

Dear Reader,

The CITES in Southeast Asia e-Bulletin aims to help government agencies, organisations and interested individuals in the ASEAN region to keep updated on **CITES-related issues, events and plans in South-east Asia**. The overall aim is to facilitate and to encourage increased cooperation and information sharing on wildlife trade issues that are important to South-east Asia.

This e-Bulletin is produced by TRAFFIC – the wildlife trade monitoring network of WWF and IUCN.

TRAFFIC and its partners continue to work in partnership with South-east Asian governments – as well as with the ASEAN Secretariat and relevant ASEAN fora – to address wildlife trade, CITES implementation and wildlife trade law enforcement.

You may access previous e-bulletin issues and other resources via the ASEAN Wildlife Trade Initiative's website: <http://www.traffic.org/25/network9/ASEAN>.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia should you have any queries or requests for further information on CITES and wildlife trade in South-east Asia.

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Calendar of events:

9-13 July 2007

10th Meeting of the AEG on Herbal and Medicinal Plants, Bali, Indonesia
9th Meeting of the AEG on Research and development for Forest Products, Bali, Indonesia
9th Seminar on Current International Issues Effecting Forestry and Forest Products, Bali, Indonesia
10th Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF), Bali, Indonesia

31 July – 2 August 2007

Judiciary Workshop on Wildlife Crime and Prosecution for Indonesia Judges and Prosecutors (ASEAN-WEN), Jakarta, Indonesia

7-10 August 2007

18th Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN), Boraquay, Philippines
4th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on the Environment (ASOEN+3), Boraquay, Philippines

5-7 September 2007

Strategies for the sustainable use and management of timber tree species subject to international trade: South East Asian Regional Technical Workshop, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Please refer to the website <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/timber/summary.htm> for more information

6-7 September 2007

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) 32nd Meeting of the Standing Committee, Bonn, Germany

Organized by: UNEP/CMS Convention on Migratory Species.

For more information, contact: CMS Secretariat, Interim Secretariat of ACCOMBAMS, Tel: +49 228 815 2401 / 02, Fax: +49 228 815 2449 E-mail: secretariat@cms.int

13 September 2007

Entry into force of resolutions and amendments to Appendices I and II adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

23-28 September 2007

TROPICAL NTFPs, Hangzhou/Beijing, China

International conference to promote the development of tropical non-timber forest products and services. For more information, contact: ITTO Secretariat, Forest Industry Division, Tel: +81 45 223 1110, Fax: +81 45 223 1111, Email: fi@itto.or.jp

<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=3206>

13 October 2007

Deadline for the submission of CITES biennial reports for the year 2005 and 2006

CITES Notifications and News:

12 April 2007

CITES Notification to the Parties (No.2007/015): Malaysia: Stolen CITES permits and security stamp

The CITES Management Authority of Malaysia for Sarawak has informed the Secretariat of the possibility that some CITES permits and a security stamp have been stolen from its office. The numbers of the permits are:

- 005600;
- 005649; and
- 005650.

The number of the security stamp is 0064180.

If a Management Authority discovers any of these permits or the security stamp, it is requested to contact immediately the CITES Management Authority of Malaysia in Sarawak:

Director of Forestry

Forest Department Headquarters
Wisma Sumber Alam, Petra Jaya
93660 KUCHING, Sarawak

Tel: +60 (82) 44 17 02; 44 21 80

Fax: +60 (82) 44 13 77

Chief Executive Officer

Sarawak Forestry Corporation
Level 12, Office Tower, Hock Lee Centre
Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim
93550 KUCHING, Sarawak

13 April 2007

CITES Notification to the Parties (No.2007/016): Export quotas for 2007. Explanatory notes

The Secretariat has published on its website details of export quotas

<http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2007/ExportQuotas2007.pdf> for CITES-listed species that Parties have established for 2007.

The export quotas are of four types:

- a) voluntary national export quotas communicated to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph a), under 'RECOMMENDS' in section VIII of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13) on Permits and certificates;
- b) export quotas recommended by the Conference of the Parties, Standing Committee or the Animals Committee;
- c) export quotas for raw elephant ivory, submitted in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) on Trade in elephant specimens; and
- d) catch and export quotas for Acipenseriformes established in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP13) on Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish.

For more information, please go to <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2007/E016.pdf>

22 May 2007

CITES Notification to the Parties (No.2007/018): New edition of the Checklist of CITES species and annotated CITES Appendices and reservations

Following the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (The Hague, 3-15 June 2007), the CITES Secretariat will prepare in collaboration with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) a new version of the *Checklist of CITES species and annotated CITES Appendices and reservations* in replacement of the 2005 edition.

The Secretariat would welcome any feedback on the current edition so that it may be considered when preparing the forthcoming edition.

23 May 2007

CITES Notification to the Parties (No.2007/019): Interactive training course for enforcement officers and information module for prosecutors and the judiciary on CD-ROM

The Secretariat is pleased to announce the launching of the 'Interactive training course for enforcement officers and information module for prosecutors and the judiciary'.

The course aims to introduce the Convention and issues related to enforcement to officers and custom officials involved in dealing with CITES specimens, as well as other government officials involved in enforcement of wildlife laws and regulations.

The course also provides information on the operation of the Convention, legislation and issues related to ethics. An introduction to the many information materials on CITES with links to full texts is also available. The course concludes with a section offering practical advice related to seizures, handling of specimens, interviewing suspects, preparing a case for court and working with the media.

On completion of the course, users are able to take an optional examination which will allow them to appraise their level of knowledge on the Convention and on issues related to enforcement.

The information module for prosecutors and the judiciary includes information on legislation, factors considered in CITES-related cases, key considerations in case assessment, concepts used in assessment of factors, possible sanctions, and key considerations in wildlife prosecution and case examples.

Copies of this CD-ROM (currently in English only) may be requested from the Secretariat. A three language version of the CD-ROM (English, French and Spanish) will be made available in the fall of 2007.

15 June 2007

CITES Notification to the Parties (No.2007/021): Appendix 3

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article XVI of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Government of Nicaragua has requested the Secretariat to include the following species in Appendix III:

F L O R A

LEGUMINOSAE *Dipteryx panamensis*.

(Fabaceae)

In accordance with the provisions of Article XVI, paragraph 2, of the Convention, inclusion of this species in Appendix III shall take effect 90 days after the date of this Notification, i.e. on 13 September 2007.

Before that date, a revised edition of the CITES Appendices will be sent to the Parties and placed on the CITES website.

26 July 2007

CITES Notification to the Parties (No.2007/022): Amendment to appendices I and II of the Convention adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting, The Hague, 3-15 June

At CoP14, the Conference of the Parties took the decisions listed below:

a) The following text is included in the 'Interpretation' section of the Appendices:

"When a species is included in one of the Appendices, all parts and derivatives of the species are also included in the same Appendix unless the species is annotated to indicate that only specific parts and derivatives are included."

b) The following taxon is **deleted from Appendix I** of the Convention:

F L O R A

AGAVACEAE *Agave arizonica*

c) The following taxa are **deleted from Appendix II** of the Convention:

F L O R A

CACTACEAE *Pereskia* spp.
Pereskiaopsis spp.
Quiabentia spp.
DIAPENSIACEAE *Shortia galacifolia*

d) The following taxa are transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II of the Convention:

F A U N A

CHORDATA

REPTILIA

CROCODYLIA

Alligatoridae

Melanosuchus niger (Population of Brazil)

F L O R A

AGAVACEAE

Nolina interrata (Including all parts and derivatives)

e) The following taxa are transferred from Appendix II to Appendix I of the Convention:

F A U N A

CHORDATA

MAMMALIA

PRIMATES

Loridae *Nycticebus* spp.

REPTILIA

SAURIA

Helodermatidae

Heloderma horridum charlesbogerti

f) The following taxa are **included in Appendix I** of the Convention:

F A U N A

CHORDATA

MAMMALIA

ARTIODACTYLA

Bovidae

Gazella cuvieri

Gazella leptoceros

ELASMOBRANCHII

RAJIFORMES

Pristidae

Pristidae spp. (Except *Pristis microdon*)

g) The following taxa are **included in Appendix II** of the Convention:

F A U N A

CHORDATA

ELASMOBRANCHII

RAJIFORMES

Pristidae

Pristis microdon (For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable aquaria for primarily conservation purposes)

ACTINOPTERYGII

ANGUILLIFORMES

Anguillidae

Anguilla anguilla (Entry into force delayed 18 months, i.e. until 13 March 2009)

F L O R A

LEGUMINOSAE

Caesalpinia echinata (Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, including unfinished wood articles used for the fabrication of bows for stringed musical instruments)

h) All annotations to the populations of *Loxodonta africana* (MAMMALIA, PROBOSCIDEA, Elephantidae) in Appendix II are replaced by the following annotation:

a) trade in hunting trophies for non-commercial purposes;

- b) trade in live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations, as defined in Resolution Conf. 11.20, for Zimbabwe and Botswana and for *in situ* conservation programmes for Namibia and South Africa;
- c) trade in hides;
- d) trade in hair;
- e) trade in leather goods for commercial or non-commercial purposes for Botswana, Namibia and South Africa and for non-commercial purposes for Zimbabwe;
- f) trade in individually marked and certified ekipas incorporated in finished jewellery for non-commercial purposes for Namibia and ivory carvings for noncommercial purposes for Zimbabwe;
- g) trade in registered raw ivory (for Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, whole tusks and pieces) subject to the following:
 - i) only registered government-owned stocks, originating in the State (excluding seized ivory and ivory of unknown origin);
 - ii) only to trading partners that have been verified by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to have sufficient national legislation and domestic trade controls to ensure that the imported ivory will not be re-exported and will be managed in accordance with all requirements of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) concerning domestic manufacturing and trade;
 - iii) not before the Secretariat has verified the prospective importing countries and the registered government-owned stocks;
 - iv) raw ivory pursuant to the conditional sale of registered government-owned ivory stocks agreed at CoP12, which are 20,000 kg (Botswana), 10,000 kg (Namibia) and 30,000 kg (South Africa);
 - v) in addition to the quantities agreed at CoP12, government-owned ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe registered by 31 January 2007 and verified by the Secretariat may be traded and despatched, with the ivory in paragraph g) iv) above, in a single sale per destination under strict supervision of the Secretariat;
 - vi) the proceeds of the trade are used exclusively for elephant conservation and community conservation and development programmes within or adjacent to the elephant range; and
 - vii) the additional quantities specified in paragraph g) v) above shall be traded only after the Standing Committee has agreed that the above conditions have been met; and
- h) no further proposals to allow trade in elephant ivory from populations already in Appendix II shall be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for the period from CoP14 and ending nine years from the date of the single sale of ivory that is to take place in accordance with provisions in paragraphs g) i), g) ii), g) iii), g) vi) and g) vii). In addition such further proposals shall be dealt with in accordance with Decisions 14.XX and 14.XX.

i) The annotation to the population of *Vicugna vicugna* (MAMMALIA, ARTIODACTYLA, Camelidae) of Bolivia in Appendix II is replaced by the following annotation:

"For the exclusive purpose of allowing international trade in wool sheared from live vicuñas, and in cloth and items made thereof, including luxury handicrafts and knitted articles.

The reverse side of the cloth must bear the logotype adopted by the range States of the species, which are signatories to the *Convenio para la Conservación y Manejo de la Vicuña*, and the selvages the words 'VICUÑA-BOLIVIA'. Other products must bear a label including the logotype and the designation 'VICUÑA BOLIVIAARTESANÍA'.

All other specimens shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix I and the trade in them shall be regulated accordingly."

j) The annotations to the following taxa are replaced by the annotations indicated in each case, which specify the parts or derivatives thereof that are designated as subject to the provisions of the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article I, paragraph (b), subparagraph (iii), of the Convention:

– For *Adonis vernalis*, *Guaiaecum* spp., *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Picrorhiza kurrooa*, *Podophyllum hexandrum*, *Rauvolfia serpentina*, *Taxus chinensis*, *T. fuana*, *T. cuspidata*, *T. sumatrana* and *T. wallichiana*:

"Designates all parts and derivatives except:

a) seeds and pollen; and

b) finished products packaged and ready for retail trade";

– For *Hydrastis canadensis*:

"Designates underground parts (i.e. roots, rhizomes): whole, parts and powdered";

– For *Panax ginseng* and *P. quinquefolius*:

"Designates whole and sliced roots and parts of roots";

– For *Pterocarpus santalinus*:

"Designates logs, wood-chips, powder and extracts";

– For Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II and for the following Appendix-II taxa: *Agave victoriae-reginae*, *Aloe* spp., *Anacampseros* spp., *Aquilaria* spp., *Avonia* spp., *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis*, *Bowenia* spp., *Caryocar costaricense*, *Cibotium barometz*, *Cistanche deserticola*, *Cyathea* spp., *Cycadaceae* spp., *Cyclamen* spp., *Dicksonia* spp., *Didiereaceae* spp., *Dionaea muscipula*, *Dioscorea deltoidea*, *Euphorbia* spp., *Fouquieria columnaris*, *Galanthus* spp., *Gonystylus* spp., *Gyrinops* spp., *Hedychium philippinense*, *Lewisia serrata*, *Neodopsis decaryi*, *Nepenthes* spp., *Oreomunnea pterocarpa*, *Orothamnus zeyheri*, *Pachypodium* spp., *Platymiscium pleiostachyum*, *Protea odorata*, *Prunus africana*, *Sarracenia* spp., *Sternbergia* spp., *Swietenia humilis*, *Tillandsia harrisii*, *T. kammii*, *T. kautskyi*, *T. mauryana*, *T. sprengeliana*, *T. sucrei*, *T. xerographica*, *Welwitschia mirabilis* and *Zamiaceae* spp.:

"Designates all parts and derivatives, except:

a) seeds, spores and pollen (including pollinia);

b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers;

c) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants; and

d) fruits and parts and derivatives thereof of artificially propagated plants of the genus *Vanilla*".

k) The annotation to Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II is replaced by the following annotation:

"Artificially propagated hybrids of the following genera are not subject to the provisions of the Convention, if conditions, as indicated under a) and b), are met:

Cymbidium, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda*:

- a) Specimens are readily recognizable as artificially propagated and do not show any signs of having been collected in the wild such as mechanical damage or strong dehydration resulting from collection, irregular growth and heterogeneous size and shape within a taxon and shipment, algae or other epiphyllous organisms adhering to leaves, or damage by insects or other pests; and
- b) i) when shipped in non-flowering state, the specimens must be traded in shipments consisting of individual containers (such as cartons, boxes, crates or individual shelves of CC-containers) each containing 20 or more plants of the same hybrid; the plants within each container must exhibit a high degree of uniformity and healthiness; and the shipment must be accompanied by documentation, such as an invoice, which clearly states the number of plants of each hybrid; or
- ii) when shipped in flowering state, with at least one fully open flower per specimen, no minimum number of specimens per shipment is required but specimens must be professionally processed for commercial retail sale, e.g. labeled with printed labels or packaged with printed packages indicating the name of the hybrid and the country of final processing. This should be clearly visible and allow easy verification.

- l) The annotation to *Taxus chinensis*, *Taxus fuana* and *Taxus sumatrana* in Appendix II is deleted and the annotation to *Taxus cuspidata* is replaced by the following annotation:
"Artificially propagated hybrids and cultivars of *Taxus cuspidata*, live, in pots or other small containers, each consignment being accompanied by a label or document stating the name of the taxon or taxa and the text 'artificially propagated', are not subject to the provisions of the Convention."

In accordance with the provisions of Article XII, paragraph 2, subparagraph (f), of the Convention, the Secretariat shall publish an updated version of Appendices I, II and III to take into account the amendments adopted at CoP14 and the changes necessitated by the adoption of standard references mentioned under paragraph 3 above. This updated version, valid from 13 September 2007, will be distributed shortly after the present Notification.

7 August 2007

CITES Notification to the Parties (No.2007/024): Summary records of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The summary records of the fourth, fifth and sixth plenary sessions of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties were not adopted by the Parties during the meeting.

The draft summary records of these sessions have been published on the CITES website under <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/14/rep/index.shtml>

Participants in the meeting are invited to inform the Secretariat of any necessary corrections by 27 August 2007 at the latest. Corrections already transmitted to the Secretariat need not be communicated again.

All summary records that have been adopted with amendments will be revised accordingly and posted on the CITES website.

2 June 2007

CITES: UN Wildlife Convention gives green light to ivory sale (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1888>)

A limited sale of ivory has been approved by a committee ahead of this week's Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which opens officially Sunday.

The so called "one-off ivory sale" was provisionally approved for Botswana, Namibia and South Africa at a previous CITES meeting in 2002 – but could not go forward until certain decisions and criteria were met.

The "Standing Committee" of the CITES Convention concluded Saturday that Japan meets the necessary requirements to be an importing party. The committee also agreed that a scientific system to monitor elephant poaching had provided sufficient data.

"Although we agree Japan has met the necessary requirements, we caution that the sale should be closely monitored. This would include an annual report to the CITES parties on levels of ivory going through the system in Japan to ensure early detection of potential problems or trends," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director WWF Global Species Programme.

Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa have committed to, and are required by CITES to use the revenue derived from the sale exclusively for elephant conservation and community development programmes.

The concept of a "one-off sale" of ivory means that designated stocks of ivory can be auctioned in a single event and exported to a CITES-approved ivory importing nation. No re-exports are allowed and the importing country is required to implement tight controls. The ivory is from registered, government-owned stocks and originates either from elephants that died from natural causes, or problem animals.

China also put in a bid to be allowed to import ivory, which went to a vote. Committee members voted 6 for, 6 against. The tied vote was rejected and China may ask again in a future meeting. "Between December 2006 and January 2007, TRAFFIC conducted market surveys in seven Chinese cities. Despite some improvements, there was clear indication of the resilience of the trade and the probability of significant quantities of illicit ivory in China," said Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC.

According to WWF and TRAFFIC, recent problems in illegal ivory trade in Africa stem largely from ivory originating in West and Central Africa. WWF and TRAFFIC want the African Elephant plan agreed at the last CITES meeting in 2004 to be made effective. That plan required every African country with a domestic ivory market either to impose strict controls on the trade, or shut it down altogether. With the exception of Ethiopia the implementation of this action plan has been disappointing and had little impact.

According to WWF and TRAFFIC the real driver of poaching and illegal ivory trade is unregulated domestic ivory markets.

7 June 2007

CITES: Tropical tree left stranded (Source:
<http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1905>)

The Hague, The Netherlands – On the fourth day of the CITES Conference, the European Union withdrew its proposal to include *Cedrela* – a group of tropical trees species found in Latin America – in CITES Appendix II, which allows trade in a species under strict conditions.

The move came after all Latin American and Caribbean countries – supported by some African states and Canada – expressed their strong opposition to the timber proposal submitted by Germany on behalf of the EU.

WWF and TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, criticized the widespread lack of support for the proposal and feel that a golden opportunity was missed to ensure better management and measures to control trade of a threatened species.

“It is a shame how this opportunity was missed,” said Cliona O’Brien, Senior Policy Analyst, WWF’s Global Species Programme. “We lost a decade of conservation action for another tropical tree, big-leaf mahogany, because it took ten years to include it on CITES Appendix II. As a result, this species is now on the verge of commercial extinction. The same is likely to happen with *Cedrela* if the current exploitation levels continue.”

There are several species of *Cedrela* in Latin America and the Caribbean but all are heavily exploited for their timber – mainly for furniture and light building work. One of them, *Cedrela odorata*, is particularly threatened by overexploitation – including in protected areas and indigenous territories – and loss of habitat.

Cedrela populations have seriously declined in all countries where it is originally found. Illegal logging and trade are the main drivers behind this trend. Several countries in Latin America could now voluntarily include their *Cedrela* in CITES Appendix III. Should this happen it would not be enough, WWF and TRAFFIC say.

“Appendix III would be clearly insufficient to address the current levels of exploitation of *Cedrela*,” said Bernardo Ortiz, Head of TRAFFIC South America. “By delaying listing in Appendix II, governments are just jeopardizing the future of another tree species.”

8 June 2007

CITES fails to list sharks (source:

<http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1908>)

The Hague, The Netherlands – Two shark species highly prized for their meat and fins have not gained trade protection under CITES, the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The Porbeagle shark is principally used for fresh, frozen and dried-salted meat across Europe. Spiny Dogfish is used in fish and chips in the UK, where it is often called “rock salmon” or “huss”, and as a smoked meat delicacy in Germany, called “Schillerlocken”.

“We are seeing massive global shark declines primarily due to the current unsustainable levels of fishing, and international trade is a major contributing factor,” said Cliona O’Brien of WWF’s Global Species Programme.

Both shark proposals had been submitted by Germany on behalf of the European Union for an Appendix II CITES listing, but discussions at the CITES meeting today rejected the proposals. Although a majority of member countries supported the proposals, they were defeated by a blocking minority. Voting was 54 to 39 in favour of Porbeagle and 57 to 36 in favour of Spiny Dogfish: neither reached the required two-thirds majority for acceptance.

"The failure to list Spiny Dogfish and Porbeagle on Appendix II is a shameful triumph of politics over conservation," said O'Brien. "We needed action, not procrastination."

The international trade of Porbeagle and Spiny Dogfish sharks is not controlled. As a result, populations have dramatically declined in the North Atlantic—by up to 95 per cent for the Spiny Dogfish and 89 per cent for the Porbeagle, in the last ten and 40 years respectively.

"If CITES discards this opportunity, it may be the end of the line for these two sharks and a fatal recipe for some of the favourite seafood dishes of European consumers." said Steven Broad, Director of TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

Three-quarters of the world's commercial fish stocks are already over-exploited, fished right up to their limit or recovering from collapse. Scientists recently discovered that 90 per cent of the big predatory fish, such as sharks, have been stripped from the oceans by industrialized fishing vessels.

11 June 2007

Conservation bite for Sawfish at CITES (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1911>)

The Hague, The Netherlands – Trade restrictions have been approved for sawfish – large rays related to sharks, with distinctive toothed snouts. The UN wildlife trade convention approved all seven sawfish species in Appendix I banning all international commercial trade except for one species found in Australia which was included in Appendix II (but only to allow trade in live animals to public aquaria for conservation purposes only).

Sawfish are traded for their fins, meat, unique toothed rostra (snouts), and as live animals for exhibition. Their distinctive saw-like snouts are sold as souvenirs, curios, and ceremonial weapons, while other body parts such as skin, liver oil and bile are used in traditional medicines.

"We are relieved that international trade pressure will be lifted for these critically endangered species," said Steven Broad, Director, TRAFFIC. "Trade, along with fishing pressure, was pushing them towards extinction."

Although population facts and figures for sawfish are scarce, and there are very few sightings, evidence is good that they are all Critically Endangered. CITES Parties defeated proposals last week to list two shark species in CITES Appendix II that would have allowed international trade, but required stricter regulation to ensure trade is sustainable.

"The sawfish have disappeared from waters stretching from the east coast of the U.S. to Southeast Asia," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF's Global Species Programme. "This is a positive action today but it is a pity that the CITES Parties are only able to throw a lifeline to shark species when they are on the brink of extinction".

12 June 2007

CITES: DNA test confirms tiger meat for sale at Chinese farm (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1916>)

The CITES governing body today announced it has asked the Chinese government to investigate a tiger farm implicated in illegally selling tiger meat. John Sellar, senior enforcement

officer for CITES, visited the tiger farm in question, Xionsen Bear and Tiger Mountain Village in Guilin, China, last month.

He told the CITES meeting he was concerned about allegations by NGOs and the media that illegal trade in tiger parts is taking place from such farms. Journalists from the UK's Independent Television Network (ITN) visited the Guilin tiger farm undercover and were offered tiger meat at the farm's restaurant.

DNA analysis was carried out by an independent Chinese institution and confirmed the meat as tiger. The farm's owner called the analysis fraudulent and is suing ITN for its report. Sellar obtained a copy of the DNA analysis and told the CITES meeting that the US Fish & Wildlife Service's National Forensics Laboratory had reviewed the test and agree it "appears to be valid."

The International Tiger Coalition welcomed the news and urged China to investigate further reports of illegal trade by commercial tiger farms. Investors in commercial tiger farms in China are pressuring their government to lift its successful 14-year ban on domestic tiger trade.

"We expect the issue to generate significant debate over whether China should continue allowing unlimited breeding of tigers by private owners, who then claim financial pressure and push to reopen trade to pay for their operations," said Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

13 June 2007

CITES backs red, pink and other corals (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1924>)

Red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium* will be better protected from over-exploitation after CITES today adopted a proposal from the US to list *Corallium* in Appendix II of the Convention. Appendix II allows trade in a species under strict conditions.

Red and pink corals and other lesser known species of *Corallium* are used mainly for the manufacture of jewellery and art. They are found throughout the world's tropical and temperate seas and are harvested in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific.

