

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

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: Afghanistan, Bahrain, China, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen

3. Introduction:

This report summarized the activities of Parties between 69th Standing Committee Meeting (November 2017, Rosa Khutor) and 70th Standing Committee Meeting (October 2018, Rosa Khutor, Sochi).

4. Activities within each party

4.1 Afghanistan:

1. Participation in CITES meeting

None

2. Cooperation with the parties and other

None

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

a. Wild Animal Protection and hunting regulation law

Afghanistan developed Wild Animal Protection and hunting regulation law, this law is currently drafted, on September, 2018 Afghanistan conducted more from three coordination meeting with relevant organization, asspacilly Ministry of agriculture irrigation and water regarding specification of National Environmental

Protection Agency (NEPA) and Ministry of Agriculture irrigation and livestock (MAIL) role in the implementation of this law to finalize as soon as possible.

After adoption of this law, Afghanistan will be able to regulate wild animal illegal hunting, trapping and preventing the extinction of endangered species

b. CITES regulation

This regulation is drafted and sent it to the Ministry of justice for the process. Hope to process and adopt, it is developed just for the regulation and management of illegal wildlife trade

C. Conducting cooperation and training workshop

On 27-28 December, 2017 CITES management authority of Afghanistan, conducted three days' coordination and training workshop for better implementation of CITES Convention for the ministry of financial (National custom academy and National custom), Ministry of interior especially (Border and Interpol police) and Kabul university students.

In the mentioned workshop presented the following issue:

- a. Introduction International Wildlife Trade
- b. Introduction CITES
- c. Using the CITES Appendices
- d. Permits and Certificates
- e. Fraudulent Permits

4. Training /capacity building and public awareness activities

a. Regarding publication and increase the public awareness

Afghanistan has been published different type of Brochure, handbook, poster and etc. for conservation and illegal trade and endangered species of Afghanistan and

b. Celebration of international wildlife days

During 2017 and 2018 Afghanistan celebrated some international day, like snow leopard, wildlife, migratory birds, biodiversity and environmental days for the increasing of public awareness and implementation of wildlife and biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) in the country.

c. Public awareness

1. Police and Customs Awareness Workshop on Wildlife Protected Species illegal trade

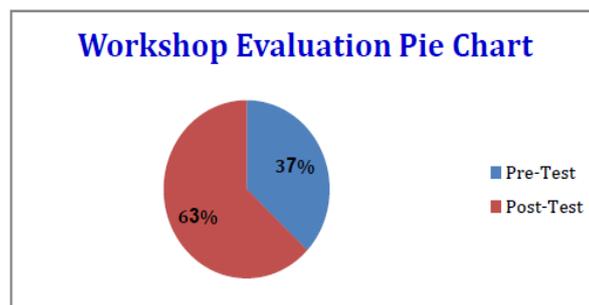
Conducting Awareness training for (National Police Academy, National Customs directorate and National Custom Academy in central and provincial level.

The training started on November 22nd, 2016 and ended on January 11th, 2017. The team visited nine institutions and delivered two and half-hour training sessions at each. The training sessions started with pre-test and ended with a post-test and the total participants were 140(127 Male and 13 Female). National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) distributed 195 posters to police units, the NDS and customs conveying the following messages: PROTECTED WILDLIFE SPECIES OF AFGHANISTAN, MAIN CAUSES OF PASTURES DEGRADATION, BIODIVERSITY MATTERS! THE EARTH SAYS, HUNTING and TRADE OF WILDLIFE IS ILLEGAL etc.

The program was conducted smoothly with the support of the MoIA, NDS and the General Directorate Customs and Tax Academe. The participants overall said they enjoyed and learned a lot from the program. The

participant's claim is supported by the result of pre and posttest (Pie Chart). To evaluate the participant's knowledge, the team has already developed 5 basic questions from the PPT. Each individual got the question sheets and answered during pre-test as well as the same questions used during post-test sessions. As a result of the training, the average score achieved by participants increased from 37/100 in the pre-test to 63/100 in the post-test on Afghanistan's wildlife protected species, environment law, presidential decrees and important of biodiversity (Pie Chart). 30% of the participants admitted that they had limited knowledge about the environment law, polices and for the first time they have heard about the protected wildlife species of Afghanistan and saw their photos. The information was designed to be interchangeable and transferable, thus, all the participants were tasked to train other police, NDS and customs officers who were not able to attend the workshop.

The INTERPOL department of the MoIA is one of the most important bases to share and update photos and other necessary information with regards of the protected wildlife species of Afghanistan. The department of environment of the INTERPOL is lacks of resources and particularly identification, The Workshop at the NDS compound was also very important. It was conducted in the NDS education center where the majority of their staff is receiving training. After the workshop, we agreed that, their department will develop training materials from the materials provided by NEPA and WCS (PPT, posters and brochures). The materials developed by the NDS will be reviewed by NEPA and WCS and will be then incorporated into their own curricula. Moreover, NDS brings staff to this education center from 364 districts and this can be a great opportunity to increase knowledge on Afghanistan's wildlife protected species, environment law, presidential decrees and important of biodiversity by their own staff. There is online internet connection between INTERPOL main office and sub-offices in all airports and border of Afghanistan. So this can help the government of Afghanistan to control and stop illegal hutting and trade of wild and the same time it can be an approach to exchange information within various government institutions. After workshop, it has decided that NEPA should provide photos and other necessary information to enrich INTERPOL database.



5. Other CITES related activities

1. Seizuring of endangered species

Seizing some endangered species (Falcon, Owl, Pallas cat and Eagle) by National police with coordination of Provincial Environmental Protection Directorate of National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and releasing them in natural habitat. and law enforcement officials

4.2 Bahrain:

1. Participation in CITES meeting:

- a) Kingdom of Bahrain participated on the 19th Sharjah International Conservation Forum for Arabia's Biodiversity (SICFAB), the key themes focused on the Red List of plants in the Arabian Peninsula; and the protected areas, which covers IUCN's Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA).

- b) Kingdom of Bahrain participated on the periodic meetings of the Arab team of the environmental conventions, the main objectives of the meeting is to enhance the cooperation between Arab-Countries in all Biodiversity related conventions including CITES convention.



- c) Kingdom of Bahrain participated on training Seminar on Asian CITES Implementation and Wildlife Conservation, hosted by Ministry of Commerce, and organized by China National Bamboo Research Center (CNBRC) and the Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office (July 2017)



- d) Kingdom of Bahrain participated on training workshop hosted in Muscat-Oman to help countries in the region to implement shark-related trade measures adopted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Workshop was organized by government of Oman, in collaboration with The Pew Charitable Trusts and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) (April 2018)



- e) Kingdom of Bahrain participated on the First Regional Biodiversity Forum in UAE. The Forum organized by Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) in cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA). (May 2018).
- f) Kingdom of Bahrain will participate in the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference, 11 – 12 October 2018 in London

2. Cooperation with Parties and others

- a. Kingdom of Bahrain and U.S. Hold Environmental Cooperation Meeting to exchange the experience and Information on combat the illegal trade on wildlife. This meeting is part of the United States-Bahrain Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation.



- b. MoU between Kingdom of Bahrain and the Ministry of State for Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom represented by the Center for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (CEFAS) aims to exchange experiences between the two countries. CITES related issues is included Under the ThemeB of the MoU.



- c. Under the joint committee between Kingdom of Bahrain and Sultanate of Oman, an executive program between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman represented by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain represented by the Supreme Council for the Environment in the field of environmental protection and climate affairs for the years (2018-2021).



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

- a. Align the targets of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) with CITES convention goals.
- b. Prepare “The First Regional Red List Assessment of Selected Species in the Kingdom of Bahrain” The Bahrain Red List Assessment Project marks the first attempt at highlighting threatened species in the Kingdom and putting them on a priority list for conservation.
- c. Conduct studies on Birds population, which will help on listing of endangered species.

