description
22-23 Mar 2016, Cambodia	11 th Meeting of the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)
24-25 Mar 2016, Cambodia	12 th Meeting of the ASEAN-Experts Group on CITES (AEG-CITES)
24 Sep – 5 Oct 2016, South Africa	17 th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP17)

16-18 Nov 2016, Vietnam	Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade
28-30 Nov 2016, Bhutan	Interpol Operation PAWS Regional Investigative Support Meeting
29 Nov – 2 Dec, Thailand	Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) Group Meeting
3-5 Apr 2017, Indonesia	13 th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (13 th AWG-CITES and WE)
25-27 Apr 2017, Singapore	CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force Meeting
24-25 May 2017, Laos	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (17 th SOMTC)

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

CITES Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Task Force Meeting, 25-27 April 2017, Singapore Zoo

The CITES Secretariat convened the CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force Meeting, which was co-hosted by Singapore Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) (CITES Management Authority of Singapore) and Wildlife Reserves Singapore. The Meeting was funded by the United States. The meeting provided participants from over 15 African, Asian and North and South American countries to work collectively with international partner agencies to identify the gaps in illegal trans-boundary trade of tortoises and freshwater turtles, and explore ways to enhance enforcement to further the fight against wildlife crime, with a strong focus on information and intelligence sharing. Participants identified best practices and strategic approaches to address the illegal trade and established network with their law enforcement counterparts from other countries. The CITES Secretariat would present the inputs and recommendations from the task force meeting to the 69th Meeting of the Standing Committee in November 2017.

Singapore has formed a Panel of Expert Advisers in June 2017 to provide advice to AVA on policy directions for legislative reviews, wildlife and environmental issues, conservation/biodiversity matters, and enforcement efforts towards combatting the illegal trade in wildlife. The Panel is made up of experts from INTERPOL, academia, conservation institutions, and the public service.

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

Legislation

The Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act Cap. 92A was enacted in 1989 to give legal effect to the implementation and enforcement of the Convention in Singapore. The 3 Schedules to the Act list the endangered species. Under the Act, a CITES permit is required to import, export, re-export and introduce from the sea a scheduled species. The Act also empowers AVA enforcement officers to search, enter and seize any illegal wildlife, including illegal CITES specimens in transit. These powers facilitate the investigation of CITES infringement cases.

At the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (24 Sep – 5 Oct 2017, Johannesburg, South Africa), Parties adopted amendments to the CITES Appendices. Following the COP17, Singapore has gazetted the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 3) Notification 2016 to reflect the amendments adopted at COP17 such as inclusion of new species (eg. African Grey Parrot and Pangolins) on CITES Appendices I and II, which came into effect on 2

January 2017. Separately, Brazil and Colombia had also included Freshwater Stingrays and the Zebra Pleco on CITES Appendix III, which had also entered into operation on 2 January 2017. These amendments were also gazetted accordingly.

The inclusion of Mobula Rays and sharks (Silky Shark and Thresher Sharks) would come into effect 6 and 12 months ie. 4 April 2017 and 4 October 2017 respectively (as annotated in the CITES Appendices). These amendments have been gazetted in the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 1) Notification 2017 and Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 2) Notification 2017.

Law enforcement

The following are significant wildlife and timber cases detected in the reporting period.

Seizure of Red sandalwood logs

In March 2016, Singapore authorities intercepted a 20-footer container and revealed

581 pieces of illegal Red sandalwood logs concealed behind sanitary wares. The consignment was declared as 487 pieces of Kosso logs on the invoice/packing list and had arrived from India en route to Hong Kong via Singapore. The local consignee and freight forwarder were compounded S\$5,000 and S\$2,500 respectively under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act, for failure to exercise due diligence to ensure the consignments was legitimate.

Illegal export of Agarwood

In March 2016, 31 cartons of agarwood, weighing 509.507kg, declared as “Mamul materials” were seized during a joint investigation by Singapore. The consignment was intended for re-export to Qatar and value estimated at S\$500,000. An agarwood trader who was the consignor was compounded S\$2,500 by AVA for exporting agarwood without an AVA CITES export permit under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act, and the consignment was forfeited.

Two men jailed for smuggling 12 Melodious Laughing Thrush

In December 2016, 2 Vietnamese illegally imported 12 live CITES Appendix II Melodious Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax canorus*) which were detected in their luggage. The birds were concealed in white acrylic containers and covered with personal belongings. The offenders were each sentenced to six months' imprisonment for the smuggling under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act and animal cruelty.