"This is the best possible decision to start getting the trade in these corals under some form of international control," said Ernie Cooper, a coral trade expert from TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. "Until now most species of *Corallium* have been over-harvested as a result of a free-for-all situation."

There are no international trade controls in place, nor any consistent management plan, TRAFFIC and WWF say. And the life histories of most *Corallium* species, such as late maturation, slow growth and low fecundity make them particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation, according to both organizations.

Corallium populations off parts of the Italian, French and Spanish coasts are no longer commercially viable, while in the Western Pacific they have been depleted within five years of their discovery and harvest is shifting to newly discovered populations.

Corallium products reach high prices on the market and are traded worldwide. It is also very difficult to identify which species of coral is used in the finish products.

"CITES listed all the hard corals in Appendix II more than a decade ago, and we are pleased to see the Convention protect these precious corals as well," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF's Global Species Programme. "Now, consumers of these beautiful items will be part of the solution, and not part of the problem."

13 June 2007

CITES: Breeding tigers for trade soundly rejected (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1929>)

Raising captive tigers for trade in tiger parts was rejected by CITES member countries today, and China was urged to phase out its large-scale commercial tiger farms.

The 171 member countries of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, adopted a strong tiger trade Decision by consensus. Three countries with wild tigers – India, Nepal and Bhutan – were joined by the United States in calling on China to phase out the country's privately run "tiger farms" that house almost 5,000 animals.

"India spoke out strongly and courageously for their wild tigers, along with Bhutan and Nepal," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF's Global Species Programme. "China has said that it will not lift its ban without listening to scientific opinion from around the world. The world spoke today and urged China not to reopen any trade in tiger parts and to increase protection for tigers in the wild."

Investors in massive, captive tiger breeding centres in China have been pressuring the Chinese government to lift its successful 14-year-old ban on trade in tiger parts so they can legally sell products such as tiger bone wine and tiger meat. These facilities have acknowledged stockpiling tiger carcasses in the hopes the trade ban will be lifted.

"A legal market in China for products made from farmed tigers would increase demand and allow criminals to 'launder' products made from tigers poached from the wild," said Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. "Tiger numbers in the wild are so precarious that we cannot risk any actions that could jeopardize them further."

WWF and TRAFFIC, along with a coalition of other organizations working on tigers, have offered guidance and technical support to China on shutting down its tiger farms and stepping up law enforcement efforts to stamp out illegal trade in tiger parts.

14 June 2007

CITES: 18 year ivory deadlock broken (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1933>)

African range States today came together to break an 18 year ivory impasse. It was a significant move that is applauded by WWF and TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. There had been much division across Africa prior to the CITES meeting.

Zambia and Chad presented a compromise document on behalf of African Elephant range States detailing an increase in the one-off sale of ivory to include ivory from stockpiles from Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, provided they were registered by 31 January 2007.

The document also called for a nine-year suspension of all ivory trading, after the approved "one-off" sale goes ahead. "This consensus is a milestone in elephant history," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF Global Species Programme.

"This is the first time in almost 20 years that opposing factions are now speaking with one voice to move this debate forward. Unfortunately however, time ran out at the Conference to deal effectively with the critical threat to elephants in the wild—poaching and illegal domestic ivory markets."

Despite the controversy surrounding "one off" ivory sales and ivory trade suspensions, the real and substantive issues, according to TRAFFIC and WWF are illegal domestic ivory markets, both in Africa and Asia.

The ETIS (Elephant Trade Information System) analysis presented earlier during the CITES meeting revealed that key problem countries for illegal ivory are: Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Thailand and China.

"We are looking for real conservation achievement on the ground. Let countries now take this spirit of goodwill and tackle the ivory that is being haemorrhaged illegally from West and Central Africa," said Tom Milliken, of TRAFFIC, Director of TRAFFIC South and East Africa.

18 June 2007

Ocean fourteen: a round-up of marine-related activities at the 14th CITES Conference of Parties (Source: http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2007/06/19_marine.htm)

Despite the thirteenth Conference of Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) strongly reaffirming the contribution of the convention to the sustainable harvest of marine resources, at COP 14, the Parties seemed to back away from this approach to resource management.

Proposals relating to listing of marine species on the CITES Appendices, with the exception of sawfishes, were either withdrawn or voted down during the two week meeting in The Hague. Instead, Parties stressed the importance of management measures by range countries to ensure the survival of species.

The US withdrew its proposal to list the Banggai cardinal fish after Parties agreed to give Indonesia's new management measures a chance to tackle the recent decline in the population of this fish species, which is mainly harvested for the aquarium trade. The rejection at the Plenary of the US proposal to list *Corallium* species, after some Mediterranean range countries spoke against the listing, also demonstrates the importance of prior consultation and involvement of range States.

Both EU proposals to list the porbeagle shark and the spiny dogfish on Appendix II were rejected by a vote. Parties who spoke against these proposals stressed the fact that no strong domestic measures to recover the Northern stocks had yet been taken by the EU, and that the internal trade within the EU community would escape CITES provisions anyway.

"The Parties have missed the opportunity to complement traditional fisheries management and ensure that future fisheries delivers steady, reliable and high value harvests, instead of following the historic boom and bust pattern that arises from unregulated fisheries and trade," said Sarah Fowler, Chair of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group.

Parties did recognize the complementary role of CITES to other management measures by listing species such the European eel on the Convention's Appendix II, and all sawfishes on the Appendix I, with the exception of one species (*Pristis microdon*) that is listed on Appendix II with only live trade allowed.

Implementation was an important issue at this conference. Issuing Non-Detriment Findings for marine species is a challenging process, particularly when these species have been caught beyond the country's national jurisdiction. At this COP, Parties tackled once again the issue of "introduction from the sea" and finally agreed on the limits of national jurisdiction that is consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Parties can now focus on the important matter of how CITES can regulate trade to improve the management of ocean fisheries and other high seas natural resources. Such a role means that, in future, the Convention should work closely with a host of other organizations, in particular the regional fisheries management organizations.

15 June 2007

CITES updates wildlife trade rules to meet the emerging challenges of the 21st century

(Source: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml)

Diplomats and environmental officials are departing The Hague today after adopting over 100 formal decisions that strengthen or fine-tune the regulations governing the international wildlife trade.

A Ministerial debate on Wednesday, 13 June, enabled several dozen Ministers to explore how the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) can best contribute to the broader biodiversity and sustainable development agenda. It also gave Ministers from the African elephant range states an opportunity to hammer out a ground-breaking compromise agreement on future ivory sales.

New and emerging issues on the conference agenda included the need to protect the livelihoods of poor communities dependent on wildlife trade and the growth in wildlife trade via the Internet. The conference adopted a strategic vision for the years 2008 to 2013 reflecting these and other concerns.

Extensive discussions on marine species led to the inclusion in CITES of the European eel, which is a popular food in many countries. The eel joins a growing list of high-value fish and other marine species whose trade is managed through the CITES permit system to ensure that stocks are not depleted. This trend reflects growing concern about the accelerating decline of the world's oceans and fisheries.

A new timber species has also been added to CITES. The trade in Brazilwood will now require CITES permits, although exports of bows for musical instruments are exempted. In addition, trade will now be forbidden for the slow loris, a small nocturnal primate native to South and Southeast Asia; the Guatemalan beaded lizard; the slender-horned gazelle and Cuvier's gazelle of northern Africa; and sawfishes, whose rostral saws and other body parts are valued as curios and in traditional medicine.

By contrast, the success of strong CITES protection over many years for the black caiman of Brazil has allowed the species' population to recover to an estimated 16 million. The

conference there decided that carefully managed international trade could resume as a way of providing benefits to the local people who live with these dangerous animals.

"Humanity's appetite for wild plants and animals and for wildlife products will clearly expand over the coming decades. We need to think creatively about how to manage the wildlife trade if we are to meet human needs while conserving vulnerable species. Finding the right balance will require a healthy respect for science, market dynamics and the needs of people who rely on wildlife for their livelihoods," said CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers.

In addition to revising the rules for specific species, the conference reviewed the progress being made by conservation programmes for the tiger, the leopard, the Saiga antelope, the black rhinoceros, the Hawksbill turtle, bigleaf mahogany, sturgeons, sharks and many other CITES-listed species.

Capacity building, enforcement, national legislation, the financial resources needed for implementing CITES, and other priorities and activities vital to the effectiveness of the CITES wildlife trade regime were also debated.

The conference accepted the offer of the Government of Qatar to host the next CITES conference (CoP15) in 2010

15 June 2007

CITES: Commercially trade species big losers (Source:
<http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1945>)

The 14th CITES Conference ended today with TRAFFIC and WWF applauding some sound conservation decisions, but ruing other missed opportunities.

"In some respects, the conference has been a success, with some key decisions taken on eels, sawfishes, elephants and tigers, but it's a serious concern that countries missed the opportunity to assist with conservation of several commercially traded species," said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF Global Species Programme.

"TRAFFIC and WWF are pleased with some decisions taken at this CITES meeting," said Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. "But getting species listed is just the start. Underpinning the success of all decisions taken here is the need for strong political will and sound law enforcement."

The unveiling of the European Union's Enforcement Action Plan to combat illegal wildlife trade and support countries that export wildlife was a positive step in the right direction, TRAFFIC and WWF added. However, the two organizations also warned that enforcement globally needs money and were disappointed that Parties failed to come up with sufficient extra funding to implement the Convention and assist countries with enforcement and capacity building.

Compromise on African elephants

As usual, African elephants dominated many of the conference discussions. Just prior to the CITES meeting, a limited sale of ivory from three southern African countries was given formal approval, whilst on the penultimate day of CITES, following some tense negotiations, Zambia and Chad presented a compromise document on behalf of all African elephant range States. The document, which was adopted by consensus, allows an increase in the one-off sale of ivory to include ivory from stockpiles from Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe,

which have accumulated since 2002. After the sale, there will be a nine-year suspension of further sales of raw ivory.

“For the first time in almost 20 years, opposing factions were speaking with one voice to move the ivory debate forward, but the key issues of how to tackle elephant poaching and illegal domestic ivory markets in Africa and Asia remain unanswered,” said Lieberman.

Strong decision against tiger farms

A notable conservation success was the decision, adopted by consensus, to reject the raising of captive tigers for trade in tiger parts, and to phase out its large-scale commercial tiger farms. Meanwhile, in a surprise announcement, the CITES Secretariat said it had asked the Chinese government to investigate a tiger farm implicated in illegally selling tiger meat. “The world clearly urged China not to reopen any trade in tiger parts and to increase protection for tigers in the wild,” said Lieberman.

Recommendations for rhinos

New TRAFFIC research presented at the conference revealed an alarming increase in the volume of rhino horn entering illegal trade since 2000. The recommendations of the report for better law enforcement and protection measures for African rhinos were adopted by the Parties.

Mixed fortunes for sharks

WWF and TRAFFIC regret that delegates did not list two shark species – Spiny dogfish and porbeagle – on Appendix II, which allows trade under strict conditions. However, both organizations hail the listing of all except one species of sawfish – ray-like sharks – on Appendix I, which prevents all commercial trade. The single exception was listed on Appendix II. “The failure to list Spiny dogfish and porbeagle sharks was especially disappointing,” said Steven Broad. “This meeting could go down in history as a critical missed opportunity to halt the decline of these important fisheries.”

Most timber proposals withdrawn

The EU withdrew its proposal to include *Cedrela* – a group of tropical tree species found in Latin America – after facing hostile pressure from Latin American and Caribbean countries. WWF and TRAFFIC are disappointed that a golden opportunity was missed to use a CITES listing to ensure better management and measures to control trade of this threatened species. “It took ten years to include another tropical tree, big-leaf mahogany, on CITES Appendix II and, as a result, this species is now on the verge of commercial extinction,” said Cliona O’Brien, Senior Policy Analyst, WWF’s Global Species Programme.

“The same is likely to happen with *Cedrela* if the current exploitation levels continue.” All the other proposals to list tropical timber species on Appendix II were withdrawn, with one exception – Brazil wood was listed with an amendment to exclude certain items made from it, such as musical bows.

Better protection for the European eel

European eels have declined throughout most of the species’ distribution area and are now threatened due to over-exploitation and pollution. The listing of the European eel on Appendix II means that this negative trend could be halted, WWF and TRAFFIC believe. “The success of the EU proposal on European eels will help ensure trade in this species is well-managed and

legal, which is essential to its survival. It is a conservation achievement," said TRAFFIC's Stéphane Ringuet.

Trade in pink, red and other corals remain unprotected

The listing on Appendix II of red, pink and other coral species in the genus *Corallium*, was overturned in the plenary. WWF and TRAFFIC say these corals, which are used mainly for the manufacture of jewellery, have been over-harvested as a result of lack of international trade controls and consistent management plan. "These corals will continue to suffer from this free-for-all situation," said Steven Broad. "Today's decision was a question of expediency rather than a fully examination of the facts. Commercial lobbying won through."

Strategic vision

The Conference of the Parties also adopted an ambitious new Strategic Vision that attempts to link CITES to the broader conservation and development agenda. "CITES member countries now need to step up their efforts to secure the resources needed to meet the goals they have set for themselves, especially the support needed by developing countries to manage wildlife trade at sustainable levels," said Broad.

New Parties to CITES: Kyrgyzstan (Source: <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/party/kyrgyz.shtml>)

The Depository Government of the Convention (the Government of the Swiss Confederation) has informed the Secretariat that the Kyrgyz Republic deposited its instrument of succession on 4 June 2007. The Convention will enter into force for the Kyrgyz Republic on 2 September 2007, making it the 172nd Party to CITES.

This news was announced during the on-going 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. Parties participating in the meeting warmly welcomed this new member of the CITES family.

Kyrgyzstan is situated in Central Asia.

Other Updates on Wildlife Trade and Wildlife:

21 May 2007

ASEAN meets on illegal wildlife trade (Source: <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/storypage.aspx?StoryId=77889>)

JAKARTA (AFP) - Wildlife officials from Southeast Asia open a four-day meeting Monday in Indonesia aimed at cracking down on the thriving animal smuggling trade. Officials will discuss how to build stronger links between the 10 ASEAN nations to stop cross-border trafficking in some of the richest and most spectacular wildlife in the world.

"Those involved in illegal trading of species in the region are very organized -- which calls for an organized response," said Sagita Arhidani from the ASEAN secretariat.

Officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are also set to be briefed by customs and law enforcement agencies on the latest trends and routes for smuggling within the region.

The multi-million dollar trade continues despite efforts of governments and environmental groups, experts say.

The trade is fuelled in part by strong demand for animal body parts for use in traditional medicines, particularly in China, according to wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC.

Animals are also sought as pets and to be made into consumer goods.

Creatures hunted range from bears, Sumatran rhinos, elephants, tigers and sambar deer through to turtles, tortoises, many species of snakes, pangolins and ant-eaters, it says.

The conference is being held in Bogor outside Jakarta.

Interpol officers are expected to attend, along with CITES officials, charged with monitoring the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

22 May 2007

Wildlife smuggling soars in Asia (Source: <http://cooltech.iafrica.com/science/888787.htm>)

Thousands of pangolins are just some of the animals being illegally shipped from Southeast Asia to China, police warned, as a meeting to crack down on wildlife smuggling was underway on Tuesday in Indonesia.

"Currently the most popular species are pangolins and star tortoises," Thai police Lieutenant Colonel Thanayod Kengkasikij said. The scaly anteaters were being transported to China for use in traditional medicines, said William Schaedla from the Wildlife Alliance.

"We have intelligence that as much as a ton of the animals are being taken across the Thailand-Laos border alone every month at certain times," he said on the sidelines of the conference.

WWF's Chairul Saleh said the mammals were being smuggled in false floors in containers as well being hidden under legal cargo such as sacks of rice. "The biggest demand comes from China. They don't only want the scales but also the meat for consumption," said Saleh from WWF's Indonesia office.

Building stronger links

The comments came as wildlife officials from Southeast Asia met in Cisarua outside Jakarta in an attempt to build stronger links to stop cross-border trafficking in some of the richest and most spectacular wildlife in the world.

After informal talks on Monday, the conference started on Tuesday with officials from the 10 ASEAN nations set to be briefed by law enforcement officials on the latest trafficking trends and intelligence.

Thanayod said increased law enforcement seizures of animals had hiked up the price and demand, making the business more appealing to criminals. "The increasing value (of the animals) is attracting more criminals," he told AFP on the sidelines of the closed four-day conference.

"We're looking for a better relationship between neighboring countries and to assist each other in sharing information, so we can reduce the amount of animal trafficking," said Thanayod from the Thai police's natural resources and environmental crime division.

"The biggest problem is international trade between borders with neighboring countries."

A hub of animal trafficking

He added that Thailand was a hub for trafficking of a range of animals, while environmentalists pointed to Malaysia as a major transit point and Vietnam as a smuggling gateway to southern China.

Traffickers appeared to have strong links in Southeast Asia, enabling their smuggled animals to be added to an already illegal shipment as it crossed borders in the region, said Schaedla from the Wildlife Alliance.

"There's probably an accumulation process going on — part of the shipment may originate from Indonesia and as they move up the peninsula, animals are added to it," said Schaedla. "All of Southeast Asia is involved in this transshipment process in one way or another," he said.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

6 June 2007

CITES Enforcement to be given "High Priority" (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1895>)

The European Commission (EC) today unveiled an Action Plan to improve wildlife trade enforcement within the European Union (EU) and in countries where the trade originates. The announcement was made during a UK Government sponsored event held in collaboration with TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, during the current meeting of CITES.

Lucy Swan, Chair of the EU CITES Enforcement Group commented: "Giving high priority to CITES enforcement is crucial to combating illegal trade. This EU Action Plan will demonstrate the EU's commitment to effective enforcement."

The Plan will help strengthen implementation and enforcement of legislation in EU Member States. Crucially, there will be support for enforcement efforts in producer countries, including capacity building on law enforcement, and increasing awareness of illegal wildlife trade. It marks the latest step in a global approach to tackling wildlife crime adopted by the UK at the previous meeting of CITES, in 2004.

There is a huge and escalating demand in EU Member States for exotic pets, tropical timber and other wildlife products sourced outside its borders. In 2005, the legal trade in wildlife products into the EU was conservatively estimated by TRAFFIC as worth Euro 93 billion. The Action Plan builds on existing initiatives to combat the increasing illegal wildlife trade fuelled by the growing demand in the EU. These include EU TWIX "EU Trade in Wildlife Information exchange", an EU enforcers' intranet for exchanging information on wildlife seizures across all 27 Member States, ASEAN-WEN, a Wildlife Enforcement Network between Southeast Asian nations, and CAWT (Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking), a US Government-led partnership of NGOs and governments aimed at tackling international wildlife crime.

Adisorn Noochdumrong, Chief of International Wildlife Trade Control Section in Thailand, and a representative of ASEAN-WEN commented: "The EU Action Plan and ASEAN-WEN present common approaches to international enforcement networking – we look forward to this excellent opportunity for inter-regional co-operation."

7 June 2007

In the picture: World's largest tiger mosaic unveiled at CITES (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1899>)

The Hague, Netherlands – A two-storey-high photo mosaic of a tiger was unveiled at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) meeting today to urge world leaders to end all trade in tigers.

The mosaic was created from personal photos of almost 25,000 tiger lovers worldwide. People from at least 146 countries contributed. The International Tiger Coalition, comprising 35 organizations working to save wild tigers, including TRAFFIC, assembled the 36 square metre mosaics in front of the World Forum Convention Centre, where delegates from 171 countries are meeting to discuss changes to CITES.

"A mosaic made from photos of tiger fans is a powerful way to remind governments that the eyes of the world are watching what happens at CITES," said Dr Bivash Pandav, head of WWF's international tiger programme.

Wild tigers face an emerging threat from Chinese tiger farms, which now house almost 5,000 captive-bred tigers. The farm owners are pressuring the Chinese government to lift its successful 14-year ban on domestic trade in tiger bones and products.

The Chinese delegation to CITES distributed a position paper this week saying it was maintaining the ban for now, but listing the supposed benefits of trading products made from farmed tigers.

"As someone who works in the field to stop tiger poaching, I've seen how China's ban has eased poaching pressure on wild tigers," said Prasanna Yonzon, CEO of Wildlife Conservation Nepal. "Lifting the ban to allow a handful of investors to profit from selling tiger parts would doom tigers in the wild by reigniting demand. And poachers would have a greater incentive to go after wild tigers."

The coalition is calling on the Chinese government to reject the pending petition by tiger farm investors that seeks to overturn the country's ban, close down the country's numerous tiger farms and destroy the stockpile of carcasses being stored on these farms so they cannot enter illegal trade.

25 June 2007

Malaysia to return nearly 400 smuggled rare tortoises to India (Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/06/25/asia/AS-GEN-Malaysia-Smuggled-Tortoises.php>)

Malaysia will return nearly 400 smuggled rare tortoises to their native India this week, an official said Monday, in a case that highlights concerns about illegal trade in exotic animals. The Indian Star tortoises have been in Malaysia since late April after authorities at Kuala Lumpur International Airport discovered them in the luggage of an Indian citizen, who has since been deported to his home country, said Haidar Khan, a senior official in Malaysia's Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

There were 404 tortoises in the luggage, but only 385 survived their ordeal, Haidar said. The tortoises, indigenous to South Asia, are listed by international conservation body CITES as at risk of becoming endangered unless trade is strictly regulated. They are prized by collectors for the distinctive star patterns on their shells.

However, they are not formally protected under Malaysia's environmental laws, so the man who smuggled the tortoises could not be prosecuted in Malaysia, Haidar said. He was believed to have been planning to supply them to Malaysian pet stores.

This was the third foiled smuggling attempt of Indian star tortoises in recent years, Haidar said. More than 1,000 such tortoises were seized in 2003 and 2005, and all were returned to India. Loretta Ann Soosayraj, a Malaysian wildlife conservation activist, said Malaysia should establish laws to protect freshwater tortoises, which are popular in pet stores.

28 June 2007

Lost without a trace: tracking down wildlife crime using forensics (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1965>)

TRACE (Technologies and Resources for Applied Conservation and Enforcement), a new non-profit organisation, has launched an initiative to promote the application of forensic science in combating wildlife crime, in collaboration with TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. Forensics can be used to identify materials when visual identification is impossible, for example in cooked, ground or processed products, such as traditional medicines. This makes them especially valuable for investigating the origin and identity of products, both legal and illegal, in wildlife trade.

"Forensics has a massive potential for tackling wildlife crime and in monitoring the legal wildlife trade," says Dr Rob Ogden, co-founder of TRACE.

But despite their potential, wildlife forensics is seldom used, largely because of a lack of awareness of the tests available, and a lack of capacity to carry them out, particularly in developing countries.

"Techniques such as DNA and stable isotope analysis are immensely powerful tools, but they are all too infrequently applied to tackling wildlife crime. "TRACE aims to build sufficient political and financial support to enable us to create a worldwide network of expertise in wildlife forensics and link it to Customs and enforcement agencies who can make best use of it," says Ogden.

The first TRACE Wildlife DNA Forensics training course took place in March this year in Pretoria, South Africa. Fifteen delegates learned about biological sample collection, DNA extraction, species identification and how to present forensic evidence in court.

The meeting ended with the formation of the Environmental Forensics Working Group of South Africa, chaired by Jonathan Evans of TRAFFIC East and Southern Africa.

"Wildlife trade is becoming increasingly sophisticated and advanced techniques are required to monitor it," said Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC. "TRAFFIC is delighted this initiative will improve international co-operation and expertise in the use of wildlife forensics, and we look forward to close collaboration with TRACE."

For more information on TRACE, please contact: Ross McEwing, TRACE-the wildlife forensics network, email ross.mcewing@tracenetwork.org or visit www.tracenetwork.org

5 July 2007

Burma's Turtles Still Big Business Despite Protection Efforts (source:

http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=7789)

While Burmese officials struggle to enforce protections on the country's dwindling population of sea turtles, smuggling of freshwater turtles and tortoises remains widespread.

Turtles are sold in markets from Rangoon to Mandalay, but many are also exported to China, according to an animal trader who deals in black-market turtles in Monywa, Sagaing Division. While the government has imposed a ban on all trade in sea turtles, fishermen can apply for permits to legally fish and sell freshwater turtles. However, many disregard the application process.

Sellers charge about 7,000 kyat (US \$5) per viss (equal to 1.6 kg) for freshwater turtles, according to the Monywa trader. Some varieties of Burmese turtles fetch much higher prices. The *pan kyar leik*, or Lucky, turtle sells for between 300,000 and 400,000 kyat (\$240 to \$320) per turtle. The fist-sized turtle is popular in China, the trader said.

Another species popular on the black market is the Star tortoise. One former breeder in Rangoon said prices have steadily increased in recent years, from 20,000 kyat (\$16) to as much as 500,000 kyat (\$398) per tortoise. The breeder added that Star tortoises are not commonly sold in Burma but exported to China, and that some 46 of the tortoises are currently being bred at Yadanabon Zoo in Mandalay.