- d. Conducting a project on updating the Red-List of species in the Kingdom of Bahrain with cooperation of experts from different authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



- e. Monitoring programs in the local Market to combat illegal wildlife trade.
- f. Adoption of final draft of CITES-National Legislation, which comprehensively discussed for about four years. It is in the last stage for final adoption.
- g. Developing E-Permit to issue CITES Certificate / Permits; the service will be launch very soon.
- h. Annual report of trade volume of CITES listed species has been submitted to the secretariat of CITES convention.
- i. About 1000 of Agapornis sp. (Fischer's Lovebird) Mixed with non-listed species has been confiscated.
- j. Confiscate 15 different types of teeth from Lions) Panthera leo (imported to Bahrain.
- k. Confiscate 17 species of Falco naumanni from the local market.

4. Training/ capacity building and public awareness activities

- a. Training workshop on combating illegal trade of wild fauna and flora with cooperation of International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). (August 2018)

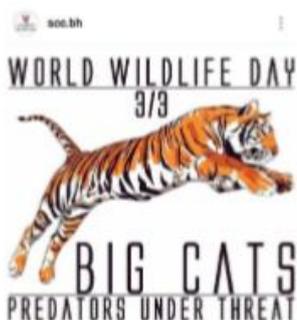


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- b. Yearly program on training of Biology-students from University of Bahrain on CITES convention.



- c. Kingdom of Bahrain has celebrated on World wildlife day on 3rd of March through awareness campaign in the Social media under the theme of the Year (Big Cats: Predators Under Threat)



- d. Publishing a booklet for CITES Guide to combat illegal trade, the booklet includes a description of common species in Trade in the region.
- e. Publishing a leaflet on conservation of Dugong, Dolphins and marine Turtles to rise the public awareness.
- f. Celebrating on the national Environmental Day on 4th of February every year. The Theme on 2017 was “Our Environment. Our Responsibility”, and on 2018 “Our Marine Reserves Our National Wealth”.



- g. Training workshop on sustainable use of Pearl Oyster for about 2500 participants. The training continues every month and it is part of the requirements of Pearl Oyster Diving License.



4.3 China:

1. Participation in CITES meeting

During the reporting period, China has participated in the workshop of rural community in Kenya Form 25-27 Feb.

China has participated in the CITES NIAP meeting in Mozambique from 1-4 May.

China has participated in the thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee in Geneva (Switzerland) from 16-21 July 2018.

China has participated in the twenty-fourth meeting of the Plants Committee from 20-26 July 2018.

China attended the workshop CITES Legal Acquisition Findings in Brussels, Belgium.

China attended the workshop to discuss implementation of Madagascar's use plan ("Business Plan") for securing and disposing of stockpiles of rosewood and other precious woods in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

China took part in CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Asia and the Second Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

China visited Nepal and Malaysia from 27 June to 4 July, 2018 discussing CITES issues on how to improve management on wildlife trade bilaterally especially in rhino transfer and ivory control.

The delegation of Germany visited China on July, 2018 discussing the cooperation between China and Germany in CITES

China is discussing with Japan to consider to issue the MoU between China and Japan in implementation of CITES and law enforcement of IWT

China is discussing with Mexico to consider to issue the MoU between China and Mexico in implementation of CITES and law enforcement of IWT

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

From November 2017 to June 2018, the CITES Management Authority of China, in collaboration with Chinese embassies in relevant countries and NGOs, has held overseas advocacy workshops on CITES implementation, in an effort to raise awareness on wildlife protection and noninvolvement in wildlife trafficking amongst Chinese nationals living and working in Africa, with approximately 800 Chinese nationals from State-owned enterprises, private sector and local communities in Malawi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique and Zambia, being participated.

3 National level operation in combating illegal trade of wildlife has been carried out by the Custom and Forestry police in whole China in 2018.

After the notification to suspend the commercial product and sale of ivory and its products in order published the State Council and the list of suspend product and sale place of ivory published by SFA, all 34 factories and 143 outlets has been closed before the end of 2017. The examination has been taken in city, provincial and country level from January to April in China. All outlets and factories should be closed has been examined.

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 sea turtles in January 2018.

In December 2017, CITES MA of China organized the 13th annual workshop on illegal trade of endangered species and the 7th meeting of NICECG, 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

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

More than 50 training 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 2018.

A training in law enforcement of illegal trade of wildlife were organized by CITES MA of China and the Academy of forest police of Nanjing in April 2018. The experts from US were invited to share their experiment in law enforcement with the staffs from Forestry police and custom.

On 3rd March 2018 World Wildlife Day, the "Protection Big Asian Cat" event in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, was co-hosted by Guangzhou Chimelong Safari Park. 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.

5. Other CITES-related activities

The CITES Management Authority of China, in cooperation with China's Customs authorities, has been advancing the development and application of a CITES e-permitting system, with a view to achieving pattern revision for CITES documents, and electronically issued CITES documents, as well as information and data interconnection between CITES MA and customs authorities. At this stage, this programme is being piloted and will be popularized across the country in due course.

4.4 Indonesia:

1. Participation in CITES meeting:

1. Indonesia participated 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
2. Indonesia participated on Consultation Workshop on the Regulation of Trade in CITES Specimen of Captive breeding ranched source, in United Kingdom, 29-30 March 2017
3. Indonesia participated in training of trainer wildlife forensic workshop: first responders to a wildlife crime scene, US FWS, Ashan, Oregon, USA, 3-7 April 2017
4. Indonesia hosted Asian Elephant Range States Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, 18-20 April 2017
5. Indonesia participated in CITES Workshop on the making of Non-Detriment Findings for Trade in CITES-listed Snakes in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 3-4 Mei 2017
6. Indonesia participated on International Workshop on Helmeted Hornbill Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, Serawak, Malaysia, 19-20 May 2017
7. Indonesia participated in Timber Identification Workshop in Hamburg, Germany on 8-9 June 2017
8. Indonesia Participated on 29th Animals Committee of CITES in Geneva, Switzerland, 17-22 Juli 2017
9. Indonesia participated on 23th Plants Committee of CITES in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22-27 July 2017,
10. Indonesia participated on Regional Dialogue on Combating Trafficking of Wild Fauna and Flora in Bangkok, Thailand, 11-15 September 2017
11. Indonesia attended the 14th Meeting of the AWG CITES and Wildlife Enforcement will be held on 20-22 March 2018, Luang Prabang, Laos
12. Indonesia participated on ESABII Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 6-8 February 2018
13. Indonesia hosted Capacity Development Workshop on Monitoring Captive Breeding and Ranching Facilities, and on conducting Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) For CITES-Listed snake in Bogor, 1-4 May 2018
14. Indonesia Participated on 30th Animals Committee of CITES in Geneva, Switzerland, 15-19 Juli 2018
15. Indonesia Participated on 24th Plants Committee of CITES in Geneva, Switzerland, 20-26 July 2018
16. Indonesia acts as Chair Working Group on Shark and Rays
17. Indonesia hosted the CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Asia and II Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood in Yogyakarta, 25-29 June 2018
18. Indonesia will be participated in the wildlife forensic seminar and workshop in Kuala Lumpur, 24-28 September 2018
19. Indonesia will be participated in the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference, 11 – 12 October 2018 in London

2.Cooperation with Parties and others

1. 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 (IUU) trading including exchange of information on disposal and confiscated specimens.

2. GEF Project on Combatting Illegal and Unsustainable Trade in Endangered Species in Indonesia

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

1. Implementation registration mechanism on agarwood plantation through Director General Regulation.
2. Establish the provisions of sustainable harvest
3. Updating the list of protected species
4. Preparing a National Strategy to combat illegal wildlife trade
5. Conduct studies and monitoring of population and trade to ensure sustainability.
6. In order to fulfill the decision of CoP 17, Indonesia has submitted a report in the AC-30 document on conservation of Banggai Cardinal fish. The CITES Secretariat through IUCN presents the results of an international trade impact assessment of the BCF along with the recommendations that need to be made (AC document 30 inf 16).
7. As one of the *Holothuria spp* range states, Indonesia needs to study the EU proposal to include the genus into CITES Appendix 2.
8. Establishing ministerial decree on the national strategy and action plan of Helmeted hornbill

4.Training/ capacity building and public awareness activities

1. Socialization on listing of *Dalbergia spp* into Appendix II CITES, February 2017
2. Workshop on NDF format for marine species: sharks, cardinal fish, Napoleon wrasse, sea cucumber, Bogor, 26-28 February 2018
3. 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.
4. Training on wildlife population survey and monitoring and inspection of captive breeding facilities for officer in local forestry office, Cibodas, 7-11 May 2018
5. 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.
6. Socialization on CITES Permit and Training Workshop on Wildlife Utilization in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, 8-10 May 2017.
7. Socialization of the introduction of traded species of plants and wildlife in Bogor, Indonesia, 31 July – 2 August 2018.