Smuggling of ivory In August 2017, a Vietnamese man was prosecuted and fined

\$10,000 under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act for an attempt to smuggle ivory bird cage accessories and ivory bracelets into Singapore. The ivory products were confiscated from the man.

Smuggling of rhino horns

On 31 August 2017, a Vietnamese man was arrested for smuggling 8 cut pieces of rhino horns and a bag containing 17.68 gram of rhino horn shavings from Angola to Dubai en route to Laos via Singapore. Samples of the rhino horn shavings are shared with the Forensic Science Laboratory of the South African Police Service and Genetics Veterinary Laboratory to determine the origin of the rhino horns. The case is currently pending prosecution.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

Training/capacity-building

Singapore participated or co-hosted in a number of training and capacity-building workshops.

Date/Venue	Description	Lead Agency
27-29 Jul 2016, Singapore	Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting (RIACM)	INTERPOL
8-12 May 2017, Namibia	WCO-INAMA Operations Planning on CITES Training	WCO-INAMA
5-7 Jun 2017, Singapore	Transcontinental Controlled Delivery (TCCD) Workshop	INTERPOL / ICCWC
5-9 Jun 2017, Singapore	Cyber Wildlife Crime	INTERPOL
28-30 Jun 2017, Singapore	Digital Forensics	INTERPOL

25-28 Jul 2017, Singapore	Controlled delivery and	AVA-UNODC
21-25 Aug 2017, Singapore	Intelligence Analysis Training	INTERPOL
5-7 Sep 2017, Kenya	Transcontinental	ICCWC

Public awareness

To create public awareness and enhance compliance with CITES, Singapore has implemented the following outreach programs: -

Publicity of wildlife enforcement cases through mainstream media, news reports, newsletters, social media such as AVA Facebook.

Organising meetings and dialogue sessions with wildlife traders, freight forwarders/shipping agents and trade associations about CITES and its requirements.

Updates on CITES in AVA homepage (www.ava.gov.sg).

Distribution of CITES pamphlets, CITES and Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM) brochures, CITES traveller's brochures and CITES circulars (eg. on amendments of CITES Appendices).

Giving talks to university and polytechnic students, freight forwarders/shipping agents and public (eg. at public libraries, community centres etc).

Putting up posters on CITES sharks and rays at fishery ports to educate port users about CITES and newly listed sharks and rays species.

Distribution of advisories to residences and households to educate the public not to poach native wild animals.

On 13 June 2016 Singapore conducted the inaugural Ivory Crush Event, destroying 7.9 tons of illegal ivory, which were confiscated from several shipments. The objective of the event was to signal Singapore's zero tolerance towards illegal wildlife and ivory trade. It also served to deter poaching of elephants and raise awareness of consumers not to purchase ivory products.

Stakeholders' engagement

In 2016, AVA engaged various online community marketplace providers (Carousell, Gumtree, ST701 Classifieds and Facebook) to understand their operations, raise their awareness about CITES, their role in combatting illegal wildlife trade and how they can feedback cases to AVA.

All stakeholders were notified about the amendments to the CITES Appendices such as transfer of African grey parrot and pangolins to CITES Appendix I, inclusion of new shark species and inclusion of rosewood finished products under CITES' controls adopted by COP17. The traders were also informed about the CITES permit requirements for trade in the newly listed species. Companies with existing pre-Convention specimens were required to declare to AVA. The circular served to create awareness of CITES and regulations to ensure the stakeholders comply with CITES regulations.

AVA developed a factsheet on the new CITES regulations for rosewood (*Dalbergia* species) to inform public and traders of the inclusion of all remaining rosewood (*Dalbergia* species) under CITES at COP17 and CITES permit requirements for rosewood finished products such as musical instruments and furniture.

In July 2017, AVA conducted 9 briefing sessions to educate ground handling agents and freight forwarders about CITES regulations, permit requirements etc. In September, AVA also conducted a CITES briefing to

freight forwarders and shipping agents at the Singapore Customs Academy.

5. Other CITES related activities

Singapore submitted its CITES annual report for 2015 to the CITES Secretariat on 17

Oct 2016. The timely submission of a CITES annual report is an obligation of a Party to the Convention. The report recorded the volume and type of CITES permits and certificates granted, quantities, species and types of animal and plant specimens traded for that year.