Meanwhile, Burmese officials have recently stepped up efforts to protect the country's endangered sea turtles. Burma's Department of Fisheries in April began tagging sea turtle shells with numbers and names, according to a report in the Burmese language journal *Living Color* in June. The tags were designed to warn fishermen who caught them that they were protected and should not be kept, according to an official quoted in the report.

The program was introduced first on Tin Ban Island off the Arakan coast and about 18 miles from Sittwe. Tagging programs are being carried out on all islands in Burmese waters where sea turtles are known to come ashore to lay their eggs, an official from the Department of Fisheries told *The Irrawaddy*.

The official added that the export of sea turtles was strictly forbidden because they were one of Burma's disappearing natural resources. According to a 2003 fisheries department report, Burmese officials have identified three principal regions where sea turtles lay their eggs: the Arakan Coast, Irrawaddy Division and Tenasserim Division.

The department first initiated a program to protect and breed sea turtles in 1963 on Thameehla Island in Irrawaddy Division. In the 1980s, additional programs were created in other sea turtle habitats.

10 July 2007

Nearly 300 smuggled birds from Indonesia burned (source:

http://www.mindanews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2823&Itemid=50)

DAVAO CITY -- Wildlife authorities destroyed nearly 300 heads of wild birds and animals smuggled into the city from Indonesia, for fear of bird flu infection. The trader, identified as Mike Artocilla, 37, admitted that smuggling of wildlife stock has been going on with suppliers from the islands in Indonesia even if he knew the perils of the avian flu.

The environment department's Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau said 270 wild birds were burned in government incinerators in Sasa, Monday afternoon to prevent further complications. About 267 of the stock were identified as wild birds sourced from an island called Halmajira, near the Indonesian city of Bitung.

The birds were identified to be pet animals; among them the Sulfur crested Cockatoo, Eclectic Parrot, Red headed lorry, Birds of Paradise, and the expensive Palm Cockatoo. Also burned were a Warty pig (wild boar), Wallaby, a kangaroo type; and a saltwater crocodile.

Reports on the number of animals decimated, however, vary. Artocilla told MindaNews at the NBI office there were a total of 136 heads while PAWB reported 270 based on estimated head count at the raid site.

22 July 2007

TRAFFIC and SACEP signal intention to manage wildlife trade in South Asia (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1996>)

The South Asian Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with TRAFFIC, to enlist the wildlife trade network's assistance in building a regional network for ensuring the sustainability of legal wildlife trade and for tackling wildlife crime in South Asia.

The South Asian network will be modeled on the highly successful ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), an inter-governmental initiative which has brought 10 Southeast Asia governments together to combat wildlife crime. TRAFFIC is continuing to work with Wildlife Alliance (formerly known as WildAid), via a cooperative partnership with USAID, to provide technical assistance to government agencies that are implementing ASEAN-WEN.

"TRAFFIC was instrumental in helping establish the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network in Southeast Asia, and we're delighted to be able to call upon their assistance for building a similar network in South Asia," said Dr Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP.

SACEP Governing Council has decided in favor of a regional work programme to combat wildlife crime, to strengthen enforcement of CITES (the Convention on Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and ensure the sustainability of wildlife trade in the region. SACEP has also announced plans to become part of CAWT, the US Government-led Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking.

South Asia becomes the latest region to announce the formation of a network for co-operation between member state authorities to manage wildlife trade and tackle wildlife crime: in June, the European Union (EU) unveiled an Action Plan to tackle wildlife crime within the EU and to offer support to countries outside the region.

31 July 2007

Judges and prosecutors gear up to combat wildlife crime in Indonesia (source: <http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=2005>)

The Supreme Court of Indonesia is this week hosting the country's first national "Judiciary Workshop on Wildlife Crime and Prosecution" as part of the government's commitment to step up its fight against organized poaching and trafficking of wild animals and plants that threatens the biodiversity of Southeast Asia. Indonesia is the current chair of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and is presently forming its own interagency wildlife crime task force.

The two-day workshop brings together representatives of Indonesia's judicial sector, as strategically selected by the Supreme Court of Indonesia. The workshop will focus on prosecution, investigation, Indonesian laws governing protection of wild animals and plants, local and transnational cooperation with other agencies, and ASEAN-wide initiatives on Mutual Legal Assistance. Judicial officers from Thailand, Malaysia and the United States are joining the event in order to share best practices and step up international cooperation to fight transnational criminals involved in the wildlife trade.

ASEAN-WEN has identified the need to intensify the involvement of judges and prosecutors in reducing wildlife crime in Southeast Asia. Officers involved in wildlife law enforcement from across the region have appealed for stiffer penalties and increased prosecution rates in order to deter wildlife crime. This can only be possible through increased judicial awareness of how serious wildlife crime has become.

Speakers and observers from the Supreme Court of Indonesia, Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia, Indonesian National Police, Indonesian Customs, ASEAN Secretariat and US Department of Justice will attend. USAID's Indonesia Mission and representative from the US Embassy are participating in the opening ceremony. The Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is represented by Dr. Amish Roy, the Director of the Office of Coordination of the Bureau for External Relations and Coordination.

In his opening keynote speech, the Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Dr. Paulus Effendi Lotulung, commented "judicial awareness on the seriousness of wildlife crime needs to be enhanced. The Supreme Court is delighted to host this capacity building effort for all enforcement agencies to meet this vital objective". Also attending is the Director General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, Ministry of Forestry, Mr Arman Malollongan who stated, "The penalties imposed on the wildlife trade offenders are not severe enough to deter their criminal activities. I am very pleased to have the Supreme Court as our main partner in this event, so as to bring the message to illegal traders that the government is serious in its efforts to combat wildlife crime".

This is the second workshop in a series to be held in ASEAN-WEN countries, following the success of a similar event in the Philippines in May 2007. A third is planned for Thailand in late 2007.

"The involvement of the judicial sector is critical to increasing law enforcement co-operation in Indonesia between CITES officials, Customs and the National Police in fighting wildlife crime," said Dr Ani Mardiasuti, TRAFFIC's National Co-ordinator for Indonesia. "This workshop builds on the goals of Indonesia's national response to ASEAN-WEN and highlights the need to treat wildlife crime as a serious offence punishable by existing laws, and not simply a 'soft issue'." ASEAN-WEN is an intergovernmental initiative that is bringing ASEAN governments together to combat wildlife crime. Two international organizations, TRAFFIC and Wildlife Alliance (formerly WildAid), via a cooperative partnership with the US Agency for International Development

(USAID), are providing technical assistance to government agencies that are implementing ASEAN-WEN.

The experiences and outputs from this training will guide the development of similar trainings to be conducted subsequently in Thailand and other ASEAN-WEN member countries.

Recent Notable Seizures:

404 Indian Star tortoises seized in Kuala Lumpur (Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2007/6/25/nation/20070625144012&sec=nation>)

On April 26, 404 Indian Star tortoises were seized from an Indian national after Customs department officials examined his luggage at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Out of the 404 tortoises, 19 had died due to stress as they were all put in one luggage.

This April 26 case was the third time Indian Star tortoises had been seized in Malaysia. The tortoises were sent back to India, courtesy of Air India.

76 Leopard tortoises seized in Malaysia (Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2007/6/25/nation/20070625144012&sec=nation>)

76 Leopard tortoises were seized on June 12 at the Low Cost Carrier terminal in Sepang, Malaysia. The tortoises arrived in two parcels from Tanzania and they were all found strapped down on their shells and their heads were tied back to prevent further movement.

First ever seizure of live sturgeons in Malaysia (Source:

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Wednesday/National/20070711082103/Article/index.html)

An attempt to smuggle sturgeons from China was foiled by an alert Fisheries Department officials in Malaysia. It was the first seizure of sturgeons in the country.

State Fisheries Department director Mohd Najib Ramli said the live fish arrived onboard a China Airlines flight on June 29. Two boxes containing some 120 sturgeons, measuring about 10cm each, were concealed among 30 boxes of ornamental fish heading for aquariums here.

102 pangolins confiscated at Pranburi Checkpoint (source: Enforcement Division, Customs Department, Thailand)

July 3, Pranburi Province, Southern, Thailand

Customs officials confiscated 102 live pangolins value THB 1,020,000.- in plastic baskets in a truck headed from Pattani to Bangkok at the Pranburi checkpoint, Km 262-263 of the Petchkasem Highway, Sam Roi Yot sub-district, Prachaub Khiri Khan, Southern Thailand.

The unnamed driver of the truck fled the scene during investigations.

Live turtles seized in Philippines (source: Inquirer)

MANILA, Philippines, July 2 -- Government officials seized crates of live turtles at the cargo warehouse of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Sunday after they were tipped off that the reptiles may have been imported without the required documents.

The marine turtles, transported in three crates, were flown in on a Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong which arrived in Manila at 12:30 a.m. Sunday.

870 star tortoises seized in India (source: REUTERS/Krishnendu Halder)

CHENNAI, India (Reuters), July 4- Two men were arrested at a southern Indian airport while trying to smuggle 870 endangered star tortoises on to a flight to Malaysia, officials said on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, anti-smuggling officials arrested the Indian men at Chennai's international airport late on Sunday. The tortoises, packed in two suitcases, ranged from inch-long babies to adolescents about the size of a computer mouse.

Malaysia seizes 900 macaques from poachers (source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKKLR30398920070709>)

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters), Jul 9 - Malaysia has smashed a ring of wildlife smugglers and seized more than 900 poached macaques destined for China or the Netherlands in what officials called their biggest seizure involving the animals so far, media said. Wildlife officials arrested four men after finding the long-tailed macaques confined in cages and sacks during a raid on a plantation in the southern state of Johor.

NB: This e-bulletin does not take any responsibility for the accurateness of the reported seizures as all information is taken as presented, from the media.

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of materials in the "CITES in Southeast Asia Watch" e-Bulletin do not necessarily imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of TRAFFIC or its partners WWF and IUCN, nor of the Secretariats of ASEAN or CITES.

Dear Reader,

The CITES in Southeast Asia e-Bulletin aims to help government agencies, organisations and interested individuals in the ASEAN region to keep updated on **CITES-related issues, events and plans in South-east Asia**. The overall aim is to facilitate and to encourage increased cooperation and information sharing on wildlife trade issues that are important to South-east Asia.

This e-Bulletin is produced by TRAFFIC – the wildlife trade monitoring network of WWF and IUCN.

TRAFFIC and its partners continue to work in partnership with South-east Asian governments – as well as with the ASEAN Secretariat and relevant ASEAN fora – to address wildlife trade, CITES implementation and wildlife trade law enforcement.

You may access previous e-bulletin issues and other resources via the ASEAN Wildlife Trade Initiative's website: <http://www.traffic.org/25/network9/ASEAN>.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia should you have any queries or requests for further information on CITES and wildlife trade in South-east Asia.

Julia Ng Su-Chen,
Programme Officer,
TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
julia_ng@myjaring.net

Calendar of events:

19-30 May 2008

9th meeting of the Conference of Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity

21-23 May 2008

6th Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group on CITES, Chonburi, Thailand

25 May 2008

Second Meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-Related Conventions, Bonn, Germany

26-27 May 2008

3rd Regional ASEAN-WEN Meeting, Vientiane, Laos

28-30 May 2008

Conference on Biodiversity and National Development, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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31 May 2008

6th meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, Bonn, Germany

In order to enhance coherence and cooperation in implementation, a liaison group has been established between the heads of the secretariats of the five biodiversity-related conventions. The Biodiversity Liaison Group meets regularly to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, and to exchange information.

For more information, please refer to the website: <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/related-conventions/blg.shtml>

22-25 June 2008

Asian Wetland Symposium, Hanoi, Vietnam

A symposium to reflect on the importance of wetlands to the daily life of people in Asia and to look into the progress and challenges in wetlands management and conservation.

7-11 July 2008

11th International Coral Reef Symposium, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA

14-18 July 2008

57th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland

5-14 October 2008

The IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain

The online registration system for the World Conservation Congress, is now open online at: http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/attend/congress_register/index.cfm

11-15 November 2008

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Valencia, Spain

CITES Notifications and News:

31 January 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/005): CITES Directory and CITES Registers

The Secretariat wishes to inform Parties that, owing to its limited resources, it has stopped producing individual sheets of the CITES Directory and the CITES Registers in PDF format.

CITES Directory

2. The CITES Directory will now be maintained on the CITES website in html format only, under 'Discover CITES / National contacts & information'

http://www.cites.org/common/directy/e_directy.html . Existing PDF sheets will be phased out as national contacts details and information are updated.

3. CITES authorities whose details have changed are urged to communicate those to the Secretariat as quickly as possible.

4. Information regarding changes in the names and contact details of CITES authorities should be provided by the Management Authority in a signed communication, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the Convention. If the principal Management Authority authorized to communicate with other Parties and the Secretariat changes, the designation of the new authority should be provided as follows:

- a) if details are provided before the change takes place, they should be communicated by the current Management Authority or through the diplomatic channel; or
- b) if details are provided after the change takes place, they should be communicated

through the diplomatic channel.

CITES Registers

5. The Secretariat maintains the following Registers on its website:

- a) Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes;
- b) Register of operations that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I species for commercial purposes; and
- c) Register of scientific institutions entitled to the exemption provided by Article VII, paragraph 6, of the Convention.

These registers will now be maintained on the CITES website in html format only, under 'Resources / CITES Registers' <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/registers.shtml>.

7. Users can, of course, still print out the html pages if they wish to retain a copy on paper.

31 January 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/006): Thailand Security stamps

At the request of Thailand, the Secretariat hereby informs the Parties that the Management Authority of Thailand will stop affixing security stamps on its permits and certificates from 1 February 2008.

4 February 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/007): Appendices I, II and III

1. In Notifications to the Parties Nos. 2007/038 and 2007/040 of 13 and 21 November 2007 respectively, the Secretariat informed Parties of amendments to Appendix III that enter into effect on 12 February 2008.

2. In revising the Appendices to incorporate the changes to Appendix III, the Secretariat has taken the opportunity to make the corrections indicated below:

– Mustelidae:

Aonyx capensis congica has been corrected to *Aonyx capensis microdon*, following advice from the Animals Committee's specialist in zoological nomenclature, to ensure consistency with the nomenclature adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14);

– Viverridae:

The common names 'falanouc' and 'fossa' have been deleted as these are common names of species that are now included in the family Eupleridae;

– Peramelidae:

Chaeropus ecaudatus has been moved to the family Chaeropodidae and *Macrotis lagotis* and *Macrotis leucura* have been moved to the family Thylacomyidae, following the nomenclature adopted at CoP14;

– Unionidae:

The spelling of *Epioblasma sampsonii* has been corrected; and

– Orchidaceae:

In footnote 7, the final paragraph has been corrected in the French version to reflect the original English more closely.

3. The revised edition of Appendices I, II and III, valid from 12 February 2008, will be published on the CITES website under 'Official documents / Appendices'.

5 February 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/008): PHILIPPINES, Restrictions on the import of wild birds

1. This Notification is being distributed at the request of the Philippines.

2. The Philippines wishes to inform Parties that it suspended the issuance of import permits for birds of wild origin and products and derivatives thereof in December 2005. This suspension remains in effect for birds originating in countries either infected or suspected to be infected by the avian influenza, based on the updated list established by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

3. Imports of specimens from countries not affected by the avian influenza are still subject to certain conditions put in place as part of the Philippines' measures to prevent transmission of the disease into its territory. Applications for these imports will be examined on a case-by-case basis.

7 March 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/021): MOZAMBIQUE: Stolen crocodile and leopard skin tags

1. The CITES Management Authority of Mozambique has informed the Secretariat that the following crocodile and leopard skin tags, for the year 2007, were stolen from Maputo in February 2008:

- 60 red tags numbered from CTES MZ PAR 07-01 to CITES MZ PAR 07-60;
- 900 yellow tags numbered from CITES MZ NIL 07-001 to CITES MZ NIL 07-900; and
- 2,000 yellow tags numbered from CITES MZ NIL 07-0001 (AAANT) to CITES MZ NIL 07-2000 (AAANT).

2. If any skin with one of the above-mentioned tag numbers is presented for import or export, it should be seized and the CITES Management Authority of Mozambique and the Secretariat should be informed.

2 April 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/027): Appendix III

1. In accordance with the provisions of Article XVI, paragraph 1, of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, China has requested the Secretariat to include the following species in Appendix III:

F A U N A

ANTHOZOA

GORGONACEAE

Corallidae

Corallium elatius

Corallium japonicum

Corallium konjoi

Corallium secundum

2. In accordance with the provisions of Article XVI, paragraph 2, of the Convention, inclusion of these species in Appendix III shall take effect 90 days after the date of this Notification, i.e. on 1 July 2008.

3. Before that date, a revised edition of the CITES Appendices will be placed on the CITES website.

2 April 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/030): Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory

1. In Notification to the Parties No. 2006/077 of 21 December 2006, the Secretariat distributed a form and explanatory notes to report seizures of ivory and other elephant products for inclusion in the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) database. Such forms can be submitted via the Secretariat or direct to TRAFFIC.

2. Parties are requested to note that the email address which TRAFFIC uses to receive ETIS reports has changed and is now: etis@traffic.org

7 April 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/032): Transmission of documents

2. Through this Notification, the Secretariat would like to inform all Parties that this will be the last distribution of paper copies of Parties' original CITES permits and certificates.
3. In order to facilitate the work of CITES authorities in the verification of CITES documents, the Secretariat has decided to place all CITES permits/certificates currently used by the Parties that it has on its records onto the forum section of the CITES website. The forum section is a secure area on the CITES website where only approved users can log in with their username and password. A link to the CITES sample permits/certificates will be provided from the forums for the CITES Management Authorities and Enforcement Authorities. Parties that have not yet subscribed to this service are encouraged to do so as soon as possible by following the instructions provided on the website.
4. Over the coming weeks, all current permits/certificates will be uploaded onto the website. For this tool to be as effective as possible, the Secretariat requests that Parties check the forum section of the website to verify that the sample forms displayed there are current. Parties are also requested to inform the Secretariat of any changes or additions in the forms used, in order to minimize the possibility that permits are rejected.

16 April 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/033): Control of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes

1. The Secretariat has been requested to include in the Register of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species for commercial purposes information concerning captive-breeding operations in the following country:

| Country | Species | See |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| Singapore | <i>Scleropages formosus</i> | http://www.cites.org/common/notif/2008/ESF033A.pdf |

2. In accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP14), Annex 2, the operations will be included in the Secretariat's Register 90 days after the date of this Notification, i.e. on 15 July 2008, unless the Secretariat receives an objection from a Party and such objection is not withdrawn within this time.

18 April 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/034): CITES Security stamps

1. In Notification to the Parties No. 2004/006 of 18 February 2004, the Secretariat advised the Parties of countries that had been provided with the new-style security stamp. As of 18 April 2008, the following countries had been supplied:
Argentina, Bahamas, Benin, Bermuda, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zambia.

2. The following countries still have in stock the old-style stamp:
Botswana, Brazil, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Morocco, the Russian Federation and Trinidad and Tobago.
3. The Secretariat advises the Parties not to accept any permit or certificate that bears an old-style security stamp with the exception of those issued by the countries listed in paragraph 2.
4. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2007/002 of 12 January 2007.

28 April 2008

**CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/036): GABON, RWANDA AND SOMALIA:
Recommendation to suspend trade**

1. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted an Action plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory. Point 2 of the plan required the Secretariat to distribute a questionnaire seeking information regarding the control of trade in ivory. The questionnaire was distributed with Notification to the Parties No. 2007/029 of 17 September 2007.
2. The Action plan required questionnaires to be returned by 31 December 2007 and the Conference of the Parties adopted the following non-compliance measure in the case of elephant range States that failed to submit a response:
Where an elephant range State fails to submit by 31 December 2007 the questionnaire referred to in point 2 above, the Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties advising that the Conference of the Parties recommends that Parties not authorize commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with the State in question. Such a recommendation shall remain in force until a completed questionnaire is received by the Secretariat.
3. The Secretariat sent reminders of this provision to all elephant range States in December 2007.
4. The following elephant range States have failed to submit a completed questionnaire:
Gabon, Rwanda and Somalia.
5. Consequently, the Secretariat advises the Parties that, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Action plan adopted by the Conference of the Parties, they should not authorize commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with the States named in paragraph 4 above, until further notice. This recommendation to suspend trade has been valid since 13 February 2008.
6. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2008/029 of 2 April 2008.
7. Parties are reminded that the complete list of Parties subject to a recommendation to suspend trade is available on the CITES website under Resources/Reference lists.

28 April 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/037): Caviar trade database

1. Parties are reminded that a caviar trade database has been developed by UNEP-WCMC. The purpose of the database is to record information relating to exports, re-exports and imports of caviar. This will enable the monitoring of such trade and will assist in the verification of the authenticity and validity of permits and certificates. It will, for example, be able to identify whether a quantity of caviar, imported from a producing country, has been re-exported and subsequently detect cases where attempts may be made to re-export more caviar than was originally imported.
2. To be effective, it is essential that all Parties that issue permits and certificates authorizing trade in caviar submit copies of such documents so that the information can be entered into the database. Parties are encouraged to submit such copies in a timely manner, i.e. no longer than one month after the date of issuance. It is recommended that permits and certificates be scanned and sent by email to UNEP-WCMC at the following email address: caviar@unep-wcmc.org. Copies may also be faxed to the following number:

+44 (122) 327 71 36.

3. Resolution 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) (Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish) recommends that Parties consult the database before issuing re-export certificates.
4. To ensure an appropriate level of confidentiality, access to the online database is now possible only through links in the Management Authority Forum, Enforcement Authority Forum or CITES Enforcement – Caviar Forum of the CITES website. Applications to access these Forums should be submitted through the Resources/Forum section of the CITES website.
5. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2007/030 of 2 October 2007.

New party to CITES - OMAN

The Depositary Government of the Convention (the Government of the Swiss Confederation) has informed the Secretariat that Oman deposited its instrument of accession to CITES on 19 March 2008. The Convention will enter into force for Oman on 17 June 2008, making it the 173rd Party to CITES.

Oman is situated in Middle East, bordering the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, and Persian Gulf.

Other Updates on Wildlife Trade and Wildlife:

12 December 2007

Guide to Kalimantan's protected species launched (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2007/12/12/guide-to-kalimantans-protected-species-launched.html>)

Pontianak, West Kalimantan, Indonesia— A pocket guide to help enforcement authorities identify protected wildlife species in trade was launched today in Pontianak, Indonesia.

The guide was published as part of a law enforcement project in West Kalimantan between TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, WWF-Indonesia and the Directorate of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, Government of Indonesia.

"The idea for this guidebook was conceived in 2006 during a law enforcement workshop to combat illegal wildlife trade in Pontianak," said Julia Ng, TRAFFIC's programme officer.

"Many of the government participants asked for an easy reference identification guide to help them recognize species that are traded illegally. As TRAFFIC is committed to working with the Indonesian government to combat the illegal wildlife trade, we decided that such an important request should not be ignored."

The guide covers 123 species from five classes—mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and insects—and provides information at a glance on each species covered, its family, the Indonesian and English common names, the Indonesian law that protects it and whether it is listed under the CITES appendices and the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species.

"TRAFFIC hopes this guidebook will be useful to enforcement authorities in charge of combating illegal wildlife trade and will help raise awareness among people in Kalimantan living at the forest fringes to inform them about wildlife species that can be harvested and those that are protected," added Dr Ani Mardiasuti, TRAFFIC's co-ordinator for Indonesia.

Kalimantan occupies the southern two-thirds of the island of Borneo and comprises four provinces: West, Central, South and East Kalimantan.

Kalimantan is rich in biodiversity and the cultural use of wildlife by society there is widespread. Unfortunately, illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade is widespread throughout the region too, and a great deal of effort is needed to combat it.

The guidebook will be distributed to all government enforcement authorities in Kalimantan and also to the general public in the coming months.

8 January 2008

Illegal pet trade threatens freshwater turtles and tortoises—TRAFFIC (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/1/8/illegal-pet-trade-threatens-freshwater-turtles-and-tortoises.html>)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia— An increasing demand for exotic freshwater turtles and tortoises in Southeast Asia is fuelling rampant illegal trade in the pet markets of Indonesia, according to a report released today by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

TRAFFIC investigators undertook surveys of pet markets in Jakarta and found 48 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises for sale, the vast majority of them illegally obtained. They included all six of Indonesia's fully protected freshwater turtles and five non-native species listed in Appendix I of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), meaning that all commercial international trade is prohibited. TRAFFIC found that CITES-listed species were more expensive than non-listed species, but noted they were no harder to obtain.