4.5 Iraq

1. Participation in CITES meeting

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

- cites countries, as example we have cooperation with Kuwait to Release of 23 smuggled falcons, Kuwait customs has captured 23 smuggled falcons and handed over to Iraq cites management Authority, Iraq management Authority has lunched falcons to the nature and we informed CITES secretariat for the same
- Iraq customs has captured few smuggled falcons came from Kuwait and contact with Kuwait management authority and inform them and cooperate to release it to the nature
- Iraq Management Authority has release Griffon Vulture to the nature after captured by local hunters, attached III shows the Griffon Vulture report for the same

With reference to CITES letter dated April, 30, 2018 about competent Authority for CITES in Serbia, Serbian Non-Governmental Organization that informed at least two specimens of Griffon Vulture Gyps

fulvous (CITES Appendix II) have been illegally taken from a wild in Iraq AlQadissiyaa province, and are been kept in captivity in the town of Aldiuania

Once we got letter we established committee to follow information and release this bird at very short time.

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

national strategy to conservation biodiversity since 2013, according to this plan Iraq has approached all species which under threaten and trying to solve the reasons behind, some species have lost their habitat because of desiccation, civilian activities in addition to sever hunting and trade.

Ministry of Environment Low no 37 at 2008 and low number 27 at 2009 which involved many items refer to conservation biodiversity more ever Iraq government has ratified many convention and agreement like CBD, RAMSAR, CITES, CMS etc.

After Iraq ratification of CITES and being as member of CITES, Ministry of Environment has established committees for the same regard, legislation committee which is responsible to prepare rules and regulations to match CITES requirement and implement CITES in Iraq, also CITES management authority has relay on law no 10 which published by Ministry of Agriculture, this law deal protects of world life, punishment, fines etc...

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

Ministry of Health and Environment department of marsh, CITES division has lunched Many awareness campaigns for CITES in this year

As public awareness, CITES division has approached world day of life animal and celebrate, we utilized this occasion to raise awareness for decision makers, stockholders, students vendors and local community, in addition CITES division teams have approached Animal markets in Iraq and check CITES Annex I and Annex II species availability

Awareness programs has enabled our Management Authority to published more than 15 CITES certificates this year

Training

CITES Division team has got great opportunity, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), have trained our teams in Basra Governorate at June 2018, Iraq customs, CITES team, police, borders guards, international Basra airport customs, Basra province government, universities and local birds vendors have got training under IFAW experts, experts has delivered very important knowledge, training has improve trainees skills



IFAW experts, CITES management authority and trainees



Dr. Akram Dirwesh gave presentation (introduction of CITES)



CITES trainees in Basra through IFAW test for the trainees and check how much benefit earn at training course

CITES division has lunched training course programs for Baghdad international airport, Basra airport, Holy Karbala, International Najaf airport

Beneficiaries are customs, national security, police, and border guards, ministry of Agriculture, NGOs, local vendors

Supported Materials which used at training course are supplied from IFAW, CITES Division team has raising beneficiaries' skills to control CITES species and capture smuggled species also local vendors has approached cites DIVISION to get license for export and import also before import process they came at CITES division place and queried whether these species CITES Annex I or Annex II



TRAINING COURSE AT HOLY KARBALA



INTERNATIONAL NAJAF AIRPORT TRAINING COURSE



Brochures, booklets have delivered to participants

Iraq and IFAW have entered memorandum of understanding



Baghdad intentional airport training course
 CITES team gave presentation for Falcons Annex I and Annex II species



Iraq achievements of Cites Engineer Shatha Kadhum director General and Management authority member has spoken through Baghdad international airport training course

5. Other CITES-related activities

- Training course programs are going on and some places don't reach still Kurdistan region, northern and western governorates
- Create mechanism with Kurdistan region for CITES implementation regard
- Training for our teams with special course for Plant group
- Law and legislation committee of CITES in Iraq and publishing rules and regulation to enforcement
- Mechanism to activates our law and update some items to giving more power to implement CITES rules in Iraq

4.6 Japan

1. Participation in CITES meetings

- An official from the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) and a scientist from Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency participated in the International technical workshop on eels organized in London in April 2018.
- Dr. Ishii, alternate member of the Asian region, and officials from FAJ and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) participated in the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee in July 2018.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the CITES Management Authority of Japan, has been continuing discussions with the Management Authority of China in order to deepen cooperation on issues between the two countries, triggered by a bilateral meeting held in May 2017.
- 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".
- 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 February 2018.

3. Implementation of CITES including legislation and law enforcement activities

- The amended Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (LCES), which includes stricter regulations both on domestic trade of species listed in Appendix I and business operators involved in domestic ivory trade, entered into force on 1 June 2018.

With the enforcement of the above amended law, business operators handling ivory products are now subject to registration requirements with the government, in order to engage in the business. This represents a change from just having to file a notification previously. Under the amended law, the following obligations are imposed on the registered business operators:

- All whole ivory tusks are subject to registration requirements. A registration card must be attached on whole ivory tusks that are put up for sale.
- A traceability information form must be prepared for every cut piece and every worked product of ivory that weighs over 1kg and exceeds 20cm. The form must be attached on every cut piece and every worked product of ivory that is put up for sale.
- A record must be prepared for every transaction of cut piece and worked products of ivory, indicating its source, buyer, weight, characteristics, and so on, and must be kept for five years.
- Relevant information including a registration number and the name of a business operator, and the expiration date of the registration must be indicated for cut piece and worked products of ivory that are put on display for sale as well as on their advertisements.

An operator in breach of these obligations is liable to a maximum fine of up to JPY 100 million (about USD 910,000) and/ or a maximum prison sentence of up to five years, while the registration for business operations of such an operator will be nullified.

Note that, as stipulated by the law from before the recent amendment, the ivory items that can be sold legally in Japan are limited to the following:

- Whole ivory tusks, cut pieces of ivory and worked ivory products that had pre-existed in Japan ahead of the adoption of CITES trade ban (in 1980* for Asian elephants and 1990 for African elephant).

*Japan joined CITES in 1980.

- Whole ivory tusks, cut pieces of ivory and worked ivory products which were imported to Japan with pre-convention certificates issued by exporting countries under CITES.

- Whole ivory tusks which were imported to Japan in 1999 and 2009, as exceptions approved under CITES.

- In response to some reported cases of foreign visitors and other buyers illegally taking out ivory products from Japan, the Government of Japan has been taking the following measures to thoroughly enforce the regulations:

- Increasing the number of officials of the MOE, in charge of monitoring and control on transactions of endangered species of wild fauna and flora, including ivory, from 22 to 26 as of June 2018.

- Requiring business operators that handle ivory products to explain to buyers (including foreign visitors) legal procedures needed to export those products.

- Tightening border controls through more effective cooperation with the Chinese customs authority.

- For strict enforcement of LCES, MOE and METI raised awareness on regulatory compliance to secondhand dealers, and conducted round patrols in flea markets to give necessary instructions to tenants and organizers to ensure that they comply with the law.

- In 2017, the Japanese police handled 139 cases involving 163 persons for violation of the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (LCES).

- As the CITES Management Authority of Japan, METI issued about 6,400 export permits including re-export certificates in 2017. Owing to the addition of species in the Appendices at CoP17, export permits including re-export certificates in 2017 were about 1.7 times more compared to the previous year. METI issued about 800 import licenses for items concerning species listed in Appendix I in 2017. As for the items concerning live animals and others listed in Appendix II or III which require a prior confirmation based on domestic law in the case of import, METI confirmed about 1,700 cases in 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 2018, MOE and METI conducted awareness-raising activities on the necessity of protecting wild animals and plants to the general public by exhibiting panels on regulations under CITES and LCES in 32 zoos and botanical gardens in Japan.