4. 14 Saudi Arabia

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

Saudi Arabia has attended the following CITES Meetings:

The 66th meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016.

The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September-04 October 2016.

The 68th meeting of the Standing Committee, Johannesburg (South Africa), 04 October 2016.

The 29th meeting of the Animals Committee, Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2017.

The 23 meeting of the Plants Committee, Geneva (Switzerland), 22-27 July 2017.

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 attended a meeting for the Arab Countries to prepare for the 17th meeting of CoP of CITES, Amman (Jordan) 25-26/05/2016.

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

Saudi Arabia has appointed 40 environmental officers to inspect for the violations of the national legislation and CITES.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

Saudi Arabia held 3 training workshops for CITES Management and Enforcement Authority staff in Saudi Arabia about the Implementation of CITES In collaboration with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) as follows:

- Riyadh 17-20/04/2016.
- Abha 24-26/04/2016.
- Al-Khobar 24-27/04/2017.

5. Other CITES related activities

Saudi Arabia has celebrated the World Wildlife Day 2016.

Saudi Arabia has celebrated the World Wildlife Day 2017.

4.15 Syria

1. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

the international cooperation is limited; it is only for confirmation and validation the CITES permit between us.

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

Preparing the final draft of CITES legislation, we are going on ratification process.

Re-forming the National Scientific Advisory Committee, which support the working of CITES Competent Authority

3. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

Lack or non -exist the supporting of UN agencies donors and other organization related Biodiversity Conservation and CITES, so that we are not able to organize workshops due the big limited fund for that.

finally: Syria would like to strongly mention the important accident it happened recently in Aleppo -Syria. It is related to animals of Magic World Park (three lions, two tigers, two black bears, two hyenas and two dogs) these animals were moved to Turkey, which transported them to Jordan without any harmonization with Syrian Cites Authority. We will communicate with the Secretariat of the Convention to clarify this work from Turkey.

4. 16 United Arab Emirates

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

68th meeting of the Standing Committee 04 October 2016

The UAE hosted the first National Conference on Animal Welfare-Dubai- 2-3 November 2016

Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade Vietnam 16- 18 November 2016

The Third Meeting of signatories to the Dugong MOU and the Sea Grass and Dugong Technical workshop in Abu-Dhabi-13-14 March 2017

Illegal Trafficking of Raptors in The Middle East and North Africa, Current Situation and Future Solutions- 25 April 2017
Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee 18-22 July 2017.

Twenty-ninth meeting of the Animals Committee 18-22 July 2017

Twenty-third meeting of the Plants Committee 22-27 July 2017

Training workshop on Arabian Oryx Records Management 9-11 October 2017

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others:

CITES training workshop for Customs authorities in the UAE with cooperation of International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), 23 – 27 October 2016

Training workshop for definition of Sandalwood- Germany -16-23 December 2016

Technical workshop on the assessment of sharks on the red list- 5-7 February 2017

The 15th Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in the Arabian Peninsula Organized Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPPA) and The International Union for Conservation- 6-9 February 2017

The UAE hosted CMS Vulture Multi-Species Action Plan Middle East Regional Workshop in February 2017
Workshop on combating illegal trade in Birds of Prey, 25 April 2017

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

The Ministry of Climate change and Environment developed a new CITES e-permitting system.

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

The Nature Conservation Festival, 21- 22 October 2016

Beautiful in the wild campaign, 22-27 December 2016

Gulf Wildlife day 30 December 2016

World Migratory Bird Day 10 May 2017

Shark week campaign 20 July 2017

World Eagle Day 4 September 2017

5. Other CITES related 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.

In celebration of the International Sea Turtle Day, 40 endangered marine turtles were released to their original habitat in the waters of the Arabian Gulf.

Released 35 falcons in Kazakhstan within Sheikh Zayed program

Released 54 heads *Oryx dammah* in the Republic of Chad.

Released Houbara Bustard program in many country.

4. 17 Yemen

Introduction:

Yemen harnesses a uniquely rich diversity of fauna and flora of ecological and economical importance nationally and regionally, due to its strategic geographical location and climate in West Asia.

Due to the fact that environment are facing many threats which endangers animal and plant life: Yemen has ratified several international conventions on the wildlife and biodiversity protection. One of these is the CITES which was ratified according to the presidential Decree No.4 for 1997. The CITES convention has since, support by many legislations concerning organization of internal and external trade of endangered species of plants and animals according to the ministers cabinet decree No.104 for the year 2002.