"The open trade in protected species indicates a lack of enforcement effort and blatant disregard for the law," says Chris R. Shepherd, Senior Programme Officer of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and leading author of the new report, *An overview of the regulation of the freshwater turtle and tortoise pet trade in Jakarta, Indonesia*.

Enforcement of CITES and national regulations is challenging, as individuals involved in wildlife crime are often well organised, but dealers admitted to TRAFFIC that freshwater turtles and tortoises are smuggled in and out of Indonesia with ease.

"TRAFFIC encourages the Government of Indonesia to ensure combating wildlife crime is given high priority, and that every effort is made to clamp down on the criminals involved in it," Chris Shepherd, Senior Programme Officer of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia. Shepherd adds that people buying illegally sourced animals should also be made fully aware they are contributing to the demise of wild populations.

Large numbers of freshwater turtles and tortoises are harvested in Indonesia, with no scientific research carried out to determine the impact on wild populations.

The report recommends the Indonesian authorities should reduce or even stop the freshwater turtle and tortoise trade, until scientifically sound harvest quotas can be determined and implemented.

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

28 January 2008

ASEAN officials review cross-border co-operation in combating wildlife crime (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/1/29/asean-officials-review-cross-border-co-operation-in-combatin.html>)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - The Government of Malaysia is underlining its commitment to fighting the organized poaching and trafficking of wild animals that threatens South-east Asia's biodiversity by this week holding an ASEAN-wide workshop on Task Force Development and Working Groups Development.

The workshop will pursue co-operation between member countries under the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), an intergovernmental initiative bringing together ASEAN governments and law enforcement agencies in the region to combat the illegal trade in wild flora and fauna. Wildlife crime has become a multi-billion dollar business worldwide, and South-east Asia has become a major target, transit and end point for global wildlife crime syndicates.

The meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) through the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN), builds on a workshop held in the Philippines in 2007, where a Strategic Action Plan 2007-2015 for ASEAN-WEN and its member countries was drafted.

In his speech, NRE's Parliamentary Secretary, Dato' Sazmi Miah, stated that 2007 had been a historic year for NRE and its relevance due to the fact that one important piece of legislation, The International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2007, had been passed by Parliament. He added, "the Act reflects the Government's serious effort in safeguarding our precious natural resources, and NRE is very supportive in strengthening the relevant regulations to curb the illegal trade of wildlife".

Mr. Winston Bowman, Regional Mission Director for USAID based in Bangkok, re-affirmed the US Government's commitment to combating illegal wildlife trade. He said the USA would "continue to assist ASEAN-WEN in tackling illegal wildlife trafficking".

ASEAN Secretariat's representative, Mr. Htain Lin, was encouraged by the significant progress over the past two years made by ASEAN-WEN, which "gives ASEAN a platform for effective co-ordination, information-sharing and enforcement process across all agencies in their fight against the illicit harvesting and trafficking of wildlife". The establishment of the ASEAN-WEN Program Co-ordination Unit, which acts as the network's secretariat and is based in Bangkok, for example, has begun to address some of these issues, to ensure that the sharing of intelligence and information among the region's countries is maintained. This was confirmed by Ms. Klairoong Poonpom, who is an officer with the Unit.

"ASEAN-WEN task forces have made significant progress since their creation last year, and it's important to build on the momentum they have generated," said Ms Azrina Abdullah, TRAFFIC's Regional Director. A number of recommendations under the ASEAN-WEN Strategic Action Plan 2007-2012, are now being implemented across the region. These include special interagency cross-border enforcement meetings, training courses for enforcement agencies on species identification, investigations and border check point controls. Special training has also been developed for the judiciary.

Workshop delegates included representatives from ASEAN-WEN member countries; the ASEAN Program Coordinating Unit (PCU) in Bangkok; the ASEAN-WEN Support Program; plus key Malaysian Government agencies involved with combating wildlife crime, such as the

Royal Malaysian Police, PERHILITAN, Royal Malaysian Customs and the Department of Fisheries. Observers from INTERPOL, Australia Customs and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also attended.

High-level officials from USAID's Regional Environment Office in Bangkok, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) and the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta also participated in the opening ceremony.

1 February 2008

Turtle identification guide launched (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/2/1/turtle-identification-guide-launched.html>)

Singapore— TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and Singapore Zoo today launched a turtle guidebook titled *An Identification Guide to the Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore and Timor Leste*. The guidebook, will meet one of the most pressing needs - the correct identification of species commonly traded (both legally and illegally) in the region, by enforcement officers and conservationists.

"Singapore Zoo is pleased to collaborate with Dr Mark Auliya, Scientific Officer of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and author of the book, for the production of this essential identification material. In light of the phenomenal rise in illegal turtle and tortoise poaching incidences in Southeast Asia, we hope this guidebook will serve as a reference for all, in identifying threatened turtle species and will play a role in protecting and conserving them," said Ms Fanny Lai, Group CEO, Wildlife Reserves Singapore.

"To monitor the trade in tortoises and freshwater turtles, a basic requirement is that enforcement officers need to be able to identify which species they are dealing with," said Dr Mark Auliya, Scientific Officer, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia. Dr Auliya added, "The destructive scale and impact of the turtle trade is driving some species to extinction and for most species, the situation is critical."

The new guide will allow on-the-spot identification of tortoise and freshwater turtle species in trade. It also gives information on each species regulatory and conservation status and summarises all information available on the recognised species and populations of the target region, whilst at the same time minimising the use of scientific language to provide a user-friendly resource for enforcement officers.

"The identification guide covers the species commonly traded through Singapore. AVA finds this guide user-friendly as it pinpoints the characteristics of each species. AVA will use the guide to teach new officers on how to identify turtles and tortoises," said a spokesman from the AVA.

To further boost the protection and conservation of threatened tortoises and turtles, the Singapore Zoo works closely with AVA, in caring for confiscated animals with the professional in-house expertise and husbandry resources available.

In addition, the Zoo also houses threatened turtles donated by the public at its Rescued Animal Centre, which are eventually transferred to habitats in the Zoo and Night Safari. The Zoo also identifies suitable homes in zoos overseas to which these tortoises and turtles can be sent for captive breeding and animal exchange. A shipment of 15 star tortoises destined for Lisbon Zoo,

Portugal, is slated to leave end February 2008.

The guidebook, available in five languages: English, Chinese, Bahasa Melayu, Bahasa Indonesia and Filipino will be made available to enforcement officers in the region free of charge.

13 February 2008

Tiger, tiger: future not so bright (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/2/13/tiger-tiger-future-not-so-bright.html>)

Cambridge, UK; Gland, Switzerland—Laws protecting the critically endangered Sumatran Tiger have failed to prevent tiger body parts being offered on open sale in Indonesia, according to a TRAFFIC report launched today.

Tiger body parts, including canine teeth, claws, skin pieces, whiskers and bones, were on sale in 10 percent of the 326 retail outlets surveyed during 2006 in 28 cities and towns across Sumatra. Outlets included goldsmiths, souvenir and traditional Chinese medicine shops, and shops selling antique and precious stones.

The survey conservatively estimates that 23 tigers were killed to supply the products seen, based on the number of canine teeth on sale.

“This is down from an estimate of 52 killed per year in 1999–2002”, said Julia Ng, Programme Officer with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and lead author on *The Tiger Trade Revisited* in Sumatra, Indonesia. “Sadly, the decline in availability appears to be due to the dwindling number of tigers left in the wild”.

All of TRAFFIC’s surveys have indicated that Medan, the capital of North Sumatra province, and Pancur Batu, a smaller town situated about 15 km away, are the main hubs for the trade of tiger parts.

Despite TRAFFIC providing authorities with details of traders involved, apart from awareness-raising activities, it is not clear whether any serious enforcement action has been taken.

“Successive surveys continue to show that Sumatran Tigers are being sold body part by body part into extinction”, said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF International’s Species Programme.

“This is an enforcement crisis. If Indonesian authorities need enforcement help from the international community they should ask for it. If not, they should demonstrate they are taking enforcement seriously”.

The report recommends that resources and effort should concentrate on effective enforcement to combat the trade by arresting dealers and suppliers. Trade hotspots should be continually monitored and all intelligence be passed to the enforcement authorities for action. Those found guilty of trading in tigers and other protected wildlife should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

“We have to deal with the trade. Currently we are facing many other crucial problems which, unfortunately, are causing the decline of Sumatran Tiger populations” explained Dr Tonny

Soehartono, Director for Biodiversity Conservation, Ministry of Forestry of Republic of Indonesia.

"We have been struggling with the issues of land use changes, habitat fragmentation, human-tiger conflicts and poverty in Sumatra. Land use changes and habitat fragmentation are driving the tiger closer to humans and thus creating human-tiger conflicts".

As a recent show of commitment, the President of the Republic of Indonesia launched the Conservation Strategy and Action Plan of Sumatran Tiger 2007–2017 during the 2007 Climate Change Convention in Bali.

Sumatra's remaining few tigers are also under threat from rampant deforestation by the pulp and paper and palm oil industries. The combined threats of habitat loss and illegal trade—unless tackled immediately—will be the death knell for Indonesian tigers.

"The Sumatran Tiger is already listed as Critically Endangered on IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species, the highest category of threat before extinction in the wild," said Jane Smart, Head of IUCN's Species Programme. "We cannot afford to lose any more of these magnificent creatures".

"The Sumatran Tiger population is estimated to be fewer than 400 to 500 individuals. It doesn't take a mathematician to work out that the Sumatran Tiger will disappear like the Javan and Bali tigers if the poaching and trade continues" Julia Ng adds.

As Indonesia currently chairs the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network, TRAFFIC National Co-ordinator Dr Ani Mardiasuti suggested the country "demonstrate leadership to other ASEAN countries by taking action against illegal trade, including in tiger parts."

The latest report was launched the day after India's National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) announced an official estimate of 1,411 tigers currently surviving in the wild in India; more than 50 percent down from the previous census estimate of 3,642 tigers in 2001-02.

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

14 February 2008

Indonesia tightens tortoise trade regulations (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/2/14/indonesia-tightens-tortoise-trade-regulations.html>)

Cambridge, UK—In response to a TRAFFIC report, an *Overview of the regulation of the freshwater turtle and tortoise pet trade in Jakarta, Indonesia*, launched last month, the Indonesian Government has acted swiftly to tighten up regulations on importing exotic species of tortoises and turtles into the country.

The report highlights the rampant illegal trade in tortoises and turtles in the pet markets of the nation's capital, Jakarta.

TRAFFIC investigators found 48 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises for sale, more than half of them exotic species, and the vast majority illegally obtained, including five non-native species listed in Appendix I of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). CITES Appendix I listing prohibits commercial international trade in a species.

Following the revelations, Indonesia has written to the CITES Management Authorities (those government agencies responsible for implementing CITES regulations) in India, Madagascar, China, USA, Brazil, Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala and to the CITES Secretariat.

From 1 March 2008, all specimens of CITES-listed freshwater turtles and tortoises exported to Indonesia will require an import permit and those without will be disposed of. Under CITES, no import permit is needed for Appendix II-listed species unless required by national law. Countries of origin will also need to notify Indonesia before issuing export permits.

"This is the kind of swift and decisive action that is needed to stamp out the illegal trade in threatened tortoise and turtle species," said Azrina Abdullah, Director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

The government has also announced the introduction of a CITES Management Authority registration scheme for privately owned tortoises and turtles already in Indonesia.

The new regulations will benefit threatened species such as Radiated Tortoise *Geochelone radiata* and Indian Star Tortoise *Geochelone elegans*, which are amongst the most popular in trade, despite both being listed in the CITES Appendices (I and II respectively), and being protected in their native countries.

13 March 2008

Judiciary workshop on wildlife crime a Thai first (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/3/13/judiciary-workshop-on-wildlife-crime-a-thai-first.html>)

Nakon Ratchasima, Thailand—The Supreme Court of Thailand this week hosted the nation's inaugural "Judiciary Workshop on Wildlife Crime and Prosecution" as part of the judiciary's commitment to tackle organized poaching and trafficking of wild animals and plants in Southeast Asia.

The two-day workshop brought together representatives of Thailand's judicial sector selected by the Supreme Court of Thailand, and focused on Thai laws governing protection of wildlife, investigations and prosecutions.

Judicial officers from Viet Nam, Malaysia and the USA also attended, to share best practices and intensify the fight against transnational criminals involved in the wildlife trade.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Justice Sobchok Sukharmna, President of the Environment Court, said the workshop presented an opportunity for judiciary personnel to discuss wildlife trade law enforcement and how to apply legislation to protect Thailand's natural resources.

Wildlife law enforcement officers across the region have appealed for stiffer penalties and increased prosecution rates to deter wildlife crime.

Klairoong Poonpon, Liaison Officer of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) Program Coordinating Unit, commented: "To deter illegal wildlife dealers successfully, ASEAN-WEN needs co-operation from judges and prosecutors, and their full understanding of the irreparable damage these criminals are causing to our ecological systems.

"We hope that through this seminar, judges and prosecutors will realize that the best deterrents against wildlife crimes are penalties proportional to the damage caused."

Azrina Abdullah, TRAFFIC's Regional Director for Southeast Asia, commented: "We welcome Thailand's Judiciary and the Prosecution Office of the Ministry of Justice's commitment to work with other agencies to protect the country's wildlife and forests from exploitation."

The workshop was co-sponsored by the Supreme Court of Thailand and the US Department of State and was the third held in ASEAN-WEN countries, following the success of similar events in the Philippines and Indonesia last year. A fourth workshop is planned in Viet Nam in mid 2008.

TRAFFIC and Wildlife Alliance, via a cooperative partnership with USAID, are providing technical assistance to government agencies that are implementing ASEAN-WEN. The US Department of Justice provides legal training on case scenarios and prosecution best practices.

20 March 2008

Police on course to tackle wildlife crime (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/3/20/police-on-course-to-tackle-wildlife-crime.html>)

Cambridge, UK—Indonesian National Police (INP) have undertaken special training in how to detect and arrest the organized criminal syndicates looting Indonesia's forests.

Police officers joined Forestry and Customs officers on intensive Wildlife Crime Investigation and Wildlife Trade Regulation Courses to learn about topics including surveillance, criminal profiling and interviewing suspects, effective raid and arrest procedures, wildlife smuggling routes, and regulations relating to wildlife trade.

"Indonesia's biodiversity and natural resources are under serious threat from wildlife smugglers and illegal loggers. We are heartened by the receptiveness of the Indonesian enforcement authorities to the training courses, as part their effort to combat illegal wildlife crime under ASEAN-WEN" commented Azrina Abdullah, Director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

Second only to Brazil in richness of biodiversity, Indonesia is a global hotspot for trade in wild plants and animals, but its forests are under serious threat from illegal and unregulated logging.

The enforcement training programmes were developed by the ASEAN-WEN Support Program, in close consultation with the Indonesian enforcement authorities and supported by US government wildlife law enforcement officers, TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, and Wildlife Alliance.

Meanwhile this week in Bangkok, Thailand, police officers from 13 ASEAN and non-ASEAN countries and territories took part in a seminar on wildlife crime under the auspices of ASEAN-WEN, as part of a series of training programmes and seminars to increase wildlife law enforcement capacity throughout the region.

ASEAN-WEN is the world's largest wildlife law enforcement network, comprising enforcement officers from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The United States and China are also co-operating with ASEAN-WEN. TRAFFIC and Wildlife Alliance, via a cooperative partnership with USAID, provide technical assistance to government agencies implementing ASEAN-WEN.

25 April 2008

Bangkok market a hub for illegal international trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises
(Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/4/24/bangkok-market-a-hub-for-illegal-international-trade-in-fres.html>)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia—Thailand is a major hub for the international trade in illegal freshwater turtles and tortoises, finds a new report, Pet freshwater turtle and tortoise trade in Chatuchak Market, Bangkok, Thailand, launched today by TRAFFIC, the wildlife monitoring network, a joint programme of WWF and IUCN.

Surveys of Chatuchak Market (also known as the JJ or Weekend Market) by TRAFFIC investigators found that 25 out of 27 freshwater turtle and tortoise species for sale were non-native, the vast majority of them illegally imported into the country.

“Dealers stated openly that many specimens were smuggled into and out of Thailand,” said Chris R. Shepherd, Senior Programme Officer for TRAFFIC Southeast Asia. “They even offered potential buyers advice on how to smuggle reptiles through customs and onto airplanes.”

The most commonly observed species at Chatuchak Market was the Radiated Tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*), a species endemic to Madagascar and listed in Appendix I of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), meaning that all commercial international trade in wild Radiated Tortoises is prohibited. Of the total of 786 freshwater turtles and tortoises on sale, more than a third, 285, were listed in Appendix I of CITES. Of these, 269 were Radiated Tortoises.

Buyers from other parts of Asia, particularly Japan, Malaysia and Singapore, are known to purchase and smuggle home large numbers of freshwater turtles and tortoises from the dealers in Chatuchak Market for retail in their respective countries.

Dealers were heard urging potential buyers to purchase the most endangered species because of their rarity value.

“It is a sad day when people use a species’ risk of extinction as a selling point,” said Dr Jane Smart, Head of IUCN’s Species Programme. “We urge governments and law enforcement agencies to use the information contained in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species to stop this kind of behaviour before it is too late.”

Earlier this month, Royal Thai Police raided Chatuchak market and seized a wide variety of illegal wildlife, including 18 Radiated Tortoises and 3 Ploughshare Tortoises (*A. yniphora*). The Ploughshare is considered the world’s rarest tortoise—and all international trade is prohibited.

“We congratulate the Royal Thai Police on their recent raid,” says Shepherd. “But recent information indicates the illegal trade continues, and we encourage the authorities to keep the pressure on.”

“The Thai authorities must continue these efforts to stem the illegal trade in these endangered species—as should other governments and their enforcement authorities. This illegal trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises is well organized, and must be tackled in an organized fashion,” said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of the WWF International Species Programme.

The report recommends amending current national legislation to close loopholes relating to the possession of CITES-listed species. It also encourages enforcement authorities at international border crossings to be more vigilant in preventing the trade in prohibited species through Thailand, and recommends increased co-operation with other relevant countries to crack down on the highly organized illegal pet freshwater turtle and tortoise trade.

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

29 April 2008

Brunei Darussalam hosts wildlife trade workshop (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/4/28/brunei-darussalam-hosts-wildlife-trade-workshop.html>)

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam—The Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry & Primary Resources, this week hosts Brunei Darussalam's first Wildlife Trade Regulation training workshop as part of the country's commitment to tackle organized poaching and trafficking of wild animals and plants in Southeast Asia.

Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Hamid bin Haji Mohd Jaafar, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, during his opening address, said that the workshop was relevant to the policies of the Government of Brunei Darussalam relating to the conservation of biodiversity, industry and sustainable use.

Southeast Asia is extremely rich in biodiversity and Brunei Darussalam is home to many commercially important species such as Water Monitor Lizard *Varanus salvator*, Reticulated Python *Python reticulatus* and Hill Mynah *Gracula religiosa*.

However, illegal and unsustainable harvest and trade of wildlife is a major threat to the conservation of nature throughout the region. Many species are sourced to supply demands around the globe for pets, meat, medicines, luxury goods and zoos.

"The workshop is timely as it coincides with needs for the implementation and enforcement of Brunei Darussalam's recently enacted Wild Fauna & Flora Order 2007," said Hajah Normah S.H. Jamil, Acting Director of the Department of Agriculture.

"It also supports the objectives of the Heart of Borneo, where co-operation between three countries (Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Indonesia) aims to reinforce the conservation of biodiversity on the island of Borneo,"

Brunei Darussalam became a party to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in 1990. The Department of Agriculture is the CITES Management Authority in Brunei Darussalam.

The training workshop will focus on basic implementation and enforcement of CITES and the Wild Fauna and Flora Order 2007, tackling the smuggling of wildlife, plus identification of species commonly found in trade in Southeast Asia.

"Without firm commitment from governments in the region, there is little doubt that excessive wildlife trade will lead to the demise and potentially the extinction of many of our region's

unique species of animals and plants," said Azrina Abdullah, Regional Director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

The workshop is jointly organised by the Department of Agriculture and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and forms part of a series aiming to increase wildlife law enforcement capacity throughout the region in line with the ASEAN WEN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network) initiative.

ASEAN-WEN is the world's largest wildlife law enforcement network, comprising enforcement officers from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The United States and China are also co-operating with ASEAN-WEN. TRAFFIC and Wildlife Alliance, via a co-operative partnership with USAID, provide technical assistance to government agencies implementing ASEAN-WEN.

Recent Notable Seizures:

For Aug – Dec 2007:

Chinese police seize more smuggled crocodiles from Vietnam (Source

http://www.cnr.cn/2004news/society/200708/t20070803_504531998.html)

On Aug 2, Police in southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region seized 28 crocodiles smuggled from Vietnam. The smugglers escaped on a boat in a nearby river and crossed the border before the police arrived. Guangxi police seized 270 crocodiles, also smuggled from Vietnam, after tracking a suspicious vessel on a border river on July 22.

Bid to smuggle RM500,000 timber into Thailand foiled (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Sunday/National/20070805074140/Article/index.html)

On Aug 4 (Malaysia), the State Forestry Department officers foiled an attempt to smuggle 1,300 pieces of illegally-logged timber worth RM500,000 into Thailand. They also seized 10 bulldozers 50m from the border where the logs were piled. The officers were unable to make any arrests as the smugglers escaped before they reached the area. The timber was believed to have been felled at a 50ha area at the Hulu Muda forest reserve in the state of Kedah, Malaysia.

Customs seize live star tortoises from air passenger (Source

<http://news.oneindia.in/2007/08/05/customs-seize-350-live-star-tortoises-from-air-passenger-1186321839.html>)

On Aug 5 (India), Custom officials seized 350 live star tortoises from a passenger at Anna International airport. The specimens, hidden in 11 plastic containers kept inside a zipper bag, were meant to be smuggled to Malaysia.

ACA seizes 2,000 more logs in probe (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Tuesday/National/20070814085234/Article/index.html)

On Aug 13 (Malaysia), the Anti-Corruption Agency seized 2,000 logs. The logs were traced to a sawmill in the Nabawan area following an earlier seizure of 1,000 logs and 22 lorries used to transport the timber. Selangor Anti-Corruption Agency director Mohd Jamidan Abdullah said the probe will focus on allegations of corruption in logging operations.

2,000 star tortoises rescued, two held for smuggling in Mumbai (Source
<http://www.ptinews.com/pti%5Cptisite.nsf/All/ABE0FF6E0AB002FD652573410056363D>)

On Aug 24 (India), 2,016 endangered star tortoises were rescued by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) while being illegally smuggled to Malaysia. Two Chennai-based persons were arrested.

107 pangolins seized in Guangxi Province (Source
<http://www.gxtv.cn/Article/news/xwzx/200708/61027.html>)

On the night of 28 Aug 2007 (China), policemen of Fang Cheng Gang, Guangxi Province, seized 107 pangolins and arrested 3 suspects. The pangolins, supposedly smuggled from Vietnam, were being transported from the Dongxing border to Fangcheng.

Man arrested, frozen turtle parts seized (Source
<http://www.dawn.com/2007/08/31/nat21.htm>)

On Aug 30 (Pakistan), officials of the wildlife department arrested a man in Amangarh, Nowshera district and recovered 300kg of frozen turtle parts from his possession. The accused used to purchase turtles from poachers in the Swabi, Nowshera, Peshawar, Mardan and Charsadda districts and send them to Karachi for export to China, Thailand and other countries.

333 star tortoises seized from Kuala Lumpur-bound passenger (Source
<http://www.hindu.com/2007/08/06/stories/2007080660020800.htm>)

On Sep 1 (India), 333 star tortoises were seized from a Kuala Lumpur-bound passenger at Anna International Airport. The office of the Commissioner of Customs, Air Intelligence Unit, said the endangered species were kept in 11 plastic containers concealed inside a zipper bag.

Chinese poachers caught in the Philippines with endangered marine turtles (Source
http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/index.cfm?uNewsID=113420)

On Sep 3, local authorities patrolling the Sulu Archipelago in the southwest Philippines apprehended a Chinese fishing vessel with a cache of illegally caught marine turtles. Officials counted over 200 of the endangered species, mostly green turtles. Most were found dead, but nine surviving turtles — seven male and two female — were released back into the sea.

Police find two tigers in Hanoi woman's fridge (Source
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oddlyEnoughNews/idUKHAN9638620070905>
<http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/?catid=3&newsid=31659>
<http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/?catid=3&newsid=31780>)

On Sep 4 (Vietnam), police found two frozen tigers in a fridge and two soup kettles filled with animal bones in an outdoor kitchen in Hanoi. The 40-year-old woman confessed to police she hired three experts to cook tiger bones to make traditional medicines and that she sold the medicine for about \$800 per 100 grams. Police arrested the woman and the three cooks.