5. Other CITES-related Activities

- As part of commitment to the cause of protecting elephants from atrocious acts of poaching by international criminal organizations among others, and attaching great importance to supporting range states in the fight against poaching of elephants, the Government of Japan assisted the governments of Zimbabwe in 2016 and Uganda in 2018 under the MIKE Programme, totaling to USD 60,000 and USD 55,000 respectively, in developing their posts for field rangers conducting anti-poaching operations. The anti-poaching center in Zimbabwe was officially handed over to their authorities in May 2018. Construction work for establishment of a center in Uganda is on-going.



4.7 Kuwait

1. Participation in CITES meeting

Kuwait participate in the 30th Meeting of The Animals Committee on CITES, 16-21 July 2018 and the 24th Meeting of the Plant Committee on CITES, 20-26 July 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. Cooperation with the parties and other

Kuwait participate as the coordinator of CITES Convention for the Arabic speaking countries, in the 18th 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. Implimentation of CITES, including conservation, legislation and law enforcement activities

Several campaigns in Kuwait Friday market for law enforcement activities.

4. Training/ Capacity Building and public awareness activities

- Kuwait organize with the cooperation of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Saudi Arabia CITES Management Authority Workshop on CITES enforcement and combatting illegal trade in Kuwait in the period between 16 - 20 September 2018, the objective of the workshop is improving capacity building for CITES enforcement authorities in Kuwait.





- Kuwait celebrate World Wildlife Day March 2018 a specific theme was selected specifically to Kuwait for compact the illegal trade in Falcons and Hubara



4.8 MALAYSIA

1. Participation in CITES meetings

Malaysian representatives participated in the 30th Meeting of The Animals Committee on CITES, 16-21 July 2018 and the 24th Meeting of the Plant Committee on CITES, 20-26 July 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Malaysia also participated in the CITES Tree Species Programme, in cooperation with CITES Secretariat and European Union. Project to be implemented in Malaysia shall focus on conservation of a threatened agarwood species, *Aquilaria malaccensis* by reduce harvesting pressure on natural populations.

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

Malaysia in collaboration with UNODC had conducted Rapid Assessment of Criminal Justice Response to Wildlife Crime in Malaysia from May – September 2017 whereby strengths and weakness of the various enforcement agencies were identified and recommended certain actions to enhance effectiveness in combating wildlife crime.

Malaysia and Wildlife Conservation Society hosted the Tri-Lateral Workshop between Malaysia, Lao PDR and Thailand on Enforcement Modus Operandi in 5-7 March 2018. The workshop was supported by the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs which promoted intelligence sharing mechanisms and conduct case reviews between the countries.

Malaysia also is part of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement which convened its 14th Meeting on 20-22 March 2018 at Luangprabang, Lao PDR.

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

Malaysia has several laws and legislations for implementation of CITES and enforcement of wildlife trafficking. On 30th November 2017, the Malaysian Border Security Agency Act 2017 was gazetted to provide for the establishment of the Malaysian Border Security Agency, to secure the Malaysian land border against any smuggling activities.

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department together with Malaysian Timber Industry Board conducted regular enforcement operations at the entry ports which resulted in cases, majority involving confiscation of *Pterocarpus santalinus* (red sanders).

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

Malaysian management authorities and enforcement agencies, had conducted several training activities to increase capabilities of the officers particularly in species identification and enforcement of wildlife crime among others, Training in Trade Control of CITES-listed Tree Species in 3-4 Oktober 2017 and Cactus, Hoodia and Succulent Species Identification Programme on 24 – 27 July 2017.

Malaysia also participated in many capacity building programs through cooperation with ASEAN Member States and other international bodies such as the 4th Regional Dialogue on Combating Trafficking of Wild Fauna and Flora in Bangkok, Thailand on 12 –14 September 2017 and Workshop on Customs Best Practices to Identify Illegal Timber and Wood Products, 18-19 Aug 2017, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

4.9 PHILIPPINES

1.Participation in CITES Meeting

1. Dr. Arvin C. Diesmos, Alternate Representative (Asia) for Animals Committee participated in the Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee held on 16-21 July 2018 in Geneva (Switzerland).

2. Ms. Josefina L. de Leon, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Division of the Biodiversity Management Bureau participated in a CITES meeting on the development and implementation of National Ivory Action Plans (NIAPs) held on 1 to 4 May 2018 in Maputo, Mozambique.

2.Cooperation with the Parties and others

None

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

1. Pilot-testing of the issuance of “Certificate Of Exemption” for by-products and derivatives from Indo-Pacific/Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) produced by CITES-Registered *C. porosus* breeding facilities

in the Philippines in lieu of CITES Permit. The pilot-testing covers a period of one year which started in November 2017.

2. Amendment of Republic Act 9147 known as “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act”- The DENR, through BMB had initiated the amendment of RA 9147 to better deter commission of wildlife crime offenses, provide common interpretation of penalties to be imposed against violators by the Court, and address other policy gaps. The proposed Bill is currently under review by the DENR, Legislative Service and the Philippines House of Representatives-Committee on Natural Resources. It is a product of three (3) stakeholders’ consultations led by the DENR-BMB in collaboration with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), and through the assistance of USAID Protect Wildlife Project and US Department of the Interior-International Technical Assistance Program. The said workshops were participated in by representatives from various national government agencies, including enforcement agencies, local government units, the wildlife industry, academic and scientific institutions, and the civil society organizations.

3. Approval of the following policies:

- a. DENR Administrative Order No. 2017-11 re Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Plants and their Categories approved on May 2, 2017 – The list included 984 plant species which were determined to be threatened with extinction, of which 179 are critically endangered, 254 are endangered, 406 are vulnerable and 145 are categorized as other threatened species. Out of the listed threatened plants, 737 or 75.7% are endemic to the Philippines. The updated list of 984 threatened species represents an increase of 458 species from the original list of 526 species in 2007, with the inclusion of 95 newly discovered species that occur in low population and have restricted range (small island endemics); and,
- b. Joint BMB-NCR Technical Bulletin 2018-01 “Pilot-testing of CITES Electronic and Management Information System (CEPMIS)”, approved on August 1, 2018 -The development of the CEPMIS is part of the Philippine obligation and commitment to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The CEPMIS shall cover applications for permits involving the exportation, re-exportation and importation of CITES-listed terrestrial and other wildlife species under the jurisdiction of the DENR. The pilot-testing will help us assess the effectiveness and functionality of the system. The NCR through its Regional Director already signed the JTB. The pilot-testing shall run for six months to commence after the completion of hands-on trainings to be conducted by BMB

4. Training/capacity-building and public awareness raising activities

1. Conducted the following trainings:

- a. Wildlife Forensics and Criminal Investigation Training

The training, which was co-organized by the US-Department of Interior, USAID-Protect Wildlife Project, and the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee-Sub Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, including BMB was successfully conducted last 18-24 March 2018 at Grand Canyon Resort, Clark, Pampanga. The training aimed to: i) equip the participants with knowledge and skills on proper documentation of wildlife crime scene, including collection, handling and preservation of evidence; and ii) capacitate the participants in the preparation of investigative reports as well as considerations during the process of inquest and preliminary investigation, and how to testify in Court. The training was participated in by 47 representatives from the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Bureau of Customs, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and DENR Regional/Field Offices.

- b. Training on CITES Non-Detriment Findings: A Focus on Terrestrial Species

The BMB in collaboration with the USAID-Protect Wildlife and support from the CITES Secretariat conducted Training on CITES Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs): a Focus on Terrestrial Species in B Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines on 4-6 September 2018. It was attended by 35 individuals from Philippines’ CITES Authorities, Management Authorities and the Licensing, Patents and Deeds Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-LPDD). The activity aims to provide the participants with knowledge, appreciation and guidance relating to the processes, methodologies and information needed to formulate NDFs and to determine sustainable level of trade. Dr. Karen Gaynor, CITES Scientific Support Officer served as resource person during the training.