Yemen has shown concern to CITES convention since a long time. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is the supreme authority according to Yemen's law, responsible for implementing this convention. The EPA follows the implementation of this convention in collaboration with other authorities such as the customs, police and NGOs. EPA is committed to implement its obligations towards the convention and is training All the relevant authorities to implement this convention and take necessary action towards any violation.

1. Participation in CITES meetings:

Due to the current situation, Yemen did not participate in the CITES COP17 which was hold in Johannesburg, South Africa

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

Laws concerning CITES convention:

Presidential Decree No.4 for 1997.

Cabinet of Ministers Decree about joining the convention on 25-1-1997.

Yemen has become a member of CITES on 22-1-1998

Council of Ministers Resolution No. 104 for 2002 on the organization of trade in endangered species

in 2014 the Minister of Water and Environment issued decree No.174 regarding with the mechanism for the implementation of the resolution 104 for year 2002.

The importance of trade in animal and plant species included in CITES convention:

The effect of international trade in wildlife on Yemen's economy is very limited.

This is due to the fact Yemen legislation on this matter is not properly applied since trading in wildlife species is a strict matter, EPA in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and irrigation takes responsibility in issuing necessary license for import, export and re- export of such species.

Coordination among the customs and ports authorities to control any illegal import or exportation of endangered flora and fauna.

Obstacles facing implementation of CITES convention:

- Weakness in the implementation of the Convention because of the war in Yemen
- Weak support for the implementation of the CITES Convention
- Most countries do not apply their obligations towards the convention.
- Lack of coordination between the countries, especially the neighboring countries in the region.
- Lack of communication with the authorities concerned with the implementation of the convention.

Support needed for implementation:

The experience and capacities of Yemen are limited and require support to strengthen the institutional capacities to improve the legal framework and enhance awareness. Following are main areas where technical and support is required urgently.

- Insure cooperation among CITES offices in member Governments.
- Support Yemen with proper communication tools to ensure proper monitoring of training of local staff in monitoring of illegal trade in endangered species
- Strengthening of the CITES Unit that has been established in the Environment Protection Authority.

3. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities:

Implementation of more than three training workshops for Customs officials in ports

Implementation of a number of awareness campaigns to prevent illegal trade in endangered species.

Open mini-factories for the manufacture of daggers heads of the gemstones in cooperation with IFAW to be a substitute for rhino horn.

Work on the breeding of the Houbar bustarda with cooperation with the United Arab Emirates.

4.18 Nepal



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation



2037

Ref: 673

13 September, 2017

Dr. Zhang Shanning
Director, Enforcement and Training Division
CITES Management Authority of China

Dear Sir,

As per the conversation in e-mail, I am pleased to share the activities concerned with CITES conducted by Nepal between SC66 and SC69. Please, find the reports attached herewith this letter that would help in preparing the complete Asia Regional Report of CITES.

Please feel free to contact me for further queries, if any.

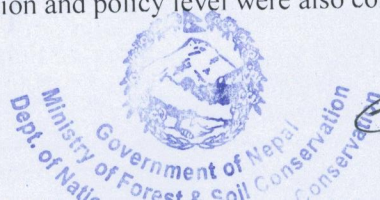
Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Gopal Prakash Bhattarai
Deputy Director General

CITES Activities conducted by Nepal between 66th Standing Committee meeting (January, 2016) and 69th SC meeting (November 2017)