Malaysia seizes 168 smuggled pangolins (Source
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/KLR108238.htm>)

On Sept 5, Malaysian police seized 168 pangolins smuggled in from neighbouring Indonesia and headed for Thailand. Police detained a 32-year-old Malaysian for questioning after finding the animals when they stopped his van near the town of Padang Besar on the border with Thailand.

Five held for having pangolins (Source

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2007/9/18/nation/18920250&sec=nation>
<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2007/9/20/focus/18936225&sec=focus>)

On Sep 16 (Sabah, Malaysia), Tenom district police chief Deputy Supt Amru Kadir arrested five persons, aged between 19 and 38, and seized 21 pangolins transported in two cars along the Tenom-Sipitang road. It is believed they were planning to smuggle the pangolins to the peninsula.

Cross-country: Pangolins worth RM1.2m saved from the pot (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Friday/National/20070914080303/Article/pppull_index.html)

On Sep 16 (Malaysia), the Perlis Anti-Smuggling Unit (UPP) seized live pangolins valued at RM1.2 million, in its biggest ever haul. The 330 pangolins were in two vehicles which were abandoned in Kampung Kok Mak. The drivers of the Thai registered pick-up lorry and a small Malaysian registered lorry were gone by the time the UPP arrived. The 1.6 tonnes of pangolin were brought from Kedah, Penang and northern Perak for the Thai exotic meat market, where they sell for around RM800 per kg.

On Sep 12, 95kg of dried pangolin skins worth RM95,000 were seized in Kampung Cina, Padang Besar.

Vietnamese Police Confiscate Monkeys Bound For China (Source

http://news.aol.com/story/_a/vietnamese-police-confiscate-monkeys/n20070919041909990006?ecid=RSS0001)

On Sep 17, Authorities in northern Vietnam confiscated 91 Long-tailed Macaques smuggled from southern Vietnam and destined for China. The animals, weighing more than 200 kilograms (440 pounds), were to be sold in China where they would apparently be used to make traditional medicines and served as delicacies in restaurants. Sixteen of the animals were dead and the rest were very weak when police found them on a truck heading to the Vietnam-China border area.

Star tortoises seized at Chennai airport (Source

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IE920071004234725&Title=Chennai&rLink=0>
<http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20071004/784103.html>)

On Oct 4, Air customs officials seized 333 live star tortoises, meant for smuggling to Malaysia, from a Kuala Lumpur-bound passenger.

Sting in tail as wife sends scorpions in mail (Source

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20071003/od_afp/philippinesoffbeatmail_071003131012)

On Oct 3, a Philippine customs officer found a consignment of deadly scorpions and spiders, allegedly sent by an angry wife. The consignment was sent from Hong Kong to an address in suburban Manila and was declared as personal clothing.

Two arrested in pangolin bust (Source

http://www.bangkokpost.com/News/08Oct2007_news12.php)

On Oct 7 (Thailand), police arrested two men and seized 130 endangered pangolins from their pick-up truck as they were on their way to Nong Khai. The two men, Tui Prasertkaew, 39, and Danai Sima, 28, admitted they were hired to transport the pangolins from Sadao, on the border with Malaysia in Songkhla, to Nong Khai in the Northeast.

3 men held over poaching (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Wednesday/National/2056607/Article/index.html)

On Oct 9, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN), Malaysia raided the homes of three plantation workers and sized an assortment of endangered species, among which a leopard cat and a mouse deer. They also found the carcasses of mouse deer, porcupines and other animals. The three men, aged 18, 30 and 41 were handed over to the Merapoh police headquarters to be charged.

Smuggler flees, dead panther recovered (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Saturday/National/2059154/Article

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/10/13/asia/AS-ODD-Malaysia-Dead-Panther.php>)

On Oct 11 (Malaysia), teams from the Kelantan Wildlife Department (PERHILITAN) and the Anti-Smuggling Unit (UPP) found the carcass of a 2-year-old panther in the boot of a car, after trailing the smuggler for six hours. The 40kg carcass, worth around RM16,000, was most likely meant for the cooking pot in Thailand. Its internal organs had been removed and wrapped in white plastic and diesel oil had been smeared on the package to reduce the smell. The driver escaped by jumping into a boat and crossing the river into Thailand.

Chinese Police seized 64 bear paws (Source

<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2007-10-26/144214170618.shtml>)

On Oct 14, policemen from Xing'an county of Guilin, Guangxi province seized 64 paws, both from the Malayan Sun Bear and Black Bear. The total weight of paws was more than 130 kg. The smallest weighed 1.5kg, and the largest 4kg. This was one of the biggest cases of illegal wildlife trade recorded in recent years.

975 star tortoises rescued, sent to Sanjay Gandhi park for care (Source

<http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/975-star-tortoises-rescued-sent-to-Sanjay-Gandhi-park-for-care/231595/>)

On Oct 19 (India), the Bombay Customs Department seized 610 Star Tortoises. The smuggler, both from Chennai were getting ready to board a flight to Bangkok. The men were carrying the tortoises in two medium sized suitcases with trolley. On Oct 22, the same Customs Department seized 365 Star Tortoises also preparing to board for a flight to Bangkok. The tortoises were sent to the Sanjay Gandhi National Park for safe keeping and treatment.

Monkeys, snakes seized (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Saturday/National/20071020093803/Article/index.html)

On Oct 19 (Malaysia), Department of Wildlife and National Parks enforcement officers rescued 112 monkeys and two pythons waiting to be illegally sold from a house in Kampung Bahagia.

300 illegal rosewood logs seized in Thailand (Source

http://www.bangkokpost.com/News/21Oct2007_news06.php)

On Oct 20, Highway police seized 300 logs of protected rosewood worth more than one million baht that was being smuggled out of the country. The precious rosewood logs were carried in a container truck, which travelled from Sa Kaeo's Watthana Nakhon district to Klong Toey port in Bangkok. A pickup truck was leading the way. The vehicles were pulled over at a police checkpoint on a highway in Prachin Buri's Si Maha Phot district. The truck driver was charged with illegal possession of protected wood and the pickup truck driver was charged with providing support to offenders. The logs were meant for export to China. Between Oct 1-20, highway police confiscated 2,496 logs of rosewood, and 155 sheets of processed rosewood, with a combined value of more than 22 million baht.

Exotic wildlife seized in northeastern province of Vietnam (Source

<http://www.vnagency.com.vn/Home/EN/tabid/119/itemid/219631/Default.aspx>)

On Oct 24, Police from the northeastern province of Quang Ninh have seized over 150 kg of reptiles, including 48 kg of *Varanus salvator* and 105 kg of *Ptyas korros*. They were then handed over to the provincial rangers to release into forest.

50 living monitor lizard seized in China (Source

<http://www.bbwnews.com.cn/ReadNews.aspx?ID=35746>)

On 24 Oct, more than 50 living monitor lizard *Varanus salvator* were seized in a bus, which was bound for Beihai city from Dongxing. This is the third case of monitor lizard in Fangcheng since this July and almost 200 monitor lizards were confiscated.

The species is listed as State-Protected Animal Class I in China.

Seizure of Wildlife from Country Heights, Kajang, Malaysia (Source

http://www.wildlife.gov.my/webpagev3_english/news_raid24Okt07.htm)

On Oct 24, the Wildlife Criminal Unit (WCU) and the Operation team from the Law and Enforcement Division (PERHILITAN), Kuala Lumpur, raided a premise in Country Height, Kajang, seizing several wildlife species listed in the Schedule 1, Schedule 3 and Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972/76. Some of the species seized included the Bird of Paradise, Hornbill, Mountain Peacock-Pheasant, Leopard Cat, Malaysian Peacock-Pheasant, Cockatoo, Parakeet and Lory.

Star tortoises seized in Chennai, India (Source

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/28/stories/2007102861190700.htm>)

On Oct 26, Officials of the Customs Air Intelligence Unit seized 555 star tortoises from a Kuala Lumpur-bound passenger at the Anna international terminal. The passenger concealed the 200 big-sized tortoises in four cloth bags and the remaining reptiles were kept in perforated plastic containers. The passenger was arrested.

600 star tortoises seized at airport (Source

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/31/stories/2007103161780700.htm>)

On Oct 29 (India), Customs officials at the Anna international terminal arrested a 35-year-old man on the way to Kuala Lumpur and seized 600 star tortoises of various sizes. A senior officer said that on all the three occasions in which star tortoises were sought to be smuggled through the airport recently, the passengers invariably managed to bypass the scanning of baggage by fixing the old security strap on them.

Traveller arrested at Chennai airport (Source

<http://news.oneindia.in/2007/10/30/traveller-arrested-at-chennai-airport-1193727893.html>)

On Oct 30 (India), a Kuala Lumpur-bound passenger, carrying 120 conches, was arrested by the CISF Intelligence officials for trying to check in without screening his baggage at the Anna International airport. He was handed over to the airport police and later to the customs officials, who cleared that there was no ban in carrying conches. He was however, arrested for trying to check in without scanning his baggage.

Protected reptiles rescued in raids (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Friday/National/2074782/Article/index.html)

On Oct 31 (Malaysia), the Department of Wildlife and National Parks officers raided two premises in Rompin and Endau and rescued several protected animals. They also seized

carcasses and the hide of several protected species. During the first raid they seized some wild boar meat weighing 560kg, 168 monitor lizard hide and a seven-metre-long live python. Seven clouded monitor lizards were rescued during the second raid. The officers found the lizards tied and stored in sacks at the back of the house.

Trader's 115 cobras seized (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Wednesday/National/2078852/Article)

On Nov 5 (Malaysia), the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) officers seized 115 Asiatic cobras in a raid on a shop in Simpang Empat. The snakes were crammed into several cages with up to 30 snakes in a single cage. According to PERHILITAN, the trader is a middleman for wildlife smugglers who export snakes to China. If found guilty, he could be fined RM3,000 or jailed three years under the act for illegal possession of snakes, and fined RM5,000 or jailed three years or both for the cruelty offence. The snakes will be released back into the wild in various locations.

Boa products seized in China (Source

http://www.fj.xinhuanet.com/news/2007-11/05/content_11583743.htm)

On Nov 5, officials from Xiamen Customs stopped two smuggling cases and seized several boa products, including 25 whole skins, 361 processed skin pieces and 676 gallbladders. One suspect was flying from Kuala Lumpur, the other one from Bangkok. They were both arrested.

Two suspects were sentenced to suspension of Death penalty in Xiamen for smuggling pangolins (Source

<http://news.163.com/07/1107/05/3SM2O80K0001124J.html>)

On Nov 6 (China), Xiamen Intermediate Court of Fujian province heard the biggest pangolin smuggling case in China. Two suspects were sentenced to suspension of Death penalty and confiscated personal property with the value of RMB 3 million. Other three suspects were sentenced to life imprisonment or ten years. From Sept 2005 to May 2006, this group smuggled 68,000 kg of pangolin meat, 900 kg of pangolin scale, 2849 pangolins and 2600 geckos from Indonesia to Xiamen, and then such animal products were transported to Guangzhou and Shantou in Guangdong province.

Python skins seized in Malaysia (Source

http://www.mmail.com.my/Current_News/mm/Friday/Hotnews/20071109114849/Article/index_html)

On Nov 6, six PERHILITAN Wildlife Crime Unit officers raided a shop-house in Raub, Pahang, and found 351 reticulated python skins worth about RM438,000 hidden in a metal barrel and gunny sack. The trader had a licence to trade and preserve snake skin but failed to show the records of the seized products. Investigations also revealed that the skins were bought cheaply from unlicensed traders or snake hunters from all over the country. The meat extracted from the skins weighed about 14,000kg and was sold for about RM50 per kg.

Wildlife seizure at Jerantut, Pahang, Malaysia (Source

http://www.wildlife.gov.my/webpagev3_english/news_raidJerantut07.htm)

On Nov 7, the PERHILITAN Wildlife Crime Unit seized 821kg of wild boar (19 specimen) meat worth about RM80,000 at two houses in Jerantut, Pahang. The meat was found in a freezer when the team stormed the houses. It is believed they were waiting to be sold to local restaurants that serve exotic meals.

Thailand saves pangolins bound for China restaurants (Source

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jVurOsYozbvO1IDFHQoQJWhxOFGQ>
http://www.bangkokpost.com/News/14Nov2007_news19.php)

On Nov 8, Thai Customs officers rescued more than 100 pangolins and arrested three men attempting to smuggle the endangered animals to China, where they were destined for the cooking pot. The pangolins, worth an estimated one million baht (29,400 dollars), were trapped in the Indonesian jungle and smuggled via Malaysia and southern Thailand. Their meat is regarded as a delicacy in China and their scales are believed to cure a wide range of ailments. The pangolins, which were all alive despite being hidden under layers of coconuts, will be handed over to the Royal Forest Department to be nursed back to health before being released into an appropriate habitat in Thailand,

Nabbed at 'kancil' barbecue (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Wednesday/National/2083601/Article/index.html)

On Nov 9, a Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) team stumbled on two poachers roasting three mousedeers in an abandoned logging camp. Both admitted they did not have a permit to kill the animals. The mousedeers were seized along with a Baretta shotgun, 24 cartridges, an ammunition belt, two torchlights and a parang.

On Nov 10, the team went back to the same spot and found another four poachers roasting six mousedeer. Two tried to flee into the jungle but were caught. Officers seized the roasted mousedeers, a Stevens shotgun, 29 cartridges, an ammunition belt, three torchlights and three parangs. The poachers had no permits to hunt mousedeer.

Illegally-harvested coral seized (Source

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2007/11/17/nation/19500419&sec=nation>)

On Nov 13 (Malaysia), the State Fisheries Department seized a boat laden with almost a tonne of coral at Tanjung Tuan in Port Dickson. The department acted on a tip off from the public. The harvesters jumped into the sea as the enforcement team neared their sampan and escaped into the mangrove area. This is the fourth time such an incident was reported during the year.

Two whole Asian Elephant tusks were confiscated by Suzhou Customs (Source

<http://www.jschina.com.cn/gb/jschina/js/suzhou/userobject1ai1700220.html>)

On Nov 15 (China), Suzhou Customs seized two whole Asian Elephant tusks, which were smuggled via international mail and one suspect was detained. The tusks were bought via the Internet from a man who sold ivory in Thailand with the price of RMB 8000. The tusks were disguised as crafts and posted to China by EMS.

Guangzhou Customs seized smuggled ivory (Source

http://www.gd.xinhuanet.com/newscenter/2007-11/21/content_11724412.htm)

On Nov 21 (China), Guangzhou Customs seized 805-grams of ivory at Baiyun Airport. The ivory was carried by a Singaporean who declared them as wood. This is the fourth case of ivory seizure at Baiyun Airport since June 2006. A total of 116 kg of ivory was confiscated, worth RMB 5.9 million.

Men held for possessing Star Tortoises (Source

<http://news.oneindia.in/2007/11/28/man-held-possessing-star-tortoises.html>

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v3/bm/news.php?id=299110>)

On Nov 28 (India), Customs officials at Chennai Airport arrested a man for carrying star tortoises worth Rs eight lakh when he was about to board a Chennai-Kuala Lumpur flight. He was carrying two large suitcases with a total of 909 star tortoises.

Pangolins rescued from mango orchard (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Thursday/National/2113992/Article/index.html)

On Dec 18 (Malaysia), more than 300 live pangolins were saved from the pot after the Perlis Anti-Smuggling Unit (UPP) seized them from a mango orchard. A total of 248 adult and 58 young pangolins worth almost RM70,000 were rescued. The pangolins, brought in from Kulim, Kedah, were believed to be headed for Thailand. They were wrapped in cloth and stacked inside 97 large plastic baskets. No arrests were made as the pangolins were unguarded during the raid. This was the second biggest seizure of pangolins in the state this year. The state UPP has thus far seized 804 pangolins worth almost RM3 million this year.

Snakes on a plane land in Vietnam (Source

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i5gr-OH0asV83nIxmF959PKpOSpw>)

On Dec 19, Vietnamese airport officials discovered a cargo of 700 live snakes on a Thai Airways flight from Indonesia but destroyed them after no-one claimed them. Accompanying paperwork identified the content as "live fish".

Pangolin trader sentenced to ten years in prison (Source

http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2007-12/21/content_7289420.htm)

On 20 Dec (China), one defendant was sentenced to 10-year imprisonment for illegally transporting rare wildlife, and was fined CNY 1000 in Foshan, Guangdong province. On Jul 31, the defendant was employed to transport 17 live pangolins from Fangcheng, Guangxi province to Foshan, Guangdong province with a reward of CNY 1000. He was seized during a checking routine by Foshan policemen.

Forest Policemen seized pangolin scales and Asian elephant skins (Source

http://www.yndaily.com/html/20071224/news_97_39210.html)

On Dec 24 (China), it was reported that forest policemen from Lianghe County, Yunnan Province seized 40 kg pangolin scales and 49 kg Asian elephant skins transported from Lianghe to Baoshan in an agricultural vehicle. The suspect was arrested and the case is under the further investigation.

Reptile smuggler stopped in Guangzhou (Source

<http://news.chinatimes.com/2007Cti/2007Cti-News/2007Cti-News-Content/0,4521,130505+132007122501497,00.html>)

A Korean man was stopped by airport customs in Guangzhou, China when he tried to smuggle 10 species of reptiles from Indonesia to China. 106 pythons and monitor lizards were found in the suspect's luggage, 7 species of which (67 animals) being CITES listed.

More Star-Tortoises Seized At Airport (Source

<http://www.newstodaynet.com/newsindex.php?id=3596%20&%20section=7>)

On Dec 28 (India), Over 650 live star- tortoises concealed in a suitcase of a Kuala Lumpur-bound passenger were seized by Customs officials. The officials noticed that the security sticker pasted on his baggage was tampered with. After examination it was found to contain 657 live star-tortoises. This was the second seizure of star tortoise in a week's time.

Man held over 35 monitor lizards (Source

<http://www.nst.com.my/Wednesday/National/2122053/Article/index.html>)

On Dec 30 (Malaysia), a villager in Kluang was caught with 35 endangered clouded monitor lizards valued at RM20,000. The Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) found the lizards in three gunnysacks behind his house. According to PERHILITAN, they were

meant to be sold to the exotic meat market as lizards are valued for their meat. A licence is needed to hunt any monitor lizard species.

For Jan – March 2008:

4 held, pangolins and meat seized (Source

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Sunday/National/2125253/Article/index.html)

On Jan 03 (Malaysia), the Department of Wildlife and National Parks officers arrested four men and seized three live pangolins and the meat of several endangered species in raids on two houses in Gua Musang, Kelantan.

Vietnam police find two live tigers in a car in Hanoi (Source

http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5h6icPU6l4Ki5J_aEy00lqgm_7D0g)

On Jan 05, Vietnamese police came face-to-face with two live tigers they found in a passenger car in central Hanoi when they busted an illegal wildlife trafficking gang. When they searched the traffickers' homes on the outskirts of Hanoi, police found four more tigers cut up in a freezer, seven live bears and bear parts, rhinoceros horns and elephant tusks.

No way home for 71 turtles (Source

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/inquirerheadlines/regions/view/20080202-116425/No-way-home-for-71-turtles>)

Seventy-one box turtles (Philippines), locally called bao-o or iyon, and commonly called the Asian box turtle (*Cuora amboinensis cuora*), were released near the Pulangi River in Barangay Dologon, about 60 kilometers south of Malaybalay City. The turtles were among the 140 that police officers confiscated from a Cagayan de Oro City-bound bus in Manolo Fortich on Jan. 10. Acting on a tip, police found the turtles crammed inside three plastic sacks, 38 of them already dead. Police officers reported that the cargo came from Pikit, Maguindanao, and probably hunted along the Liguasan Marsh.

Ton of live snakes found on plane in Vietnam (Source

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.ihtml?xml=/news/2008/01/18/wsnake118.xml>

http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking_news/breakingnews.php?id=125254)

On Jan 18, Vietnamese customs officials discovered a ton of live snakes on a plane. The illegal cargo was hidden inside 60 ice boxes marked "fresh fish" and was marked for a fake address in Hanoi.

Tiger parts seized in Singapore (Source

http://groups.msn.com/SingaporeCats/general.msnw?action=get_message&mview=0&ID_Message=14696&LastModified=4675657690633545667)

On Jan 21, a sting operation by ACRES, with officers posing as buyers, led to the seizure of the alleged tiger parts by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA). The products he was selling included alleged tiger paw, claws and teeth. These items are sold as lucky charms.

Man accused of smuggling tigers surrenders in Thailand (Source

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=143&art_id=nw20080201092647263C567840)

On Feb 01, A Thai man accused of trafficking tiger and leopard carcasses as well as hundreds of live pangolins turned himself over to authorities. The Thai navy raided the trafficking operation on the Laos border late on 29 January and retrieved the carcasses of six tigers and five leopards, plus 275 live pangolins.

Airport officials foil smuggling of insects, spiders (Source

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/regions/view/20080208-117640/Airport-officials-foil-smuggling-of-insects-spiders>)

On Feb 06 (Philippines), Aviation security and environment officials seized spiders, beetles and centipedes that two persons were allegedly trying to smuggle through the New Bacolod-Silay Airport in Silay City. Aviation security personnel detected the presence of the bugs when the box containing these passed through an X-ray machine and informed the environment office. The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) seized 32 beetles locally known as *bagangan*, three tarantula spiders and two six-inch centipedes.

More than 140 kilos of coral confiscated (Source

<http://www.vnagency.com.vn/Home/EN/tabid/119/itemid/236062/Default.aspx>)

On Feb 14 (Vietnam), Border guards in rural Binh Son district's Binh Hai commune in the central province of Quang Ngai seized 143 kilos of live black coral worth 400 million VND (25,000 USD). The coral was being illegally transported across the border to China.

Vietnam seizes thousands of smuggled pangolins (Source

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/189494.vietnam-seizes-thousands-of-smuggled-pangolins.html>)

On Feb 29, Customs police in Vietnam seized more than seven tons of smuggled pangolins (2,460 slaughtered pangolins and nearly 900 kilograms) en route from Indonesia to China. The slaughtered animals were found in a container, registered as fresh fish, at the port of Haiphong, 100 kilometers east of Hanoi.

Cops seize tigers and crocs from suspect's home (Source

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/3/1/nation/20505809&sec=nation>)

On Mar 01 (Malaysia), two tigers, two monkeys, a gibbon and two crocodiles were seized from an oil palm plantation house in Bukit Selambau, near Sungai Petani. The house was owned by a man wanted by police in connection with a RM3.9mil armed robbery case in Gurun on Feb 5.

Vietnam seizes 17 more tons of smuggled pangolins (Source

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/190406.vietnam-seizes-17-more-tons-of-smuggled-pangolins.html>)

On Mar 06, Customs police in Vietnam discovered at least 17 more tons of slaughtered pangolins being smuggled from Indonesia to China, just a week after seizing a then-record seven tons of the endangered animals. The pangolin carcasses were in two containers, also registered as fresh fish, at the port of Haiphong.

Thai Police seize endangered species in market raid (Source

<http://www.coloherp.org/20080323.htm>

On Mar 23, The Royal Thai police have arrested two vendors and seized more than 200 rare animals including endangered tortoises during a raid at Bangkok's popular weekend market. Species confiscated included 14 Slow Loris, an otter, 96 birds (including 24 owls), several tortoises and marine products (including 480 hard corals, 187 soft corals, 22 sea fans and 22 Giant Clams).

113 pangolins rescued (Source

<http://nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/read.php?newsid=30068761>)

On Mar 24 (Thailand), Customs officials seized 113 pangolins and a lot of contraband goods worth more than Bt10million from a smuggler. The smuggler was arrested after the officials

intercepted his pickup on the Phet Kasem Road in Songkhla's Rattaphum district. His vehicle carried the pangolins, and a large number of smuggled cigarettes, liquor, fireworks and oil.

Hotline tip leads to bust by Wildlife Crime Unit (Source

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/4/4/hotline-tip-leads-to-bust-by-wildlife-crime-unit.html>)

On Mar 28 (Malaysia), acting on a tip-off from the Tiger Crime Hotline, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks' (DWNP) Wildlife Crime Unit raided a house in Gombak, Selangor and seized frozen meat and skins of species including Barking Deer, Mousedeer and Malayan Porcupine. A man was arrested on suspicion of violating the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972 and possible firearm-related laws. Wildlife products and an apparent homemade shotgun, ammunition and a whistling device to attract deer were also found during the raid. He was handed over to Police.

NB: This e-bulletin does not take any responsibility for the accurateness of the reported seizures as all information is taken as presented, from the media.

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of materials in the "CITES in Southeast Asia Watch" e-Bulletin do not necessarily imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of TRAFFIC or its partners WWF and IUCN, nor of the Secretariats of ASEAN or CITES.