- c. Training on Wildlife Conservation and Management: Species Identification, Handling and Management Techniques”: Amphibians, Reptiles and Birds

Two trainings on “Wildlife Conservation and Management: Species Identification, Handling and Management Techniques” were conducted by BMB in partnership with the USAID-Protect Wildlife in SEARCA, College, Los Baños, Laguna. These were attended by representatives from the BMB and DENR Regional Offices. The first was focused on reptiles and amphibians, while the latter was focused on birds held on 31 July-13 August 2018 and 16-29 August 2018, respectively.

2. Attended the following CITES-related trainings:

- a. Conservation Managers' Leadership Course, International Conservation Chiefs Academy (ICCA), Shepherdstown, West Virginia, U.S.A

Dr. Esteven Toledo, enforcement staff of BMB attended the training “Conservation Managers' Leadership Course” held from 10-23 March 2018 at the International Conservation Chiefs Academy (ICCA), Shepherdstown, West Virginia, U.S.A.

The training was organized by the US Government through the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and designed to strengthen global law enforcement relationships to combat illegal wildlife trafficking, with emphasis on creating a shared undertaking of the illegal wildlife trafficking problem globally, and in strengthening individual and international relationships, including building adaptive leadership. The training catered primarily to officers in law enforcement agencies whose responsibilities include providing leadership and training in the enforcement of laws on endangered species, carrying out wildlife law enforcement, and related operations.

- b. Workshop on Monitoring Captive Breeding and Ranching Facilities for all Taxa, and on conducting Non-Detriment Findings for Trade in CITES-listed snakes

Ms. Nermalie M. Lita participated in a workshop on monitoring captive breeding and ranching facilities for all taxa, and on conducting Non-Detriment Findings for trade in CITES-listed snakes held in Bogor, Indonesia on 1 to 4 May 2018.

3. Awareness and Education

- a. Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign - The “Stop Illegal Wildlife Trade Campaign” is a continuing effort aimed to raise public awareness and gain support of key agencies and entities in putting an end to illegal wildlife transport/trade. For 2018, efforts included the following:

Conduct of a series of “Orientation-Seminars on National and International Policies on Ivory and Wildlife Trade” - These seminars were held for officers/personnel from both public and private entities operating in/manning six (6) sea and air ports, such as: Batangas Port (8 February 2018), Calapan Port (20 February 2018), Batanes Seaport and Airport (April 11, 2018), Abra de Ilog Seaport -San Jose Seaport and Airport, Occidental Mindoro (April 26, 2018), Dumaguete Airport and Seaport, Negros Occidental (May 23, 2018), and Port of Allen, Samar (July 18, 2018).

The seminars were participated by representatives from the Enforcement Division and Wildlife Monitoring Units of the DENR Regional/ Field Office, Philippine Ports Authority, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Department of Agriculture - Quarantine Offices, vessel operators, cargo forwarders and courier service providers.

- b. Production and distribution of information materials

Four types of materials were produced/distributed to various agencies/offices for their reference and use in public awareness campaigns. These materials are tarpaulins on threatened species, Republic Act 9147 (“Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act” of 2001 booklet; pocket-sized version of the Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual of Operations and, “BAWAL” posters featuring some threatened species prohibited for collection and trade.

- c. Participation to the global celebration of the World Wildlife Day -Every year, the Philippines joins the global community in celebrating the World Wildlife Day. The DENR through the BMB and the DENR-Regional and Field Offices including our partner-agencies simultaneously conducted various wildlife-related activities. The national celebration was held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, the highlights of which included the following:
- Conferment of the 5th (2018) Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards – This ceremony is a regular activity conducted every celebration of World Wildlife Day to recognize private individuals and non-DENR officials/personnel who have provided invaluable assistance and unqualified support to the DENR and the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory (POGI) & Illegal Wildlife Trade in enforcing the provisions of the Wildlife Act (R.A. 9147).
 - 3rd Wildlife Quiz Bee – This contest is also a regular activity during the celebration of WWD. It aimed to encourage the students to give particular attention to current developments on wildlife, both nationally and internationally, and to raise awareness and appreciation of thirty (30) Grade 9 students from different public schools in the National Capital Region (NCR), Region IV-A (CALABARZON) and Region 3 participated in the Wildlife Quiz Bee Contest wherein they were challenged with questions about wildlife. It also served as an opportunity for them to hone their knowledge and, at the same time, learn the values associated with winning and losing in a competition. Tokens and cash prizes were awarded to top four winners. Tokens and small amount were also given to non-winning participants as incentives.
 - Youth Biocamp – A two-day learning event designed for the kids and youth sector which aimed to expose the participants to biodiversity conservation, and made them aware of their role in protecting and conserving the biodiversity. It was conducted last 3-4 March 2018 at Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center and participated in by high school students, aged 13-18 years old from various schools in Metro Manila and Cavite. Among the activities undertaken were lecture on biodiversity conservation, environmental games, skits or role playing, nature walk, wildlife watching, and close encounter with selected species of wild animals.

5. Other CITES-related activities

1. Development of a ten-year Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan (WildLEAP, 2018-2028).

This WildLEAP is envisioned to serve as the national roadmap in addressing wildlife crimes in the next ten years (2018-2028) and as guide in prioritizing enforcement actions, fund-sourcing/allocation, and evaluating the impacts of enforcement work in the country. The WildLEAP has seven (7) strategies, namely: (1) Policy and System Development; (2) Networking and Coordination; (3) Capacity Building; (4) Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA); (5) Improving Governance, Curbing Corruption; (6) Mobilization of Resources; and, (7) Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation. It has 34 proposed interventions and at least 85 proposed actions to be carried out within ten years, as resources would allow. Attached is a copy of the matrix on proposed interventions and actions for your further information and reference.

2. Implementation of the following Projects:

- a. USAID-Protect Wildlife Project - This five-year project aims to address the threats to biodiversity, including illegal wildlife trade concerns in target sites in the Philippines, and to demonstrate the integration of conservation and socio-economic development. The Project envisions achieving these objectives through a holistic and strategic approach that combines capacity building and technical assistance, conservation financing and partnerships, science and technology, wildlife law enforcement and behavior change.
- b. ADB-GEF 6-funded Project “Combatting Organized Environmental Crime in the Philippines” The three-year World Bank-GEF funded project, on the other hand, aims to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines through legal and institutional reforms, capacity building in the law enforcement chain, and demand reduction measures. Specific activities would include economic valuation studies for two priority species and production and dissemination of audience-segmented communications materials engaging Key Opinion Leaders and other influencers.

4.10 Saudi Arabia

1. Participation in CITES meeting.

Saudi Arabia has attended the following CITES Meetings:

- The 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.
- The Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee, Geneva (Switzerland), 16-21 July 2018.
- Twenty-fourth meeting of the Plants Committee, Geneva (Switzerland), 20-26 July 2018.

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.

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.

The Saudi wildlife Authority collaborated with the Environment Public Authority of Kuwait to hold a training workshop on the Implementation of CITES for CITES Management and Enforcement Authority staff in Kuwait that took place in Kuwait 16-20/09/2018 and supported the workshop with technical expertise

5. Other CITES-related activities.

- Saudi Arabia has celebrated the World Wildlife Day 2018.

4.11 Syrian Arab Republic

1.Participation in CITES Meeting

Syria participated on last COP 17 of CITES in South Africa only, and We did not participate in any activities or meetings related regional or global CITES due, we did not get any invitation about the participation.

2.Cooperation with the Parties and others

The cooperation with other parties was clearly on confirmation the CITES permits, which were issued by CITES authorities on that parties, that Cooperation is very useful to success the processing of control.

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

a. Hunting regulation law: Syria has developed and prepared the final draft of hunting regulation law, and it is on parliament for discussion, but we need more training on implementation of this law after the adoption it. Especially on breeding the wild species on private farms for hunting.

b. CITES regulation Syria prepared the draft of CITES law, and we sent an Arabic version to the CITES secretariat, and we requested for it to help Syria to support the training on implement the law, especially for the lawyers and the national CITES staff, due this matter is new to dealing with it. The draft of law is discussing with prime minister to adopt it.

C. Conducting cooperation and training workshop Syria by the CITES authority was held 3 national training workshops in 2018:

- 1- On 20-23 April, 2018 CITES for environmental staff on (Damascus – Rif Damascus-Al- swyidaa- Al-qunitraa) governorates.
- 2- On 12-14 March 2018 for environmental staff on (Lattakia- Tartous) Governorates.
- 3- On 15-17 March 2018 for environmental staff on Homs- Hama).