- National legislation for the implementation of CITES Convention "Act on control of International Trade in Endangered Fauna and Flora, 2017" has been promulgated by Nepal on 23 April 2017. The act has made the provision; to regulate the trade of endangered fauna and flora, explicit roles and responsibility of management and scientific authority of fauna and flora, punishment and reward, special provision to provide fauna and flora as a gift to foreign countries.
- National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 amended and came into action from 30 March, 2017 which has made additional provision for wildlife conservation in in-situ and ex-situ conditions including destroy of Wildlife stockpiles. The act has further made the provision of the fine penalties ranges from five thousand US dollar to ten thousand US dollar to the offender for the conviction of the crime of protected species such as One horned rhinoceros, Snow Leopard, Royal Bengal Tiger, Musk Deer, Asian elephant and clouded Leopard.
- As per the decision of Government of Nepal dated 18 May 2017 (Cabinet decision), Wildlife stockpiles of various species were destroyed (burnt) on the occasion of International Biodiversity Day(22 May, 2017) after 20 years in the presence of distinguished national and international guests, representatives, diplomats, national and international media etc. During the occasion, 4012 wildlife stockpiles were destroyed including mainly 67 pieces tiger skin, 357 rhino horns, 354 pieces of elephant tail hair, 34 Musk pod, 1 Clouded Leopard skin, 1 Snow Leopard skin, 48 Packets of Tibetan Antelope Fur, 2 packets of Pangolin Scale, 47 Red Panda Skin, 418 pieces of Common Leopard Skin, 15 Bear Bile. Among the above stockpiles, 18 species were of CITES appendix I, 4 species from CITES II, 4 were of CITES III and rest of 22 were of other than CITES appendix species. Few stockpiles are still kept safely with Bar-coding for educational and scientific purposes.
- Three senior delegates from Nepal were participated in CITES cop 17 which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 4th October 2016. On that meeting, Nepal voted to include all pangolin species in appendix I. From that 17th meeting, All pangolin species are listed in appendix I of CITES.
- Nepal has prepared the species conservation action plan of some priority protected species and CITES appendix I species such as Snow Leopard Conservation Action Plan (2017-2021), Tiger Conservation Action Plan (2016-2020) and Bengal Florican Conservation Action Plan (2016-2020). The Conservation Action Plan of One-horned rhinoceros and Pangolin are in the process of approval within this year. In addition, Nepal also has prepared the Climate smart Snow Leopard Landscape Management Plan (Eastern Landscape, Nepal) which was launched in International Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Forum (Summit 2017) in Bishkek, Kirgizstan.
- Various conservation days like Wildlife week,, World wildlife day on 3 March, World Environment day on June 5, International Biodiversity day on 22 May, Species specific conservation days (International Tiger day on 29 July, world Pangolin day on 18 February, International Snow Leopard conservation day on 23rd October, International rhinoceros conservation day on 22 September), National conservation day on 23 September; celebrated during this period. The conservation and awareness programme at school level, community level, implementation and policy level were also conducted.



- The high level meeting of National Tiger Conservation committee (NTCC) with the Chairmanship of Rt. Honorable Prime Minister and in the presence of various ministers and chief of security forces, high level bureaucrats of concerned authority in 2016 accomplished in which various issues regarding species conservation and controlling illegal wildlife trade, coordination and cooperation among development and conservation agencies were also discussed and agreed for implementation.
- The status of the two lowland protected areas of Nepal namely Parsa Wildlife Reserve and Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve was changed to National Parks with the aim of promoting the sustainable tourism, sustainable utilization of the natural resources, effective conservation of endangered species like Swamp Deer, Asian elephant, Royal Bengal Tiger, One-horned rhinoceros.
- Altogether, 13 One-horned rhinoceros which are also the appendix-I species of CITES, were translocated to Bardia National Park and Shuklaphanta National Park from Chitwan National Park of Central Nepal with a aim to make viable population in between 2016 and 2017. Similarly, 12 Swamp deer (appendix I) were translocated from Shuklaphanta National Park to Bardia National Park and Chitwan National Park and 15 Wild Buffalo (appendix III) also translocated to Chitwan National Park from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve of eastern Nepal during 2016 and 2017 period.
- South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) is the legitimate inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement body which has been working since 2011 with aim for promoting regional cooperation to combat wildlife crime in South Asia. Nepal has demonstrated its strong commitment to combat wildlife crime by endorsing its statute in 2016.
- Recently, one WCCB units was formed on 3 September, 2017 in Sunsari districts of Eastern Nepal. Till to date, 23 District level Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) in 25 districts of Nepal have been formed.
- The construction of Wildlife hospital and rescue centre has been initiated in Chitwan National Park from 2016 focusing the treatment of injured wildlife and rehabilitation of problematic animals.
- Due to the occurrence of the intense rainfall on 12th and 13th August 2017, the devastating flood swept away 8 one horned rhinoceros from Narayani River flood plain of Chitwan National Park to Valmiki Tiger Reserve of Bihar, India. But, with regular communication between Nepal and Indian counterpart and rigorous rescue work done by team of Chitwan National Park and due support from BTR team, Nepal succeed to repatriate those 8 rhinoceros (6 female and 2 Male) to its original home; Chitwan National Park.