Dear Reader,

The CITES in Southeast Asia e-Bulletin aims to help government agencies, organisations and interested individuals in the ASEAN region to keep updated on **CITES-related issues, events and plans in South-east Asia**. The overall aim is to facilitate and to encourage increased cooperation and information sharing on wildlife trade issues that are important to South-east Asia.

This e-Bulletin is produced by TRAFFIC – the wildlife trade monitoring network of WWF and IUCN.

TRAFFIC and its partners continue to work in partnership with South-east Asian governments – as well as with the ASEAN Secretariat and relevant ASEAN fora – to address wildlife trade, CITES implementation and wildlife trade law enforcement.

You may access previous e-bulletin issues and other resources via the ASEAN Wildlife Trade Initiative's website: <http://www.traffic.org/25/network9/ASEAN>.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia should you have any queries or requests for further information on CITES and wildlife trade in South-east Asia.

Julia Ng Su-Chen,
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Calendar of events:

5-14 October 2008

The IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain

6-10 October 2008, Vietnam

11th Informal Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (IAMME)

7th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM)

East Asian Summit (EAS) Environment Ministers Meeting

1-2 November 2008, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

The Meeting of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Marine Science and Technology (SCMSAT)

3-5 November, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

The 56th Meeting of Committee on Science and Technology (COST)

11-15 November 2008

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Valencia, Spain

12-14 November 2008

Wildlife Trade Regulation Training-workshop, Manila, Philippines

15 November 2008

Deadline to submit to the CITES Secretariat information as mentioned in Notification to the Parties No. 2008/058 to facilitate discussions at the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee or the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee

18-19 November 2008

CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force, Nairobi, Kenya

17-22 November 2008

International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings, Cancun, Mexico

20 February 2009

Deadline to submit to the CITES Secretariat for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES:

- a) proposals to amend Appendix I or II that concern a species or a population of a species that occurs partly or totally outside of the territory under its jurisdiction, without prior consultation of the other range States (see Resolution Conf. 8.21 on Consultation with range States on proposals to amend Appendices I and II); and
- b) amendment proposals made pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14), on Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II . (see Notification to the Parties No. 2008/056 for more information)

7 May 2009

Deadline for submission of documents for 58th meeting of the Standing Committee

CITES Notifications and News:

13 June 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/038): Appendices I, II and III

In Notification to the Parties No. 2008/027, of 2 April 2008, the Secretariat informed Parties of amendments to Appendix III that enter into effect on 1 July 2008.

2. In the meantime, in discussions with the Animals Committee's specialist on zoological nomenclature and with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the need for a number of corrections to the Appendices has emerged, mostly to ensure consistency with the standard nomenclatures adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14).

3. Therefore, in revising the Appendices to incorporate the changes to Appendix III, the Secretariat has taken the opportunity to make the corrections indicated below:

- **Elephantidae:** In the French version only, in footnote 5, paragraph g) iv) has been corrected to refer to CoP12 instead of CoP14.
- **Anatidae:** The spelling of *Cygnus melancoryphus*, in Appendix II, has been corrected.
- **Psittacidae:** The species *Cyanoramphus cookii* and *Cyanoramphus saisseti* have been included in Appendix I. These two taxa were previously considered to be subspecies of the Appendix-I species *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*. Under the standard nomenclature for birds adopted at CoP14, they are now recognized as separate species.
- **Emydidae:** The spelling of *Glyptemys muhlenbergii*, in Appendix II, has been corrected.
- **Dendrobatidae:** The name *Cryptophyllobates azureiventris* has now been included in Appendix II. This frog species was previously considered to be in the genus *Phyllobates* (included in Appendix II at CoP6 in 1987), then in the genus *Epipedobates* (from CoP8, in 1994). At CoP14, the Conference of the Parties adopted a *Taxonomic checklist of CITES listed amphibians* as a new nomenclature for this group.

– **Ambystomatidae**: This family name has been corrected in the Appendices. In *Amphibian species of the world*, the previous name 'Ambystomidae' is now recognized as an incorrect spelling.

4. The revised edition of Appendices I, II and III, valid from 1 July 2008, has been published on the CITES website under 'Official documents / Appendices': <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/index.shtml>

19 June 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/039): Export quotas

1. In Resolution Conf. 14.7 on Management of nationally established export quotas, in paragraph 19 of the Annex, the Conference of the Parties recommends that, "once the Secretariat has received and published details of an annual export quota from a Party, it should publish the same quota for following years until it receives a revised quota from that Party."

2. In 2008, some Parties have sent to the Secretariat their export quotas established for the current year, listing a number of species but excluding others for which quotas were provided in 2007. In these cases, it is not clear whether the Party concerned has not established export quotas for 2008 for the species that are no longer included in the list or whether it expected the Secretariat to republish the 2007 quotas for these species.

3. In order to avoid any ambiguity, the Secretariat hereby informs the Parties of the way in which it interprets Resolution Conf. 14.7. When the Secretariat receives from a Party a list of annual export quotas for a specified year, it now assumes that the list contains all of the export quotas set for that year unless otherwise indicated by that Party. This means that, if the list of export quotas for the year excludes species for which quotas were set in the previous year, it will be assumed that no quota has been set for these species in the current year, and they will not be published on the CITES website.

15 July 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/045): Orchids: annotation for species included in Appendix II

At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007) the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions:

Directed to Parties and the Plants Committee

14.133 *Countries of export and import should make recommendations and prepare identification material on further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively. The results shall be sent to the Plants Committee, which shall evaluate them and adopt the appropriate measures.*

Directed to the Plants Committee

14.134 *The Plants Committee shall monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and shall report on the issue at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

2. At its 17th meeting (Geneva, April 2008), the Plants Committee considered how to implement these Decisions and agreed on the following recommendations:

a) Exporting and Importing countries are requested to send to the Secretariat identification material (ID material) and technical information including a pictorial guide on artificially

propagated orchid specimens exempted from the CITES Appendices as well as on specimens from the wild. Identification material should be submitted for taxa already exempt but also for taxa that could be exempted in the future.

b) This, and other available information, to be put on the CITES website by the CITES Secretariat for the use by any Party interested. This will provide assistance for differentiation of wild with artificially propagated orchids. Exporting and importing countries should consult with the nomenclature specialist for plant species, for validation and accuracy of the information, before sending the ID material to the Secretariat to be publicised on the CITES website. His contact details are as follows:

Mr Noel McGough

Conventions and Policy Section

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c) Any new exemption proposals which are submitted to the Conference of the Parties should include sufficient ID materials.

d) To monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, Parties are invited to respond to the following questions by 31 October 2008 and submit their responses to the Secretariat:

i) *Have you encountered any problems concerning the exemption annotation of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II as exporting or importing country or for both?*

ii) *Please describe the problems that have been arising.*

iii) *What is your recommendation to resolve the problems?*

iv) *Do you observe positive effects or do you have any other comments?*

e) Any new or additional information arising on problems concerning the exemption of orchid species should be lead towards the Chair of the Plants Committee, her contact details are as follows:

Sra. Margarita África Clemente Muñoz

Catedrática/Full Professor

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15 July 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/047): Presentation skills training for CITES trainers on CD-ROM

1. The Secretariat is pleased to announce the launching of the Presentation skills training for CITES trainers on CD-ROM.

2. A new addition to the CITES e-Seminar series, this course aims to give educators and trainers the knowledge to improve their presentation and facilitation skills. Composed of three modules: *Approaches to instruction*, *What is learning*, and *Presentation skills*, it offers a balanced overview between educational theory and practice, complemented by readings and exercises.
3. A French and Spanish version of this CD-ROM will be developed subject to the availability of financial resources.
4. Copies of this CD-ROM are available on request from the Secretariat.
5. The Secretariat also wishes to remind Parties that other electronic capacity-building resources, such as the Course for enforcement officers and information module for prosecutors and the judiciary and the Introduction to CITES for Customs, both on CD-ROM, are also available from the Secretariat.

15 July 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/048): Listing of specific populations in Appendix III

1. At its 17th meeting (Geneva, April 2008), the Plants Committee considered a document submitted by the United States of America on *Problems regarding population-specific Appendix-III timber listings* (PC17 Doc. 16.4). In this document, the United States indicates that:

- a) several of the listings of timber species in Appendix III include only specified national populations of the species;
- b) the intent of such listings and the manner in which they should be implemented are often not clearly understood; and
- c) it would be useful to learn from other Parties what problems they have observed with respect to implementing the Convention in relation to such listings of timber species.

2. The United States is contemplating the preparation of a document on this subject for consideration by the Standing Committee.

3. At the request of the Plants Committee, the Secretariat invites Parties to inform the Management Authority of the United States of any problems that they have encountered in relation to the implementation of CITES in the cases referred to above. Their contact details are as follows:

Chief, Division of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service International Affairs
4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212 ARLINGTON,
VA 22203 United States of America

Fax: +1 (703) 358 22 80/81 Email: managementauthority@fws.gov

4. Parties are requested to send their comments by 31 October 2008.

30 July 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/049): Periodic review of species included in the CITES Appendices

1. Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on *Establishment of committees* mandates the Animals and Plants Committees to undertake a periodic review of animal or plant species included in the CITES Appendices by *inter alia* establishing a schedule for reviewing the biological and trade status of these species.

2. In Resolution Conf. 14.8, on *Periodic Review of the Appendices*, the Conference of the Parties agrees that:

the Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional

periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP). The list should be established at their first meeting after the meeting of the CoP that initiates the review period.

Fauna

3. At its 22nd meeting (Lima, July 2006), the Animals Committee agreed on the list of species to be reviewed between the 13th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

4. At its 23rd meeting (Geneva, April 2008), the Animals Committee requested the Secretariat to raise awareness of the following selected taxa for which no reviewer had been identified. The species in Southeast Asia listed by the Committee are as below. It also invited Parties to conduct reviews for remaining species of Felidae which the Committee had been instructed to review in Decision 13.93 (Rev. CoP14).

| Taxon | Range States and territories |
|---------------------------------|--|
| MAMMALIA | |
| <i>Catopuma badia</i> | Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia |
| <i>Felis chaus</i> | Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia , China, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic , Lebanon, Mongolia, Myanmar , Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand , Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam |
| <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> | Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia , China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (SAR of China), India, Indonesia , Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic , ? Macao (SAR of China), Malaysia, Myanmar , Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines , Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore , Taiwan (Province of China), Thailand, Viet Nam |
| <i>Prionailurus planiceps</i> | Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore (int.), Thailand |
| <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i> | Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia , China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar , Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan (Province of China), Thailand, Viet Nam |

| AVES | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Argusianus argus</i> | Brunei Darussalam (br.), Indonesia (br.), Malaysia (br.), Myanmar(br.), Singapore (ex.), Thailand (br.) |
| <i>Ithaginis cruentus</i> | Bhutan (br.), China (br.), India (br.), Myanmar (br.) , Nepal (br.) |
| <i>Lophophorus impejanus</i> | Afghanistan (br.), Bhutan (br.), China (br.), India (br.), Myanmar (br.) , Nepal (br.), Pakistan (br.) |
| <i>Lophophorus sclateri</i> | China (br.), India (br.), Myanmar (br.) |
| <i>Lophura imperialis</i> | Viet Nam (br.) |
| <i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i> | Bangladesh (br.), Bhutan (br.), Cambodia , China (br.), |

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | India (br.), Lao People's Democratic Republic (br.), Myanmar (br.), Thailand (br.), Viet Nam (br.) |
| <i>Polyplectron germaini</i> | Viet Nam (br.) |
| <i>Syrmaticus humiae</i> | China (br.), India (br.), Myanmar (br.), Thailand (br.) |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| AMPHIBIA | |
| <i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i> | Bangladesh, India, Madagascar (int.), Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka |

Distribution Key:

? – outstanding query over status

ex. – extinct

int. – introduced

br. - breeding

Blue fonts – Southeast Asia countries

Parties are invited to notify the Secretariat of:

a) voluntary contributions for contracting experts for the review of taxa for which no voluntary experts has been identified by the Animals Committee.

b) experts who have been identified or contracted for the review of species.

c) offers to undertake the review of these species.

5. Reviews should be sent to the chairmen of the Animals Committees' intersessional working groups on periodic review of animal species so that they may be considered at the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee, scheduled for April 2009.

Flora

6. At its 15th meeting (Geneva, May 2005), the Plants Committee identified a list of taxa to be reviewed between the 13th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13 and CoP15). At its 16th meeting (Lima, July 2006), the Plants Committee finalized the selection of taxa to be reviewed by CoP15.

7. At its 55th meeting (The Hague, June 2007) the Standing Committee endorsed the Plants Committee's list of plant taxa to be reviewed before CoP15 (Doha, 2010), with the exception of the species deleted from the Appendices or transferred from one Appendix to another at CoP14 (The Hague, 2007). This was notified by the Secretariat through Notification to the Parties No. 2008/004 of 28 January 2008.

8. At its 17th meeting (Geneva, April 2008) the Plants Committee asked the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties in order to raise awareness of selected taxa for which no reviewer had been identified.

9. Parties are therefore invited to find the resources to carry out the reviews of the following species on behalf of the Plants Committee. The species found in Southeast Asia are below:

| Taxon | Range States |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Dioscorea deltoidea</i> | Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Viet Nam |
| <i>Hedychium philippinense</i> | Philippines |

Blue fonts – Southeast Asia countries

10. Parties interested in conducting the reviews are invited to contact the chairman of the intersessional working group of the Plants Committee at:

Mr Jonas Lüthy

CITES Management Authority

Federal Veterinary Office

Schwarzenburgstrasse 155

CH-3003 BERN, Switzerland

T: +41 (31) 323 83 99 F: +41 (31) 323 56 86 E: jonas.luethy@bvet.admin.ch

11. Reviews should be completed and sent to the working group chairman by **15 November 2008** so that they may be considered at the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee, scheduled for early 2009. Parties that have information on the selected taxa are also invited to forward this to the chairman.

12. The Plants Committee also requests that Parties submit to the Secretariat information regarding available funds to undertake reviews.

30 July 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/051): Nomenclatural matters

1. At its 23rd meeting (Geneva, April 2008), the Animals Committee agreed to the following on standard nomenclature:

a) Nomenclatural references for the three bird species *Glaucidium mooreorum*, *Micrastur mintoni* and *Pionopsitta aurantiocephala* were accidentally omitted from Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) and the Animals Committee will propose to correct this at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15);

b) Domesticated forms of dogs and dingoes are not considered as covered by the CITES listing of *Canis lupus* and the Animals Committee will prepare an amendment proposal to that effect for CoP15; and

c) The standard nomenclature reference for mammals agreed to in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) does not recognize the subspecies of *Puma concolor* listed in Appendix I. The Animals Committee will therefore submit a proposal at CoP15 to recommend that *Puma concolor* be added to the list of species that are still treated according to the former mammal reference of 1993.

2. Parties are invited to take note of that.

30 July 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/053): Explanatory notes for the export quotas

Background

1. The Secretariat publishes every year on its website details of export quotas established for CITES-listed species.

2. The export quotas are of four types:

a) voluntary national export quotas communicated to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph a), under 'RECOMMENDS' in section VIII of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14) on Permits and certificates, and paragraph 15 of Resolution Conf. 14.7 on Management of nationally established export quotas;

b) export quotas recommended by the Conference of the Parties, Standing Committee or the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee;

c) export quotas for raw elephant ivory, submitted in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14) on Trade in elephant specimens; and

d) export quotas for Acipenseriformes established in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP14) on Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish.

Quotas for other species

6. Unless otherwise specified, the quotas published on the website were established by the Party concerned.
7. The publication of quotas on the CITES website does not imply endorsement by the Secretariat. Voluntary export quotas are established by the Parties and the Secretariat has no indication as to whether these quotas are based on the determinations that Parties are required to make in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, namely that exports should not be detrimental to the survival of the species.
8. Quotas established by the Conference of the Parties are marked with '*'. Those resulting from recommendations of the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee in the context of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species are marked with '+'.
9. Quotas established represent the maximum number of specimens that are authorized for export in the current calendar year (January to December) unless otherwise indicated.
10. Unless otherwise specified, quotas refer to specimens of wild origin.
11. Quotas communicated to the Secretariat for any particular year should not include specimens that were obtained for export in preceding years but for which no export permit was issued in these years.
12. In Resolution Conf. 14.7 on *Management of nationally established export quotas*, in paragraph 19 of the Annex, the Conference of the Parties recommends that, "once the Secretariat has received and published details of an annual export quota from a Party, it should publish the same quota for following years until it receives a revised quota from that Party." The Secretariat interprets this so that, when it receives from a Party a list of annual export quotas for a specified year, it assumes that the list contains all of the export quotas set for that year unless otherwise indicated by that Party. This means that, if the list of export quotas for the year excludes species for which quotas were set in the previous year, it will be assumed that no quota has been set for these species in the current year, and none will be published on the CITES website.

Export permits

13. Management Authorities are referred to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14), section VIII, paragraph b) under 'RECOMMENDS', concerning references to quotas on export permits. Each export permit issued for specimens of a species subject to an export quota should indicate the total number of specimens exported to date (including those covered by the permit) and the annual quota for the species, in the following format:

1250/4000 (200X)

In this example 1,250 specimens of the species concerned have been authorized to be exported to date (**including those on the current permit**), out of an annual quota of 4,000 in the year 200X. This information should be provided in block 11a of the standard permit form [see Annex 2 to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14)]. By implication, Management Authorities should keep a running total of all exports authorized for species subject to quotas.

14. When submitting their nationally established export quotas, and when issuing permits, Parties should follow the standard nomenclatures contained in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP14) to indicate the names of species. An easy reference to these names is provided to all Parties in the *Checklist of CITES species* as well as in the database of CITES-listed species accessible through the CITES website [see Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14), section I, paragraph I].

15. The terms used on permits to indicate the types and sources of the specimens being traded and the purpose of the trade should follow those indicated in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14) and in the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports.

16. Where, for any species, separate annual export quotas have been established according to the source of the specimens, for example wild specimens ('W') and ranched specimens ('R'), the information specified on each export permit should refer to the export quota in relation to the source, and not to the total export quota for the species.

17. When the established export quota for a species refers only to one source, (e.g. 'W'), Parties should not accept specimens from another source (e.g. 'C') as part of the same quota.

18. The Secretariat will recommend to potential importing countries the rejection of permits that do not, where appropriate, include the details referred to in paragraph b) under 'RECOMMENDS' in section VIII of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP14).

Further improvements to the establishment and management of quotas

19. The Secretariat recommends that Parties make quotas as specific as possible, i.e. to refer to a number or other restrictions (weight, measure, age class, etc.), to indicate a requirement for tagging or labelling where applicable, and to describe precisely the type of specimens to be exported (e.g. live specimens, hunting trophies, etc.) and their source (e.g. wild taken, ranched or bred in captivity).

Updating quotas during the current year

20. The Secretariat will publish additional quotas and amendments to quotas on the CITES website throughout the year. It will be clearly indicated where additions or changes have been made, and on what date.

21. No further Notifications will be issued to announce such additional quotas or amendments, but Parties and organizations that have problems in accessing updated quotas from the website may request updates to be provided via email or by post.

4 September 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/056): Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

1. The Government of Qatar has agreed to host the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, which, with the agreement of the CITES Secretariat, will be held in Doha, Qatar, from Saturday 16 to Thursday 28 January 2010.

2. In accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP13) on the Submission of draft resolutions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the text of any draft resolution and any document submitted for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties should be communicated to the Secretariat at least 150 days before the meeting, i.e. by 19 August 2009.

3. In accordance with the provisions of Article XV, paragraph 1, of the Convention, any Party may propose an amendment to Appendix I or II for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The text of the proposed amendment shall be communicated to the Secretariat at least 150 days before the meeting, i.e. by 19 August 2009. The amendment proposals should be based on the criteria adopted in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14).

4. However, if a Party intends to submit a proposal to amend Appendix I or II that concerns a species or a population of a species that occurs partly or totally outside of the territory under its jurisdiction, and if it does not intend to consult the other range States before the submission of its proposal, the Party, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 8.21 on Consultation with range States on proposals to amend Appendices I and II, should submit its proposal to the Secretariat at least 330 days prior to the meeting, i.e. by 20 February 2009.

5. Additionally, any amendment proposal made in accordance with the provisions of Resolution

Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14), on Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II, should be received by the Secretariat at least 330 days before the meeting, i.e. by 20 February 2009.

6. The Secretariat reminds Parties that the Conference of the Parties has recommended in Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP13) that, as a general rule, documents submitted for consideration should not exceed 12 pages in length and that any draft resolution or decision that has budgetary or workload implications for the Secretariat must contain a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. Moreover, the Standing Committee has agreed that the Secretariat should ask any Party that submits a document longer than 12 pages to provide it in the three working languages of the Convention.

7. In order to avoid problems of communication, the Secretariat wishes to stress the following in relation to the submission of documents:

a) Documents must be submitted by either:

i) the Management Authority that, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 2 or 3, of the Convention, has been designated as authorized to communicate with other Parties and with the Secretariat (the main Management Authority if there are several); or

ii) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

b) Documents and amendment proposals submitted by any other authority can not be accepted;

c) The Secretariat will formally register documents as having been received for the meeting only when it receives an original signed letter with the documents, specifying what has been submitted, and sent by the deadlines specified above (for which the postmark serves as proof).

d) To facilitate and expedite the processing of documents and publication on the CITES website, Parties are requested to send electronic versions by email (to info@cites.org) or on CD-ROM.

8. Further information on the arrangements for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be provided to the Parties in due course.

18 September 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/057): Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: the International Framework

1. The Secretariat is circulating the information below at the request of Dr Margarita Clemente of the International University of Andalusia and Chair of the Plants Committee.

2. The International University of Andalusia is organizing the eighth edition of its Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: the International Framework. The course will take place from 13 April to 26 June 2009.

3. The course will be given in English and Spanish at:

International University of Andalusia

Sede Antonio Machado

Palacio de Jabalquinto

Plaza de Santa Cruz, s/n.

E-23440 BAEZA (Jaén), Spain

Tel.: +34 (953) 74 27 75 Fax: +34 (953) 74 29 75 Email: machado@unia.es

Web: www.unia.es

4. The attached documents (available in English and Spanish only) contain detailed information on the Master's course and the requisite application forms. See: <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008.shtml>

5. The Master's course is open to 30 graduate students with university degrees and the International University of Andalusia, with the support of the Spanish CITES authorities and of the CITES authorities of several Parties involved, will grant scholarships covering tuition and/or

accommodation fees (see the attached document for details). The deadline for applications and scholarship requests is **30 October 2008**.

24 September 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/058): Information to be submitted for consideration at the next meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees

1. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties agreed that Parties should report on a number of subjects with a view to facilitating discussions at the forthcoming 24th meeting of the Animals Committee or 18th meeting of the Plants Committee.

For ease of reference the Secretariat lists these below.

a) Sharks

i) Parties should report progress in identifying endangered shark species that require consideration for inclusion in the Appendices, if their management and conservation status does not improve [paragraph b) of Decision 14.104];

ii) Parties landing and exporting products from shark species of concern identified by the Animals Committee (see Annex 3 to document CoP14 Doc. 59.1) should report on the fisheries, environmental and international trade management measures adopted, levels of landings and exports, and the status of these stocks and fisheries [paragraph c) of Decision 14.108]; and

iii) shark fishing and trading entities, particularly the major fishing or trading entities [Indonesia, the European Community, India, Spain, Taiwan (province of China), Mexico, Argentina, the United States of America, Thailand, Pakistan, Japan, Malaysia, France, Brazil, Sri Lanka, the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Nigeria and Portugal*] are strongly encouraged to identify opportunities to: improve, in cooperation with FAO and relevant fishery management bodies, the monitoring and reporting of catch, bycatch, discards, market and international trade data, at the species level where possible and to establish systems to provide verification of catch information [paragraph c) of Decision 14.115].

b) *Cistanche deserticola*, *Dioscorea deltoidea*, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Picrorhiza kurroo*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Rauvolfia serpentina* and *Taxus wallichiana*

Range States of the above species should report on progress in the implementation of regionally coordinated actions should improve the management of and prevent illegal trade in these seven species, including, inter alia, measures to combat illegal trade, regional capacity-building workshops and harmonization of regulations and legislation [paragraph b) of Decision 14.20].

c) Orchidaceae spp.