In the mentioned training workshops, they focused on following issues:

1. Dealing with the issuing of CITES permits
2. Introduction International Wildlife Trade
3. Introduction of CITES 4- Using the CITES Appendices 5- Permits and Certificates

4.Training/capacity-building and public awareness raising activities

The Syrian CITES authority was conducted more than 5 awareness activities in (2017-2018), these activities were for wildlife international day celebration, it was for deferent levels (public and local communities, students, customs).

5.Other CITES-related activities

Illegal behavior by Turkey in 2018 when they conveyed the animals from Halab governorate to ALMAWA farm in Jordan, without any conducting with CITES authority in Syria, in spite of they knew that most of these animals under the CITES appendixes. We knew this by media as the public. We informed the CITES secretariat soon via formal letter by National Focal Point, we did not have the response yet

4.12 United Arab Emirates

1.Participation in CITES Meeting

- 30th meeting of the Animals Committee on 16-21 July 2018.

2.Cooperation with the Parties and others

- The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in collaboration with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) participated in a training workshop for Oman authorities on combating illegal trade on sharks and implementation of CITES on 15-17 April 2018.
- The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment contributed in university of Sydney Research Project in updating inforMEA website.
- The UAE share information with other GCC countries through the platform of the GC.
- Non-governmental stakeholders in the UAE have supported governmental efforts to strengthen the national enforcement responses to address illegal trade in cheetahs through developing and implementing capacity building programs for the concerned authorities such as customs and the aviation sector, these NGO's are International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Emirates Wildlife Society in cooperation with World Wildlife Fund (EWS-WWF). Furthermore, EWS-WWF has worked with the management and the scientific authorities of CITES in 2015 to develop an analytical study on the illegal wildlife trade in the UAE. The study included an analysis of the current enforcement methods and different option to further strength the enforcement of combating illegal wildlife trade.
- UAE hosted the 'Summit for the Flyways' conference on bird migration and conservation in April 2018.

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

- The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment issued the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks in United Arab Emirates.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment issued the UAE Shark Assessment report.

4.Training/capacity-building and public awareness raising activities

- The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment provides special training course in May 2017for veterinarians, agricultural engineers who are working on the implementation of the Federal Law No. 11 (2002) on the organization and control of international trade on endangered fauna and flora.

5.Other CITES-related activities

- Initiative innovation capsule for CITES electronic services during the month of innovation in 2018.
- Shark week campaign 2018.
- Updating the Important Bird Areas in UAE in 2018.
- In 2018, during the celebrations of the National Environment Day in February, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment organized an exhibition and series of workshops about biodiversity. The collaboration of UAE with the government of Chad and Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF) for reintroduction programme of the Scimitar-horned Oryx.
- The collaboration of UAE with Kazakhstan to release 35 falcons in wild.
- The collaboration of UAE with Kyrgyzstan to release **50** falcons in wild.

4.13 Yemen

1.Participation in CITES Meeting

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

2.Cooperation with the Parties and others

- Environment Protection Authority collaborate 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.
- Coordination among the customs and ports authorities to control any illegal important or exportation of endangered flora and fauna
- Work on the breeding of the Houbar bustarda with cooperation with the United Arab Emirates.
- Open mini-factories for the manufacture of daggers heads of the gemstones in cooperation with IFAW to be a substitute for rhino horn.

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

- Due to the fact that environment is 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 for1997. 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 minister's cabinet decree No.104 for the year 2002
- Laws concerning CITES convention:
 - Presidential Decree No.4 for 1997.
 - Cabinet of Ministers Decree about joining the convention on 25-1-1997.
 - Yemen has becomes 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

4.Training/capacity-building and public awareness raising activities

- 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.
- 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.

5. Other CITES-related activities

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 Governorates.
- 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.

4.14 Singapore (attached)

4.15. Lao People's Democratic Republic (attached)

Singapore's report to the 70th Standing Committee of CITES

This report summarises the activities of Singapore between 69th Standing Committee Meeting (November 2017, Geneva) and 70th Standing Committee Meeting (October 2018, Sochi, Russia).

1. Participation in CITES meeting

Date	Meeting	Venue
9-13 October 2017	28th meeting of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG)	Singapore
16-18 October 2017	Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement Meeting for Customs Officers (WIRE-Customs)	Hanoi, Vietnam
20-22 March 2018	14th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement	Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
29-30 March 2018	1st Meeting of the SOMTC Working Group on Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife and Timber	Bangkok, Thailand

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

Visit by Environment Public Authority of Kuwait

On 19 September 2017, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) hosted a visit by H.E Al Sabah, Chairman & Director General, Environment Public Authority of Kuwait, H.E Yaqoub Yousef AlSanad, Ambassador, Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Singapore, Mr Abdullah Al Shabeeb, Director, Office of the Chairman & General Manager, Dr Abdullah Al Zidan, Director, Department of Biodiversity, Mr Mishaal Khaled A A Albannai, Third Secretary, Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Singapore. The aim of the visit was to discuss CITES issues such as CITES e-permitting system.

Visit by Canadian High Commission

On 5 October 2017, Singapore hosted a visit by Mr Sheldon Jordan, Director-General of Environment and Climate Change Canada and Ms Andrea Barrett of the Canadian High Commission. AVA presented on the implementation and enforcement of CITES in Singapore. The meeting discussed about how containers in transit via Singapore would be checked, smuggling of glass eels, bear gall bladders and investigation of money laundering, followed by visits to the various checkpoints to observe how

Singapore adopts a Whole-of-Government approach to enforce against wildlife trafficking and timber smuggling.

Breeding and conservation of blue macaws

To mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brazil and Singapore, the Singapore Jurong Bird Park (JBP) imported 2 Spix's macaws and 4 Lear's macaws (both endangered species native to Brazil) from conservation and breeding facilities in Germany and Qatar. The blue macaws were on a 10-year loan to support the breeding and conservation of the species. The project aims to support the re-introduction of the rare macaws in Brazil.

Sampling of seized ivory for DNA analysis by University of Washington

On 23-27 April 2018, Dr Sam Wasser and his team from the University of Washington visited Singapore and collaborated with AVA to collect ivory samples from a shipment of 1,787 pieces (weighing ~3,500 kg) of tusks seized in March 2018. DNA analysis will be carried out to determine the origin of the ivory and elephant population. US Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) was present to support in the DNA sampling process. The collaboration between the US and Singapore aims to support African countries to identify poaching hotspots and strengthen enforcement, in compliance with *Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on Trade in Elephant Specimens*.

Disposal of confiscated red sandalwood, African rosewood and agarwood

In March and April 2018, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority donated CITES wood specimens confiscated between 2013 – 2017 to the Singapore National Parks Board for the construction of park facilities. The Singapore National Parks Board is the government body managing public parks and conservation measures in Singapore. This is in compliance with Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species).

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

The following highlights significant wildlife and timber seizures made by Singapore:

Seizure of African rosewood logs

In September 2017, Singapore seized a total of 64 containers consisting of 1,238.67 tonnes of African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) logs from Guinea-Bissau in transit via Singapore to Vietnam. The rosewood was mis-declared as Burmese rosewood (*Pterocarpus macrocarpus*), non-CITES species and hence, was not accompanied by any CITES permits. Information pertaining to this case has been shared with Guinea-Bissau and Vietnam authorities, through eco-messages, for their investigation.

Smuggling of rhino horns

On 26 February 2018, a Vietnamese man was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment for smuggling 8 cut pieces of rhino horns and 1 bag of horn shavings through Singapore. The man had flown from Dubai to Laos, in transit via Singapore, when the illegal rhino horns were detected in his luggage. The rhino horns were forfeited and samples were shared with the Forensic Science Laboratory of the South African Police

Service for DNA analysis to trace the origin. Details of the case were shared through the Ecomessage system.