Countries of export and import of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II should provide results of efforts to prepare identification material on further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of these orchids, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively [Decision 14.133].

d) Bigleaf mahogany

Bigleaf mahogany range States should report progress on the implementation of a regional strategy for the species with timelines to address: non-detriment findings, legal origin, and compliance and enforcement issues. The strategy should include the 15 recommendations

made in the report of the BMWG (document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1) and mechanisms to ensure adequate implementation and enforcement [paragraph 4 of the Action Plan adopted through Decision 14.145].

e) *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *D. granadillo* and *D. stevensonii*

i) Range States of the above-mentioned species shall:

- A. complete and update the available information on these;
- B. assess their populations, taking into account inter alia the distribution, cover, density, size structure, regeneration dynamics and changes in land use;
- C. report the existence, extent and type of forest plantations of the species; and
- D. compile the information related to export of the species, including volumes and products, indicating the percentage from plantations [paragraph 1 of the Action Plan adopted through Decision 14.146].

ii) All Parties shall:

- A. compile the information on the import and export of the species, including origin (wild or cultivated), volumes and products, indicating the country of origin and final destination; and
- B. report the existence, extent and type of forest plantations of these species, including exported volumes and products [paragraph 2 of the Action Plan adopted through Decision 14.146].

2. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving the above reports by **15 November 2008** so as to have sufficient time to collate and summarize the information in due time for the forthcoming Animals and Plants Committee meetings. Parties are requested to make their reports as succinct as possible.

8 October 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/059): Tiger-breeding operations

1. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 14.69 as follows:

Parties with intensive operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale shall implement measures to restrict the captive population to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers; tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives.

2. This matter was raised at the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, 2008), at which time the Committee called for relevant Parties to submit reports on the subject, which could be reviewed at its 58th meeting. The Secretariat was asked to distribute a Notification to the Parties to provide guidance in determining: to which Parties the Decision applied; how such Parties might report; and the issues to be covered in such reports. The Standing Committee convened a working group to assist the Secretariat in drafting its Notification to the Parties. The working group consisted of China, India, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), the United States of America, IUCN, Species Management Specialists, WWF (on behalf of the International Tiger Coalition) and the Secretariat. The Secretariat has drawn upon input from working group members in preparing this Notification. It should not, however, be seen as reflecting a consensus on the part of the group.

3. The annex to this Notification contains information and observations that Parties may find of assistance in determining their response, if any, to Decision 14.69.

4. Parties that have tiger-breeding operations and have any doubts as to whether the Decision applies to them, are encouraged to submit a report describing such operations for consideration by the Standing Committee. This will enable the Committee to exclude from its review any non-relevant operations.

5. The Secretariat requests that the Parties concerned submit reports by **28 February 2009**, so that these may be published on the CITES website and distributed to Standing Committee members.

Matters relating to Decision 14.69

In determining whether Decision 14.69 is applicable to them, Parties are invited to consider the following guidance in relation to the terms used in the Decision:

- “trade”, in the opinion of the Secretariat, may be regarded for the purposes of this Decision as referring to both domestic and international trade;
- “intensive operations” may be regarded as operations focused exclusively or primarily on the frequent production of tigers;
- “commercial scale” may be regarded as a level of production that enables a breeding operation, or is intended to enable it, to derive a substantial proportion of its revenue from the production of tigers, including, but not limited to, sale of parts and derivatives; and
- “a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers” may be regarded as a level determined solely by the objective of contributing to the long-term conservation of the species in the wild, having regard to the need to preserve the genetic diversity of existing subspecies and populations.

Parties seeking to implement Decision 14.69 may find the IUCN Guidelines for the Placement of Confiscated Animals (English only), prepared by the IUCN/SSC Re-introduction Specialist Group, of use. These are available at the following URL:

<http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2002-004.pdf>

Such Parties are also encouraged to take the following issues into account during implementation and reporting:

- a) the establishment of a national individual animal registration process, incorporating a marking system using, for example, microchips or DNA profiling;
- b) the segregation of sexes to prevent further breeding;
- c) the development of a strategic plan, incorporating deadlines, for the phasing-out of intensive breeding operations on a commercial scale or their conversion to operations devoted solely to the conservation of tigers; and
- d) the development of a policy with regard to what will happen to tigers currently in intensive breeding operations.

16 July 2008

Ivory sales get the go-ahead (Source: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml)

Geneva, 16 July 2008 – Today, the CITES Standing Committee (which oversees the implementation of CITES between the major conferences) has given the go-ahead to the one-off sale of ivory that was agreed in principle in June 2007. Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe are now authorized to make a single sale of a total of 108 tons of government-owned ivory. The following quantities of raw ivory have been approved: Botswana: 43,682.91 kg, Namibia: 9,209.68 kg, South Africa: 51,121.8 kg, and Zimbabwe: 3,755.55 kg.

The Committee also agreed to designate China as an importing country. Japan had already been allowed to import ivory in 2006. Both countries stated that they would closely monitor their domestic markets.

All the proceeds of the sale are to be used exclusively for elephant conservation and local communities living side-by-side with elephants.

The Secretariat will closely supervise this sale and evaluate its impact on elephant population levels throughout Africa. We will continue monitoring the Chinese and Japanese domestic trade controls to ensure that unscrupulous traders do not take this opportunity to launder ivory from illegal origin", said the Secretary-General of the Convention, Mr Willem Wijnstekers.

CITES banned the international commercial ivory trade in 1989. In 1997, recognizing that some southern African elephant populations were healthy and well managed, it permitted Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe to make a one-time sale of ivory to Japan totalling 50 tons. This sale took place in 1999 and raised some USD 5 million for elephant conservation.

Legal sales of ivory derive from existing stocks gathered from elephants that have died as a result of natural causes or from problem-animal control. Today the elephant populations of southern Africa are listed in Appendix II of the Convention (which allows commercial trade through a permit system), while all other elephant populations are listed in Appendix I (which prohibits all imports for commercial purposes).

Other Updates on Wildlife Trade and Wildlife:

28 May 2008

ASEAN wildlife crime task forces meet in Lao PDR (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/5/28/asean-wildlife-crime-task-forces-meet-in-lao-pdr.html>)

Vientiane, 28 May 2008—Members of ASEAN-WEN, the world's largest wildlife law enforcement network, gathered in Vientiane this week to map out the next steps to suppress the rampant wildlife crime in Southeast Asia, which is robbing the region of its rich biodiversity and natural resources.

The meeting brought together police, Customs and Environmental Officers from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and hosts Lao PDR to review progress in implementing the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN). Delegates from the USA, New Zealand, Interpol and the CITES Secretariat also attended.

Key topics discussed at the Lao PDR meeting included ways to improve investigations into organized wildlife crime, capacity building for wildlife crime task forces, the development of wildlife crime databases, and training for relevant personnel. The role of the ASEAN-WEN Program Co-ordination Unit and the Network's draft sustainability plan were also discussed.

The meeting was facilitated by the Lao PDR Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Department of Forestry, with logistical and financial support from the ASEAN-WEN Program Coordination Unit (PCU) and the ASEAN-WEN Support Program, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

1 July 2008

Final call for pangolins (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/6/29/final-call-for-pangolins.html>)

Singapore, 30 June 2008—The perilous situation facing pangolin populations in Asia comes under the spotlight this week during a meeting jointly organized by Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

Pangolins or scaly-anteaters are caught for consumption of their meat and for their scales,

which are used in traditional medicines. However, excessive poaching means numbers in the wild are dwindling rapidly.

Pangolins are the most numerous mammals found in confiscated illegal wildlife cargoes throughout Southeast Asia, despite a complete ban on their trade. They are regularly seized in Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam, the majority of shipments destined for China. The commonest pangolin species in trade is believed to be the Malayan Pangolin *Manis javanica*, sourced from Malaysia and Indonesia as populations elsewhere in their natural range have been decimated.

This week delegates from government agencies responsible for wildlife trade management, non-governmental organizations and scientists will discuss issues and challenges of pangolin trade enforcement in Asia, their conservation, ecology and biology as well as husbandry and management in zoological institutions.

Workshop participants from China, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Lao PDR and Singapore will examine how to combat the illegal trade in pangolins and address the detrimental impact on wild populations, and will develop an action plan to assist relevant enforcement agencies in prioritizing and focusing their efforts to halt the illegal pangolin trade.

The findings and recommendations from the workshop will be circulated to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Parties, International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO)-Interpol, World Customs Organisation (WCO) and to national focal points of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) to form a coherent approach to information/ intelligence sharing at a regional level.

1 July 2008

Healthy living: wildlife use in traditional medicines in Cambodia and Viet Nam (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/6/30/healthy-living-wildlife-use-in-traditional-medicines-in-camb.html>)

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 1 July 2008—TRAFFIC today published the results of field studies carried out between 2005 and 2007 examining the use of traditional medicine systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam.

The reports seek to improve the understanding of the use of natural resources in traditional medicine and enhance the management and regulation of traditional medicine networks to promote conservation and sustainability.

The scale of traditional medicine use in Cambodia and Viet Nam is significant, and both plants and animals play a critical role. In Cambodia, over 800 types of plants (approximately 35% of the country's native species) are currently used in Traditional Khmer Medicine while in Viet Nam more than 3900 species of flora and 400 species of fauna are used in traditional remedies.

TRAFFIC's findings are published separately as: An overview of the use and trade of plants and animals in traditional medicine systems in Cambodia (PDF, 4.7 MB) and An overview of the use of plants and animals in traditional medicine systems in Viet Nam (PDF, 1.2 MB). Both reports can be downloaded from <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/6/29/final-call-for-pangolins.html>

The first examines the use of wildlife products in Traditional Khmer Medicine and its possible impacts on the biodiversity of the country and wider region. The second presents the findings of traditional medicine market surveys conducted in north and south Viet Nam

The reports recommend further research and increased public awareness and urges further action to improve information gathering and sharing amongst the numerous agencies, institutions and organizations involved in the harvest, trade and use of traditional medicine.

9 July 2008

G8 leaders commit to “reducing threats from the illicit trade in wildlife” (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/7/9/g8-leaders-commit-to-reducing-threats-from-the-illicit-trade.html>)

Cambridge, UK, 9 July 2008—Leaders of the world’s eight richest nations, “the G8”, who are meeting this week in Hokkaido, Japan, have released a statement on climate change and the environment.

In it, the leaders reiterate their commitment to increase efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss significantly, in order to achieve the globally agreed 2010 Biodiversity Target. They acknowledge this can only be achieved “by reducing threats from the illicit trade in wildlife.”

A paragraph on forestry in the statement recognizes the urgent need to curb illegal logging and its associated trade. The leaders’ commitment follows the presentation of the G8 Forest Experts’ Report on Illegal Logging, and the leaders promise to “follow up, as appropriate, its preliminary list of options.”

The relevant paragraphs on illegal wildlife crime are as follows:

Forests

36. We encourage actions for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) including the development of an international forest monitoring network building on existing initiatives. Recognising the urgent need to curb illegal logging and its associated trade, we welcome the G8 forest experts’ report on illegal logging. We will follow up, as appropriate, its preliminary list of options. We will make all possible efforts by ensuring close coordination among various fora and initiatives with a view to promoting effective forest law enforcement and governance and sustainable forest management worldwide. We will also consider ways to enhance our cooperation to combat forest fires.

Biodiversity

37. Recognising the crucial importance of the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity as highlighted at the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Bonn, we share the concerns regarding the vulnerability of biodiversity. We endorse the Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity and reiterate our commitment to increase our efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss significantly in order to achieve the globally agreed 2010 biodiversity target, including by reducing threats from the illicit trade in wildlife. We will promote a co-benefits approach that will lead to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well. We

note the importance of improving the interface between research activities and the public and policy makers.

3 October 2008

New study on what's driving the wildlife trade in south-east Asia (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/10/3/new-study-on-whats-driving-the-wildlife-trade-in-south-east.html>)

Cambridge, UK, 3 October 2008—A report released today by the World Bank and TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, examines what factors influence wildlife trade in south-east Asia, and in particular trade that is illegal and unsustainable.

Launching the report, *What's Driving the Wildlife Trade?*, Tony Whitten, the World Bank's Senior Biodiversity Specialist for the East Asia and Pacific Region, commented on the rationale in carrying out the study: "Understanding the factors that influence wildlife trade is absolutely fundamental if steps are to be taken to curb illegal trade or influence unsustainable trade so that it becomes sustainable."

Most experts pointed to the rising affluence in consumer countries in Asia as a major driver of demand for wildlife products in the region, rather than to poverty within the countries considered.

TRAFFIC, working in collaboration with other IUCN programmes, carried out the study on behalf of the World Bank by consulting more than 80 experts regarding the wildlife trade in four south-east Asian countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam, to gather their insights. The experts included individuals working for conservation organizations, government staff, and independent researchers.

"A key issue emerging from the study is that while there was a clear agreement that many traded wildlife species have declined substantially as a result of over-exploitation, there is less consensus about the most effective ways to address these declines," said Steven Broad, TRAFFIC's Executive Director.

Experts believed that all of the approaches used, including regulating harvest and trade, increasing consumer awareness of the problems of illegal and unsustainable trade, and providing people depending on trade with alternative sources of income, were effective in some situations. However, there was no one single approach that emerged as being the most effective, with multiple approaches being applied in many instances.

Experts consulted during project workshops highlighted the importance of enforcing existing regulatory trade controls, which were found by the study to have increased in the region, and to use a variety of approaches simultaneously. The study also showed that experts believed that approaches such as support for local tenure arrangements, traditional practices and market-based approaches such as certification were often highly effective when applied, but have received less attention to date.

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

6 October 2008

Over-harvesting a key threat according to new IUCN Red List (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/10/6/over-harvesting-a-key-threat-according-to-new-iucn-red-list.html>)

Barcelona, Spain, 6 October 2008--The new IUCN Red List of Threatened Species was unveiled today at the World Conservation Congress currently underway in Barcelona. A record 44,838 species have been assessed, of which 16,928 (38%) are threatened with extinction.

The new assessment finds 1,141 mammal species, more than 1 in 5 of all mammals, is threatened with extinction. Over harvesting is a key threat, wiping out larger mammals, especially in Southeast Asia, but also in parts of Africa and South America. Species like the Caspian Seal *Pusa caspica* move from Vulnerable to Endangered. Its population has declined by 90 percent in the last 100 years due to unsustainable hunting and habitat degradation and is still decreasing.

However, conservation can bring species back from the brink of extinction, with five percent of currently threatened mammals showing signs of recovery in the wild. They include the African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*, which moves from Vulnerable to Near Threatened, largely a reflection of the recent and ongoing population increases in southern and eastern Africa. The status of the species varies considerably across its range.

New groups of species appear in the Red List for the first time, including Indian tarantulas, highly prized by collectors and threatened by the international pet trade.

All 161 grouper species have been assessed for the first time too, of which 20 are threatened with extinction, including the Squaretail Coral Grouper *Plectropomus areolatus* which is eaten as a luxury food and is typically fished unsustainably at its spawning aggregations.

Assessment of reptiles finds that species like the Cuban Crocodile *Crocodylus rhombifer* has moved from Endangered to Critical, because of population declines caused by illicit hunting for its meat.

"The new IUCN Red List highlights the urgent conservation priority of tackling the illegal and unsustainable trade that is driving some wildlife species towards extinction," said Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC.

6 October 2008

IUCN Red List reveals world's mammals in crisis (Source: http://www.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/index.cfm?uNewsID=1695)

Barcelona, Spain, 6 October, 2008 (IUCN) – The most comprehensive assessment of the world's mammals has confirmed an extinction crisis, with almost one in four at risk of disappearing forever, according to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, revealed at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona.

The new study to assess the world's mammals shows at least 1,141 of the 5,487 mammals on Earth are known to be threatened with extinction. At least 76 mammals have become extinct since 1500. But the results also show conservation can bring species back from the brink of extinction, with five percent of currently threatened mammals showing signs of recovery in the wild.

The results show 188 mammals are in the highest threat category of Critically Endangered, including the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*), which has a population of just 84-143 adults and has continued to decline due to a shortage of its primary prey, the European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).

China's Père David's Deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*), is listed as Extinct in the Wild. However, the captive and semi-captive populations have increased in recent years and it is possible that truly wild populations could be re-established soon. It may be too late, however, to save the additional 29 species that have been flagged as Critically Endangered Possibly Extinct, including Cuba's Little Earth Hutia (*Mesocapromys sanfelipensis*), which has not been seen in nearly 40 years.

Nearly 450 mammals have been listed as Endangered, including the Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*), which moved from Least Concern to Endangered after the global population declined by more than 60 percent in the last 10 years due to a fatal infectious facial cancer.

The Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), found in Southeast Asia, moved from Vulnerable to Endangered due to habitat loss in wetlands. Similarly, the Caspian Seal (*Pusa caspica*) moved from Vulnerable to Endangered. Its population has declined by 90 percent in the last 100 years due to unsustainable hunting and habitat degradation and is still decreasing.

Habitat loss and degradation affect 40 percent of the world's mammals. It is most extreme in Central and South America, West, East and Central Africa, Madagascar, and in South and Southeast Asia. Over harvesting is wiping out larger mammals, especially in Southeast Asia, but also in parts of Africa and South America.

The Grey-faced Sengi or Elephant-shrew (*Rhynchocyon udzungwensis*) is only known from two forests in the Udzungwa Mountains of Tanzania, both of which are fully protected but vulnerable to fires. The species was first described this year and has been placed in the Vulnerable category.

The summary statistics of species listed in the 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species can be downloaded at http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/2008rl_stats_tables_all.xls

6 October 2008

Thai tiger heroes recognized

Bangkok, Thailand: A naval officer who uncovered six tiger carcasses being illegally exported was among 10 Thai nationals honoured recently by the international environmental conservation community.

WWF-Thailand joined fellow environmental organization PeunPa, the International Tiger Coalition and the Save the Tiger Fund to mark International Tiger Day, celebrated around the world to raise awareness of the plight of wild tigers.

Thailand is one of the last places in the world with substantial numbers of tigers left in the wild. It is also a transit country used by wildlife criminals smuggling tigers from other countries on to international black markets.

The 10 "tiger heroes" are all government officers who made a significant contribution to conserving the wild tigers of Thailand and neighbouring countries by learning more about their ecology, patrolling against tiger poachers or stopping traffickers.

In January Lieutenant Commander Teeranang Dangpun, head of the Thatphanom Patrol Station

on the Mekong River, stopped and seized two trucks filled with dead carcasses including six tigers, three leopards and two clouded leopards as well as 275 pangolins.

All of these species are protected under Thai law and it is illegal to trade in them. The carcasses were about to be loaded into boats headed for Laos for delivery to customers from Vietnam and China.

Among the other nine to be honoured were three members of Thailand's Khao Nangrum Wildlife Research Station, three Thai customs officials and a representative of the Thai police force.

"Thanks to Royal Thai officers from the Department of National Parks, Plant and Wildlife Conservation, Customs, Police and Navy, the wild tigers of Thailand and Asia stand a better chance of surviving," said Mook Wongchyakul of PeunPa.

In the last century, global wild tiger populations plummeted from about 100,000 to around 4,000 today. With only 7 per cent of its original habitat left, the world's remaining tigers face an uphill battle. Therefore it is extremely important to protect the remaining tiger habitat.

"Tiger range countries like Thailand often get a lot of criticism for not protecting tigers and tiger habitat effectively," said WWF Thailand Country Director Dr Willam Schaedla.

"But many people here are working very hard to save them. In this regard, Thailand's tiger heroes deserve a lot of credit for all the ways they have cooperated across agency and organizational lines. They are doing the right thing under tough circumstances."

23 September 2008

Burma Takes Measures for Wildlife Conservation (Source: BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific)
Yangon [Rangoon] - Myanmar [Burma] has taken measures for wildlife conservation by restricting the catching of elephant in the country's Bago Yoma mountain range where most of the animal take sanctuary, the local Weekly Eleven journal reported Tuesday.

In order to prevent elephant from extinction in the country, the Myanmar forestry authorities allowed catching of the wild elephants in the mountain range's Hlegu area only once in three years, prescribing the ratio of the elephants caught to be handed over to the authorities, according to the report.

Meanwhile, the authorities also called on the country's people to participate in the task for conservation of rare birds and wildlife to stabilize the ecosystem which faces collapse as in the world, singling out that there are only nine endangered species out of 144 in the world can be found in Myanmar.

Golden deer, one of the nine species in existence in Myanmar, are being protected in Chatthin Sanctuary in northwestern Sagaing division, the authorities said, adding that "though three kinds of species of the golden deer are found in South East Asia, there are now only Myanmar golden deer left".

Noting that the population of tigers worldwide gradually declines with tiger species being available in 13 countries only, the authorities said Myanmar is cooperating with seven other

Asian nations in an effort to establish a tiger protection corridor which extends as 5,000 miles (8,000 kilometres) for endangered ones.

Disclosing that there are only 100 tigers left in Myanmar, the authorities said, in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), tiger conservation is being undertaken in Hukaung Valley, the geographical condition of which creates a suitable place for survival of the tigers.

The authorities stressed the need also to conserve the environment, saying that too much extraction of wildlife, plants and fish, establishment of plantation after clearing, the natural forests and pollution endanger the existence of biodiversity in the long run.

The authorities also called for systematic control of indiscriminate cutting down of trees, hunting and trading of wildlife products.

According to the authorities, only about 150 tigers remain alive in Myanmar's tiger reserve.

The tiger data collection of the forestry ministry was jointly carried out with the cooperation of the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) since 1998 with the use of camera trap as well as modern scientific method.

The Hukuang Tiger Reserve in Myanmar's northernmost Kachin state, which was established in 2004, covers an area of about 22, 000 square kilometres, and is claimed the largest of its kind in the world. In the wake of tiger extinction threat, Myanmar wildlife police and forest rangers have planned to step up combating wildlife trade and crimes in the tiger reserve and special training programmes have been introduced jointly by the Myanmar forest ministry and the WCS.

The authorities have called for creating a balance between the needs of local communities and the wildlife, which constitutes one of the major challenges for them.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar authorities have warned traditional medicine practitioners in the country to avoid using tiger bones in producing their medicinal products to help conserve endangered animal species.

As tiger has been prescribed as "completely protected" under the Protection of Wildlife and Conservation of Natural Areas Law since 1994, the ministry urged the practitioners to keep away from such practice, otherwise such species would vanish in the country.

Myanmar was estimated to have over 3,000 Bengal and Indochina tigers by 1980, the second in Asia after India, according to experts.

Originally published by Xinhua news agency, Beijing, in English 0419 23 Sep 08.

Recent Notable Seizures:

Malaysian wildlife officials save wok-bound monitor lizards (Source: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/197132,malaysian-wildlife-officials-save-wok-bound-monitor-lizards.html>)

5 April 2008 - Kuala Lumpur - Malaysian wildlife officers seized 222 endangered clouded monitor lizards believed to be bound for the cooking pot at restaurants in neighbouring countries, a news report said Monday. Six officers from the wildlife department in the central state of Pahang were conducting random checks at an oil palm estate late Saturday when they discovered the lizards, said state wildlife director Saharudin Anan. He said the lizards were

bought from locals as well as Indonesian workers who would trap them at the plantation.

No arrests were made in the raid as those responsible for capturing the lizards were believed to have made their escape. However, Saharudin said enforcement officers would increase patrols at the area in order to weed out those responsible. Two years ago, the state's wildlife officers seized 5,400 clouded monitor lizards bound for Hong Kong, he said. Those caught for smuggling endangered species of animals face a fine of up to 5,000 ringgit (1470 dollars) and three years in prison.

Quezon task force seizes cargo of alleged young whale sharks (Source: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/regions/view/20080407-128932/Quezon-task-force-seizes-cargo-of-alleged-young-whale-sharks>)

7 April 2008 - LUCENA CITY -- A cargo of baby sharks, four of them allegedly from the "butanding" (whale sharks) species were intercepted in nearby Pagbilao town early Monday by a task force of provincial fishery officials and environmentalists, an official said. The seized cargo also contained live "lapu-lapu" (groupers) and assorted ornamental fish in several plastic bags with oxygen tubes attached to the containers. Hidden among the piles was a plastic bag with oxygen, which contained nine newly born sharks measuring half a foot to one foot in length.

Illegal turtle hunt off Miri foiled, 88 men held (Source:

<http://www.jphpk.gov.my/English/Apr08%208b.htm>)

8 April 2008 – Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia- Enforcement agencies foiled an illegal turtle-hunting expedition by a group of foreigners and seized more than 40 turtles and tortoises, some 120km off the coast here. Various other types of sea creatures were also seized from six trawlers - two from China, three from Vietnam and one from Thailand, over the past 48 hours. Twenty-five live turtles were rescued from huge tanks.

Turtles, some believed to be the endangered leatherback species, which had been slaughtered were found in a frozen compartment. Dried turtles and shells were also recovered. The authorities involved in the operation comprised the Marine, Fisheries, Customs, Maritime departments and marine police. They towed the trawlers into the Miri River. The 66 Chinese and 22 Vietnamese crew have been detained for questioning.

98 pangolins seized in raid, three arrested (Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/4/15/nation/20949607&sec=nation>)

14 April 2008 – Penang, Malaysia - Ninety-eight pangolins were seized from a storehouse in Kampung Kubang Menerung, Kepala Batas, early yesterday. State operations enforcement unit leader Khairul Nizam Yahaya said three people were arrested in the raid which followed two weeks of surveillance by state Wildlife and National Parks Department officers.