Seizure of ivory

On 5 March 2018, Singapore authorities seized a container of groundnuts from Nigeria while en-route to Vietnam and uncovered 61 bags of elephant ivory tusks (1,787 pieces), weighing about 3,500kg. The illegal shipment was detected as a result of inter-agency risk assessment and collaboration. A local company had been assisting the authorities with the investigation. The details of the case were shared through the Ecomessage system. In accordance to *Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17)*, the seizure was reported to ETIS, and DNA sampling of the seized ivory was conducted. This was performed in collaboration with Professor Sam Wasser (University of Washington).

4. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

Date	Event	Venue
31 October 2017	Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species (ROUTES) – Workshop on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, organised by Singapore Airlines and partly funded by USAID. The workshop focused on the significance of the illegal wildlife trade and various risks posed to the airlines industry.	SIA Training Centre, Singapore
13-17 November 2017	IBM i2 Analyst’s Notebook Training. The participants were introduced to the software programme that is able to analyse information in a database so as to identify links between several suspects to different cases.	Interpol Global Complex for Innovation, Singapore
September 2017 to April 2018	Briefing on CITES reaching a total of 181 logistics companies (primarily shipper, freight forwarders) with a total of 261 attendees	Singapore Customs Academy

21 May 2018	Customs-Competent Authorities Joint Seminar, where CITES and related matters were briefed to a total of 175 attendees from 123 companies	Civil Service Club @ Tessensohn
28 August 2018	Combatting Illegal Wildlife Trade in Transit Workshop	British High Commission Singapore

5. Other CITES-related activities

Singapore submitted its CITES annual report for 2016 to the CITES Secretariat on 2 October 2017. The timely submission of a CITES annual report is an obligation of a Party to the Convention. The report recorded the type of CITES permits and certificates granted, quantities, species, origin and types of specimens traded for that year.

Asian Regional Report for SC70 (Lao PDR)
September 2018

1. Participation in CITES Meetings

- Regional Workshop on compliance with CITES Shark and Ray Trade regulations in the Philippines from 21-22 March 2018, hosted by the Philippine government, where 1 Lao participant from CITES MA was supported by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- CITES MA participated in the CITES-MIKES Asia Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in April 2018, organized by IUCN in Bangkok.
- Lao participation in the 2018 Seminar on Asia CITES Implementation and Wildlife Conservation organised and supported by the Chinese government in July 2018
- Department of Forestry, as CITES MA, and Ministry of Science and Technology, as CITES SA, participated in the 30th Meeting of the Animals Committee in July 2018

2. Cooperation with the Parties and others

- Tri-lateral workshop promoting cooperation on information sharing and law enforcement between Malaysia, Thailand and Lao PDR in Kuala Lumpur from 5-7 March 2018, hosted by the Malaysian MNRE, with support from WCS, US INL, and UK IWT. 15 participants from Lao-WEN agencies (DOFI, POFI, DCNEC, Interpol NCB Police, OPP, Customs, and Commerce) participated.
- 14th Meeting of the ASEAN WG on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement hosted by the Lao Government in Luang Prabang from 20-22 March 2018
- 1st Meeting of the ASEAN SOMTC Working Group on Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife and Timber in Bangkok, Thailand from 29-30 March 2018, organized by UNODC and the Royal Thai Police, with the participation of 2 delegates from the Police Department
- DOF, with technical support from WCS and FTB, facilitated and hosted meetings in Luang Prabang and Vientiane during the visit of the China CITES MA to Lao PDR from 3-6 May 2018 where the existing MOU and cooperation between Lao PDR and China on CITES cooperation was discussed and joint activities were planned.
- USAID Wildlife Asia (UWA) supported Lao PDR Observation Mission on Counter-Wildlife Trafficking Policy Best Practices from 21-25 May 2018 in Thailand. Eight Lao participants from CITES MA, DOFI, DCNEC, Customs, Office of the Public Prosecutor, CITES SA, and MAF attended the mission. The USAID Wildlife Asia has committed to provide additional support to the Lao Government on its NIAP process, based on communications from DoF to UWA.
- Participation in the Bangkok Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation for Addressing Wildlife and Forest Crimes and Attaining SDGs in the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand, 28-29 August 2018
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with the Oudomxay Provincial Government hosted and organised with WWF a trans-boundary seminar workshop on wildlife trade issues with representatives from CITES MAs of China and Vietnam, and non-government representatives from China, Vietnam, and Myanmar, 30 August 2018

3. Implementation of CITES including legislation and law enforcement activities

Lao Government has been implementing recommendations from the 69th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee under the Article XIII Application in Lao PDR in relation to national legislation. Summary of progress can be found in the CITES Secretariat document - SC70 Doc. 27.3.1, within paragraphs 10-19, which include:

- The **Penal Code** underwent a review process which improved the provisions and penalties for wildlife crime offenses. It includes the following changes: (a) criminalization of possession 

and trade of prohibited wildlife with a maximum imprisonment penalty of 5 years; (b) introduction of aggravating circumstances (such as commission in an organized group) that increases the penalty for imprisonment and fine for relevant criminal offenses; (c) maximum of 10 years of imprisonment for illegal import, export, transit, and transport committed with aggravating circumstances; (d) for monetary fines for relevant criminal offenses, penalties are doubled or tripled when committed with aggravating circumstances; and (e) CITES is explicitly mentioned in the proposed revisions for relevant criminal offenses, thus providing criminal liability for these activities related to CITES. The Penal Code is pending signing and promulgation to enter into force.

- **Prime Minister (PM) Notification No. 64** was issued in January 2018 to strengthen the policy process in the country to implement CITES. This PM Notification tasked the development of the following policy documents: (a) a Prime Minister Order on Strengthening Management and Inspection of Prohibited Wild Fauna and Flora, issued in May 2018 as Prime Minister Order No. 05/2018; (b) a Prime Minister Decision on the appointment of a CITES Steering Committee, issued in March 2018 as Prime Minister Decision No. 18; and (c) a Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Decision on the systematic management of wildlife farming.
- **PM Decision No. 18**, issued in March 2018, established and appointed the National CITES Steering Committee responsible for CITES implementation. The CITES steering committee is comprised of nine government ministries – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the Office of Supreme People’s Prosecutor. The Steering committee has the mandate to: lead and implement CITES especially on the National Ivory Action Plan process and studies on non-detriment findings; participate and represent the Lao Government in meetings on CITES, with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as the main Focal Point; and appoint and establish coordination teams and working groups to support the Committee in implementing CITES. The Decision also tasked all government offices at the central and provincial levels to support the work of the CITES Steering Committee.
- The **PM Order No. 05/2018** was issued in May 2018 to address the illegal trade in prohibited wildlife in Lao PDR by ordering strict compliance in the inspection and management of endangered prohibited wildlife in line with the laws and regulations of Lao PDR and in compliance with CITES. The Order will be strictly enforced and implemented by all Ministries, related sectors and local authorities, with the following expected outcomes: (1) Strict enforcement against the hunting, import, transit, export, and trade of prohibited and protected species under Lao laws and Appendix I and Appendix II species under CITES; (2) Strict enforcement against farming of prohibited list and Appendix I species for commercial purpose, leading to strict audit and inspection of facilities with CITES Appendix I and II species; and (3) strict compliance by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) in cooperation with other relevant Ministries and sectors in the enforcement against prohibited wildlife trade activities, and investigation of wildlife crime cases in accordance with the Criminal Law and Wildlife and Aquatic Law. **PM No. 05/2018** also provides an overall framework on the management of wildlife farming – (1) prohibiting the establishment of wildlife farms concerning prohibited list and CITES Appendix I species for commercial purposes, and promoting the conversion of existing farms into safaris or zoos for the purpose of conservation, tourism and scientific purpose only; (2) establishment of farms for protected/management list and CITES Appendix II species and for general wildlife list and CITES Appendix II species will need strict approval from MAF with specific requirements such as an extinction risk management plan, technical business feasibility study, and social and environmental impact assessment.
- The Ministry of Post and Communications (MPT) also issued **MPT Decision No.168**, dated 23 January 2017, on Prohibited Items in Postal Service. The decision categorizes Prohibited Items into two categories: (1) Prohibited Item Type 1 on illegal items against the laws of Lao

PDR and international law; and (2) Prohibited Item Type 2 on items that are not illegal but failed to comply with postal regulations and regulations of concerned government sectors. Rhino horn, elephant ivory, tiger parts and all wildlife, wild wood and live and dead plants stipulated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment are classified as Prohibited Item Type 1. Individuals, legal entities or organizations found violating the Decision will be penalized by undergoing education measures, warning, punishment, fine, have their postal service license suspended or withdrawn, or receive criminal punishment depending on the severity level of the case, and liability for compensation for loss incurred.

- The Wildlife Legality Compendium project has been completed, as a legal reference on wildlife-related laws and policy documents in Lao PDR. A workshop will be organized to finalize the project and discuss the recommendations on wildlife and aquatic legislations.
- The Report on Lao PDR's International Obligations Related to Wildlife Conservation and Trade, with recommendations on developing adequate CITES implementing legislation for Lao PDR, has also been completed. The report was prepared by WCS, with legal support from US law firm Robinson&Cole, to inform on recommendations in Lao PDR to better implement its international obligations on wildlife conservation and trade, particularly in relation to CITES commitments. The Department of Forestry organized a workshop on 19-20 June 2018 to discuss recommendations from the report and the drafting of a Decree on international trade in CITES-listed specimens to comply with having adequate CITES implementing legislation in Lao PDR. The draft Decree aims to set out the different institutional mandates, roles, and trade regulations required for CITES implementation. DOF will collaborate, in the succeeding months, with international organizations such as CITES, World Bank, UNDP, UNODC, and WCS, on technical support for the development and drafting of a Decree on the Management of International Wildlife Trade to ensure that there is adequate CITES implementing legislation in Lao PDR, based on a working draft of the decree. DOF will collaborate, in the succeeding months, with international organizations such as CITES, World Bank, UNDP, UNODC, and WCS, on technical support for the development and drafting of a Decree on the Management of International Wildlife Trade to ensure that there is adequate CITES implementing legislation in Lao PDR, based on a working draft of the decree.

As regards law enforcement actions done until June 2018, these can be found in paragraphs 32-34 of SC70 Doc. 27.3.1. Other relevant law enforcement activities done include:

- MAF approved in March 2018 as MAF Decision No. 0654 the **National Wildlife Crime Response Strategy Plan** that provides the framework and guidance protocol for government agencies under Lao-WEN in implementing their mandates in responding to wildlife crime. The Strategy Plan is expected to improve the law enforcement coordination and responses by government agencies under Lao-WEN, leading to increased and better law enforcement responses against wildlife crime.
- Issuance of **PM Order No. 05/2018** also provides for a general framework for Ministry coordination and roles in implementing the order: (1) MAF to lead in the implementation, cooperation, and dissemination of the order and relevant wildlife laws with other Ministries, sectors and local authorities, and ; (2) Ministry of National Defense and Ministry of Public Security to lead their line agencies in strictly inspecting import and export at international checkpoints and borders; and (3) Ministry of Finance to lead customs officials.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the CITES Management Authority (DOF) and the Department of Customs for information exchange in relation to CITES trade, legal and illegal, and the role of Customs in cooperative enforcement for inspecting shipments and permits has been signed recently in 29 June 2018. CITES MA and Customs Department will then follow-up implementation of the MoU, to ensure that CITES cooperation and information sharing will happen.

4. Training/Capacity Building and Public Awareness activities

On Trainings:

- Eight (8) specialized meetings under the UNODC Advisory Programme on current and recent investigations of wildlife crimes, involving Police, Customs, and the Department of Forest Inspection (12 participants), in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- Inspection and ivory identification trainings were organized in four provinces since 2017 – Luang Prabang (March 2017), Vientiane Province (March 2017), Huaphan (July 2017), and Bokeo (February 2018). The Department of Forest Inspection organized these trainings, with the technical and funding support from WCS, LENS2, IWT UK DEFRA, US INL and US Fish and Wildlife Service, for 110 central and provincial officers from Forest Inspection, Customs, Prosecutors, Provincial Courts, Police, and Commerce.
- Eight (8) trainings on law enforcement and investigation skills were organized by DOFI, with support from WCS, US INL, and US Fish and Wildlife Service, since 2017 in the following provinces: Khammouane (July 2017), Luang Prabang (August 2017), Bolikhamxay (September 2017), Vientiane Province (November 2017), Huaphan (December 2017), Bokeo (February 2018), Champasak (April 2018), and Savanakheth (June 2018). , Trainings included sessions on case preparation and prosecution of criminal cases in relation to wildlife and forest-related crimes facilitated by the Office of the Public Prosecutor. 208 central, provincial, and district officers from Forest Inspection, Customs, Prosecutors, Provincial Courts, Police, and Commerce participated in the trainings.
- Two (2) Criminal investigation trainings on forest- and wildlife-related crimes were organized by DCNEC (Environmental Police), under LENS2, in Luang Prabang (August 2017) for 42 officers from Environmental Police in northern provinces, and in Vang Vieng (December 2017) for 40 officers from Environmental Police, Customs, DOFI at central level, and Environmental Police in Vientiane Province.
- Basic training curriculum on anti-smuggling and law enforcement in relation to wildlife, timber, and NTFP is being delivered to Lao Customs Department offices in Central, North, and South provinces. A total of 90 officers from border checkpoints will be trained in competencies on detecting and inspecting wildlife- and timber- related offenses at border checkpoints. This is supported under the LENS2 sub-project of World Bank. Basic trainings have been implemented in Vientiane in June 2018.
- Training course on *risk profiling to enhance interception of illegal wildlife trade*, co-funded by USAID Wildlife Asia and UNODC for 21 Customs officers, 3 Police, 2 DOFI, 2-5 October 2017.

On Public awareness:

- MAF is disseminating the new Prime Minister Order for strict compliance to all Provincial Government offices, the District and Village authorities. From 20-22 June 2018, a Lao-WEN meeting disseminated the PM Order No.05 in Khammouane Province to a total of 75 participants from Lao-WEN agencies and provincial officials from Bolikhamxay, Vientiane Capital and Khammouane Province. This was continued in Champasak in July, Luang Prabang and Bokeo in August 2018.
- The Department of Forest Inspection has also put up campaign billboards and messages in different locations in Lao PDR on the prohibition against wildlife illegal hunting, trading, trafficking, and smuggling in cooperation with international projects and organizations in Lao PDR. Examples can be seen in Wattay Airport in Vientiane and in the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge between Vientiane and Nongkhai. Main markets in Vientiane Capital, Vientiane Province, Khammouane, BOLikhamxay, Houaphan, and other provinces have also billboards and messages installed to raise awareness. Campaign billboards and messages are planned to be installed in other areas across the country. dr

- An awareness-raising message against illegal ivory and wildlife trade has also been developed in English/Chinese/Lao languages and was set-up in Luang Prabang Airport in July 2018 and in transit locations in Luang Prabang municipality.
 - The Department of Forest Inspection also organized a dialogue meeting between Lao-WEN, the Chinese embassy and representatives from the Chinese business community in Lao PDR in March 2018, where the Chinese embassy and business community pledged support to the Lao government's efforts to stop illegal ivory and wildlife trade and to contribute to the government's efforts to raise awareness and stop wildlife trafficking with the Chinese community in Lao PDR.
 - The UK Embassy in Vientiane launched in May 2018 the IWT Short Film Competition for professional, amateur and student filmmakers in Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand, in cooperation with the Luang Prabang Film Festival, WCS, and WWF. The winners will be presented during the October London IWT Conference and the Luang Prabang Film Festival in December 2018.
5. Other CITES-related activities
- MAF approved in April 2018 a technical team composed of officers from the Department of Forestry and the Department of Forest Inspection, and technical advisers from WCS to conduct an initial pre-audit of tiger facilities in Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, and Bokeo, to assess the layout conditions and estimate number of observable tigers and big cats in the facilities, in preparation for the implementation of a full-audit plan to inventory the tigers with a marking scheme and genetic analysis of the individuals. Preliminary audit inspection of tiger facilities in Khammouane and Bolikhamxay provinces was completed in April 2018, and the inspection in Bokeo was completed in May 2018, with funding support from USFWS and US INL. A full-site audit plan is being finalised to start in October 2018 until all captive tiger facilities are inventoried and inspected. *J*

Yours sincerely,



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