"All 98 pangolins have been found alive and appear to be in good condition and we believe they were meant to be smuggled out of the country," Khairul Nizam said. He added that the department was unsure of which country the pangolins were destined for but estimated their value to be around RM50,000.

1.5 Tons of pangolins destroyed

18 April 2008 – Banjarbaru, Indonesia - South Banjarmasin City Police (Polsekta) and BKSDA of South Kalimantan raided a home in Pekauman Banjarmasin. Police and BKSDA team found 360 skinned and cleaned pangolins in several coolers. Some time earlier, police have already

raided the same house and found 10 live pangolins and 25 deer antlers. The house owner's wife claims that her husband only collects and slaughters the animals. The pangolins were sold to him from Palangka Raya, Kandangan, and other areas.

Cambodia seizes smuggled snakes, turtles (Source:

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hF2MtvP6dDNTdR0jJ-C2779CzlpA>)

28 April 2008 – Phnom Penh — Cambodian authorities have seized nearly half a tonne of live pythons and turtles that were being smuggled from Thailand to Vietnam, a wildlife conservationist group said on Thursday. The animals, which included 11 reticulated pythons, 13 Burmese pythons and 257 turtles, were confiscated on Monday in Battambang province, about 300 kilometres (180 miles) northwest of Phnom Penh, the Wildlife Alliance said. Most of the animals had been "illegally collected (in Cambodia) and had been moved to a large-scale holding facility in Thailand before eventually being shipped to Vietnam through Cambodia," the group said in a statement.

Weighing 418.5 kilogrammes, the haul of creatures included Asian box turtles, Malayan snail-eating turtles, black marsh turtles, 12 threatened yellow-headed temple turtles, and two red-eared slider turtles. The animals were confiscated from a Chevrolet pick-up truck with military licence plates, the group said, adding that a 32-year-old military lieutenant was being questioned.

Ivory items seized (Source: <http://www.cwca.org.cn/Article/ShowArticle.asp?ArticleID=9996>)

9 May 2008 – Kunming, China - Customs officials at Kunming Airport, Yunnan Province, discovered 57 ivory items during the examination of the belongings of one Chinese arriving from Bangkok. The items included carved figures, necklaces, rings and chopsticks, weighing 3.4kg. The suspect claimed that the ivory items were purchased as gifts from a country in Africa when he worked there, and he didn't know the regulation on ivory import.

Duo charged with possessing and torturing 70 pythons (Source:

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Saturday/National/2254880/Article)

25 May 2008 – Malaysia - Two men trading in exotic animals were charged yesterday with torturing 70 pythons by keeping them in a sack and taping their mouths with masking tape. They were also alleged to have had in their possession five types of protected animals including, harimau kumbang (a black leopard) and biawak tikus (clouded monitor lizards). They face six charges under the Protection of Wildlife Act 1972:

- possessing a dead black leopard;
- possessing part of the meat and skin of an estuarine crocodile, known as buaya tembaga;
- possessing seven clouded monitor lizards;
- possessing part of the meat and skin of a deer;
- possessing 73 pythons; and
- torturing 70 pythons by keeping them in a sack and taping their mouths with masking tape.

Authorities act against Tiger poachers in Sumatra (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/6/4/authorities-act-against-tiger-poachers-in-sumatra.html>)

4 June 2008—An Indonesian sergeant major and three other suspects have been arrested by local police as they escorted a consignment of Sumatran Tiger skins to Medan, the capital of northern Sumatra, Indonesia. The Tigers were believed to have been poached in Leuser National Park, Aceh Province. In a separate event, two people were arrested in North Sumatra on 3 June for trading stuffed Sumatran Tiger cubs, also believed to have originated in Leuser.

Banned wildlife seized in Savannakhet (Source: <http://www.kpl.net.la/english/news/edn5.htm>)
5 June 2008 – Laos - Prohibited wild animals, weighing over 90 kg, have been seized at the International Border Checkpoint (Dene Savanh) between Laos and Vietnam in Savannakhet province, according to a local source. The director of the Dene Savanh Border Checkpoint, Mr Bounleuth Southammavong, said a taskforce seized wild animals from a Vietnamese passenger car, licensed plate No 43K6708 during its attempt of smuggling in the wild animals. Following the inspection, 73 kg of lizards and 16 kg of snakes have been found in the car. At present, the officials have presented wild animals to the agriculture and forestry service of Savannakhet province for further release back to the wild.

Indonesian Jailed 32 Months For Having Scales And Skins Of Wildlife (Source: http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/state_news/news.php?id=338208&cat=ct)

9 June 2008 – Klang, Malaysia - An Indonesian fisherman was sentenced to 32 months in jail by the Magistrate's Court here after pleading guilty to four charges of illegally possessing scales and skins of wildlife in a boat last week. Magistrate Fazilatul Isma Ahmad Resngah ordered Zulkarnain Ajib, 43, of Tanjong Balai, Indonesia, to serve eight months consecutively for each charge starting from the day he was caught on June 3.

Zulkarnain pleaded guilty to illegally having six sacks weighing a total of 199.9kg of scales of the Sunda Pangolin, an animal protected by the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, in a boat in Klang waters about 5.20am on June 3. Zulkarnain also pleaded guilty to three charges of illegally possessing 100 pieces of Python Reticulatus skins, 37 pieces of Python Curtus skins and 100 pieces of Varanus Salvator (a water monitor lizard) skins at the same time and place.

Vietnam police arrest man for smuggling rhino horns (Source: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/211255,vietnam-police-arrest-man-for-smuggling-rhino-horns.html>)

7 June 2008 - Hanoi - Police arrested a man accused of smuggling five rhinoceros horns weighing nearly 18 kilograms into the country, an official said Tuesday. Tran Van Lap, 48, was arrested in the northern province of Lao Cai last Saturday on charges of "illegal cross-border transportation of goods," and was brought to Ho Chi Minh City on the same day for interrogation, according to Ly The Son, a senior police officer with Ho Chi Minh City's economic police department.

Customs authorities at the city's Tan Son Nhat Airport detected five horns believed to come from rhinos in Lap's checked luggage as he arrived in the city on a flight from South Africa in January, according to the police. The horns were immediately seized, but Lap was not arrested until the horns were confirmed to belong to white rhinos. The horns are worth an estimated 200,000 dollars.

Vietnam police arrest tiger smuggler (Source: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Flora_Fauna/Vietnam_police_arrest_tiger_smuggler/articleshow/3114126.cms)

9 June 2008 – Hanoi - Vietnamese police have arrested a man smuggling a tiger carcass that he planned to use for traditional medicine in the flourishing illegal wildlife trade, state media said on Monday. The smuggler, Pham Dinh Van, had bought the 190-kilogram (420-pound) animal for 20,000 dollars at a border gate with Laos in central Ha Tinh province to boil down its bones to make traditional medicine, the report said. He was arrested in Hanoi on Friday as he

transported the frozen tiger body, cut into five pieces, the state run English-language Vietnam News daily said.

Civet in showcase seized (Source:

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Thursday/National/2265328/Article/index.html)

10 June 2008 – Kuantan, Malaysia - Visitors to a shopping complex here on Tuesday were surprised to see a Malay civet (musang tenggalung) displayed in a glass case in a shop selling handphones. One visitor decided to tip off the Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) and enforcement officers later seized the animal from its owner.

2,500kg of reptile meat seized from factory (Source: <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/6/14/nation/21549227&sec=nation>)

12 June 2008 – Segamat, Malaysia - A total of 2,500kg of water monitor and python meat was seized from a factory in Cha'ah here. Wildlife and National Parks department (Law and Enforcement) deputy director Celescoriano Razond said the average total market price for the meat seized on June 12 was about RM125,000.

Razond said 1,700kg of water monitor meat and 800kg of python meat was seized. He said the meat was seized because the owner could not prove that the source was legal. Razond said the owner had been issued with several warnings previously for similar offences.

More than 1,000 snakes and rare turtles seized at airport (Source:

http://www.bangkokpost.com/240608_News/24Jun2008_news08.php)

24 June 2008 – Bangkok, Thailand - Two wildlife smugglers were arrested at Suvarnabhumi airport yesterday as police intercepted an illegal shipment of more than 1,000 snakes and turtles. Police said it was the biggest wildlife seizure this year. They received an anonymous tip-off yesterday morning that smugglers would be sending the shipment through the airport's cargo section.

Two men arrived at the airport in separate pick-up trucks, parked the vehicles in the cargo area and began unloading 180 foam boxes for shipment. Within minutes, police arrived and examined the cargo. "There were 379 turtles and 660 snakes, altogether weighing 555 kilogrammes." The animals recovered were rat snakes, Malayan box turtles, yellow-headed temple turtles and snail-eating turtles. The three turtle species are protected.

The suspects were charged with possessing wildlife without a permit and attempting to illegally export wildlife.

Pangolin smuggling bid foiled, man held (Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/metro/story.asp?file=/2008/7/15/north/21821893&sec=north>)

15 July 2008 – Malaysia - THIRTY-ONE pangolins, worth at a market value of RM150 per kilo in Malaysia and RM280 per kilo across the border, have been found in 31 sacks stashed inside a secret compartment of a car.

The secret compartment was located behind the back seat of the car, which was stopped at a General Strike Force checkpoint 400m from the Malaysian-Thai border at about 11.45pm on Sunday.

Snakes, tortoises bound for dinner plates seized (Source: <http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,24100257-5006003,00.html>)

30 July 2008 – Vietnam - Police in Vietnam have seized more than two tonnes of live snakes and 770kg of tortoises about to be smuggled into China. Following a tip-off, Customs officers and the environment police stopped a truck about 160km east of Hanoi. A department official said: "The animals had been illegally imported from Laos and might be bound for Chinese restaurants."

Indonesian police smash one of country's largest illegal wildlife smuggling operations (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/8/5/indonesian-police-smash-one-of-countrys-largest-illegal-wild.html>)

5 August 2008—Officers from the Indonesian National Police Criminal Investigation Bureau have raided the warehouse of a suspected illegal wildlife trader in the city of Palembang in South Sumatra. The raid uncovered over 14 tonnes of Malayan Pangolins *Manis javanica*, packed frozen ready for export, and led to the arrest of 14 suspects.

This is the largest seizure of pangolins ever in Indonesia, and police are linking the arrests to two seizures earlier this year involving more than 23 tonnes of frozen pangolins by customs authorities in Vietnam and known to have originated from Indonesia.

Pangolins Rescued (Source: http://www.bangkokpost.com/140808_News/14Aug2008_news99.php)

14 August 2008 – Chumphon, Thailand - Police yesterday intercepted a pick-up truck carrying about 200kg of endangered pangolins in a hidden compartment. Police stopped the seemingly empty pick-up about 6am. A box was found fixed underneath the vehicle. Inside were pangolins stuffed in nylon bags. The driver Witoon Paping, 43, said he was paid 3,000 baht to drive the vehicle from Surat Thani to Bangkok.

Thai Authorities Raid Illegal Private Zoo at Popular Resort (Source: www.peunpa.org)

24 August 2008 – Chumphon, Thailand - Investigation findings led Thai officials, hot on the trail of illegal wildlife traders, to a family-oriented tourist resort in Chumphon Province about 460 km south of Bangkok.

Pol. Col. Subuk Chavalviwat, Deputy Commander of the Thai Nature Crime Police and Nisit Yomsiri, head of wildlife check-points and representative from Wildlife Friends of Thailand raided the suspected Kangpheka Resort where they discovered 22 animals, all protected species under Thai Law.

Animals seized at the popular resort included two camels and one endangered orangutan, both species not found in the wild in Thailand. These two species lacked official permits for import into the country. Additional confiscated animals included a sun bear, a dusky langur and two white-handed gibbons, all of which are found in Thailand's forests, but are illegal to capture and sell.

Florida orchid seller guilty of smuggling scheme (Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/florida/AP/story/639150.html>)

12 August 2008 – USA - A Florida orchid seller admitted in federal court that he illegally smuggled wild orchids out of the Philippines. Fort Lauderdale businessman Mac Rivenbark

pleaded guilty Tuesday to smuggling about 1,400 orchids into Miami International Airport in 2005. The violation of federal environmental laws carries a five-year maximum prison sentence and stiff fines.

Rivenbark admitted that he falsely claimed in paperwork that the orchids were grown artificially. In fact, they were collected in the wild in the Philippines by a Rivenbark relative and shipped to him. Wild orchids are protected under an international endangered species treaty recognized by 170 countries.

Philippines seizes Vietnamese boat near Malampaya (Source: http://in.news.yahoo.com/137/20080901/362/twl-philippines-seizes-vietnamese-boat-n_1.html)
1 September 2008 - Manila - A Philippine navy gunboat fired at and seized a Vietnamese fishing boat after it was found poaching near Malampaya, the country's natural gas platform, the military said on Monday.

Rear Admiral Ferdinand Golez said a navy vessel on patrol near Malampaya fired warning shots at the Vietnamese registered fishing boat when it entered Philippine waters on Aug. 29. "Our boys apprehended 13 crew of the Vietnamese vessel for illegally entering our territory and for engaging in illegal activities," Golez said in a statement. About 100 dead sea turtles were found aboard the fishing boat as well as chemicals that could damage coral reefs and marine life, he added.

Illegal tiger traders arrested in Indonesia (Source: <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/9/3/apworld/20080903204540&sec=apworld>)
3 September 2008 - Jakarta, Indonesia - Illegal tiger traders are feeling the heat in Indonesia. Four people were arrested last week for selling parts of the giant cats -- from bones and skins to teeth, said Noviar Andayani, an official with the Wildlife Conservation Society, which jointly carried out the raid with local authorities.

That brought the number of busts in the last three months to 10, he said, equal the total amount for the previous three years.

Thai police intercept monkeys bound for Cambodian restaurants (Source: <http://enews.mcot.net/view.php?id=6102>)
4 September 2008 - Sa Kaeo, Thailand - Thai Highway Police in Sa Kaeo province have rescued 24 baby crab-eating monkeys, arresting a Thai driver and five undocumented Cambodians attempting to smuggle the endangered species to Cambodia, where they were destined for cooking pots in Chinese restaurants.

Sa Kaeo Highway Police Thursday were suspicious of a pick-up truck at a check point along the Sa Kaeo-Bangkok road as the truck was being driven at high-speed. Stopping the truck for a search, police found 24 baby monkeys, each separated in net bag and seized equipment to catch monkeys, including nets, traps and nylon bags. After questioning, the police said the group were all monkey traders in Prachinburi, delivering the animals to Chinese specialty restaurants in Cambodia.

Vietnamese fishing crew arrested in the Philippines for marine turtle poaching (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/9/15/vietnamese-fishing-crew-arrested-in-the-philippines-for-mari.html>)

15 September 2008—On 29 August, two boats from a Philippine’s-based task force found 101 Hawksbill Turtles drowned in the cargo of a Vietnamese fishing vessel off the coast of the Philippines. The crew of 13 Vietnamese fishermen was taken to El Nido in the Philippines, where they are likely to be charged with breaking both the Philippine’s Wildlife and Conservation Protection law and the Philippine’s Fisheries Code of 1998. If convicted, they face substantial fines and up to six years in prison.

NB: This e-bulletin does not take any responsibility for the accurateness of the reported seizures as all information is taken as presented, from the media.

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of materials in the “CITES in Southeast Asia Watch” e-Bulletin do not necessarily imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of TRAFFIC or its partners WWF and IUCN, nor of the Secretariats of ASEAN or CITES.

Dear Reader,

The CITES in Southeast Asia e-Bulletin aims to help government agencies, organisations and interested individuals in the ASEAN region to keep updated on **CITES-related issues, events and plans in South-east Asia**. The overall aim is to facilitate and to encourage increased cooperation and information sharing on wildlife trade issues that are important to South-east Asia.

This e-Bulletin is produced by TRAFFIC – the wildlife trade monitoring network of WWF and IUCN.

TRAFFIC and its partners continue to work in partnership with South-east Asian governments – as well as with the ASEAN Secretariat and relevant ASEAN fora – to address wildlife trade, CITES implementation and wildlife trade law enforcement.

You may access previous e-bulletin issues and other resources via the ASEAN Wildlife Trade Initiative's website: <http://www.traffic.org/25/network9/ASEAN>.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia should you have any queries or requests for further information on CITES and wildlife trade in South-east Asia.

Julia Ng Su-Chen,
Programme Officer,
TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
julia_ng@myjaring.net

Calendar of events:

8-24 February 2009

Forest Rangers Training between Lao DPR and Thailand, Khao Yai National Park, Thailand

Host: Department of National Parks and Wildlife and Plan Conservation (DNP)

24-25 February

Judiciary workshop on wildlife crime and prosecution for Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

19 February 2009

Deadline for submission of documents for the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee

20 February 2009

Deadline to submit to the CITES Secretariat for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES:

- a) proposals to amend Appendix I or II that concern a species or a population of a species that occurs partly or totally outside of the territory under its jurisdiction, without prior consultation of the other range States; and
- b) amendment proposals made pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14), on Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II .

28 February 2009

Deadline for submission of reports to the Secretariat on tiger-breeding operations

27 February – 2 March 2009
ASEAN Summit, Hua Hin, Thailand

9-22 March 2009
Wildlife Trade Regulation Course, Suvarnabhumi Bangkok, Thailand
Host: Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) and Airports Authority of Thailand

17-21 March 2009
18th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee, Buenos Aires, Argentina

20-24 April 2009
24th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee, Geneva, Switzerland

7 May 2009
Deadline for submission of documents for 58th meeting of the Standing Committee

6-10 July 2009
58th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee meeting, Geneva, Switzerland

19 August 2009
Deadline to submit to the CITES Secretariat for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES:
a) draft resolutions and other documents; and
b) proposals to amend Appendix I or II that are not concerned by Resolution Conf. 8.21 or Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP14).

5 December 2009
Deadline for observer organizations to register to participate in the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

16-28 January 2010
5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, Doha, Qatar

CITES Notifications and News:

The 174th Party: Armenia

The Secretariat is pleased to welcome Armenia as the 174th Party to CITES.

Armenia is situated in the Caucasus region, between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. It borders Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, all of which have already joined the Convention.

Armenia is home to over 60 species listed in the CITES Appendices, including snowdrops, cyclamens, many birds of prey, wild cats and sturgeons. CITES trade with Armenia comprises mainly reptile leather products and caviar.

The Convention will enter into force in Armenia on 21 January 2009.

20 October 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/060): Editing of documents for CITES meetings

The Secretariat is reviewing the ways in which it conducts its work and how it can fulfil its functions within the constraints of its resources.

Until now, the Secretariat has edited documents it received from Parties and committee members for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the permanent committees as well as externally prepared documents for other CITES meetings. This editing has covered, amongst other things, spelling, grammar, typographical errors, clarity (when the language of a document submitted is not the mother tongue of the author), use of United Nations standard geographical denominations, etc.

The purpose of the present Notification is to inform Parties that, as announced at SC57, as a result of the reduced capacity of the Secretariat, it will no longer be able to edit documents that it receives for CITES meetings.

22 October 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/061): Checklist of CITES species

The new edition of the Checklist of CITES species has just been released. This publication, which is in CD-ROM format, replaces the 2005 edition and is in the three working languages of the Convention.

The 2008 edition has been extensively revised and includes the numerous changes to standard nomenclature and to the Appendices adopted at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (The Hague, 2007). The user-friendliness of the CD-ROM has also been optimized and new sections added, such as a Historical summary of annotations.

Copies of this publication will be sent to all Management and Scientific Authorities of the Parties, to the Enforcement Authorities whose details have been communicated to the Secretariat in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2006/065 of 14 November 2006, and to the members of the CITES permanent committees.

1 December 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/065): CD-ROM on the application of the Addis Ababa principles and guidelines within the biodiversity-related conventions

In 2002, a Biodiversity Liaison Group was established to enhance coherence and cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. This group comprises:

- CBD Convention on Biological Diversity
- CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- CMS Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- ITPGR International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- WHC Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)

At its fifth meeting (Gland, September 2006), the Biodiversity Liaison Group decided to develop an interactive CD-ROM on the application of the Addis Ababa principles and guidelines within the biodiversity-related conventions.

The preparation of this CD-ROM is now complete and the Biodiversity Liaison Group is pleased to announce the launch of the first edition. Composed of four sections, it contains information on the application of the Addis Ababa principles and guidelines by the six biodiversity-related conventions, the full text of the principles and guidelines, relevant decisions, recommendations and resolutions, and background documents and other materials, including links to relevant websites.

This collaborative endeavour aims to promote greater awareness and use of the principles and guidelines. It also exemplifies a strategic and collaborative use of data resources by the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions to meet the information needs of their Parties more effectively.

In due course, the information on this CD-ROM will also be made available through the Web. Copies of the CD-ROM are available from the convention secretariats on request.

5 December 2008

**CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/066): Eighteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Date and venue**

The Secretariat hereby informs Parties that the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 17 to 21 March 2009. The address of the venue will be communicated as soon as it is available.

Parties interested in knowing more about the subjects for discussion may contact either the Secretariat or the Chairman directly at the following address:

Prof. Dra. Margarita Clemente Muñoz
Chairman of the CITES Plants Committee
Dpto. de Ciencias y Recursos Agrícolas y Forestales
Unidad de Botánica Agrícola y Forestal
Campus de Rabanales
Ctra Madrid, Km 396
Edificio Celestino Mutis (C-4)
Universidad de Córdoba
E-14071 CÓRDOBA, Spain
Tel: +34 (957) 21 21 85
Fax: +34 (957) 21 21 85
Email: cr1clmum@uco.es

Registration

Parties that wish to be represented by observers should return the Registration form (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E067A1.pdf>) to the Secretariat no later than 1 March 2009.

Observers from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may participate in this meeting at the invitation of the Chairman. The Procedure (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E067A2.pdf>) for the admission of observers from NGOs to meetings of the CITES Plants Committee provides information on the requirements for NGOs to receive an invitation from the Chairman. The Invitation request for NGOs form (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E067A3.pdf>) should be sent to the Chairman at the address indicated in paragraph 2 above at least 30 days before the meeting, that is by 15 February 2009.

The Secretariat wishes to remind observers from NGOs that they should send to the Secretariat the Registration form, together with a copy of the letter of invitation from the Chairman, at least 30 days before the meeting, that is no later than 15 February 2009.

Participants with access to the Internet are encouraged to use the online registration form that is available on www.cites.org, under Official Documents / Plants Committee / Online registration.

For more information, please go to <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E066.pdf>

16 December 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/067): Twenty-fourth meeting of the Animals Committee

Date and venue

The Secretariat hereby informs Parties that the 24th meeting of the Animals Committee will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 24 April 2009. The meeting will take place at the following address:

Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG) Rue de Varembe 17 CH-1211
GENEVA 20 Switzerland.

Parties interested in knowing more about the subjects for discussion may contact either the Secretariat or the Chairman directly at the following address:

Dr Thomas ALTHAUS
Federal Veterinary Office
Schwarzenburgstrasse 155
CH-3097 LIEBEFELD-BERN, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (31) 323 81 59
Fax: +41 (31) 323 85 22
Email: thomas.althaus@bvet.admin.ch

Registration

Parties that wish to be represented by observers should return the Registration form (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E067A1.pdf>) to the Secretariat no later than 6 April 2009.

Observers from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may participate in this meeting at the invitation of the Chairman. The Procedure (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E067A2.pdf>) for the admission of observers from NGOs to meetings of the CITES Animals Committee provides information on the requirements for NGOs to receive an invitation from the Chairman. The Invitation request for NGOs form (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E067A3.pdf>) should be sent to the Chairman at the address indicated in paragraph 2 above at least 30 days before the meeting that is by 21 March 2009.

The Secretariat wishes to remind observers from NGOs that they should send to the Secretariat the Registration form, together with a copy of the letter of invitation from the Chairman, at least 30 days before the meeting, that is no later than 21 March 2009.

Participants with access to the Internet are encouraged to use the online registration form that is available on www.cites.org, under Official Documents / Animals Committee / Online registration.

For more information, please go to <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E067.pdf>

16 December 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/068): Ecomessage

By Notification to the Parties No. 851 of 18 April 1995, the Secretariat communicated to the Parties the Ecomessage that had been approved by the General Assembly of ICPO-Interpol as the form for reporting on crime involving international trade in and transport of dangerous goods, nuclear waste and specimens of wild fauna and flora. An updated version of the form was distributed with Notification to the Parties No. 966 of 7 March 1997. The Secretariat has encouraged Parties to use this form to report significant incidents of illegal trade and provide information about convicted traders and persistent offenders, as called for in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP14) (Compliance and enforcement).

Several Parties use this form to submit information to both the CITES and Interpol Secretariats, and this provides important sources of intelligence to, for example, enable the preparation of CITES Alerts. The Secretariat encourages all Parties to make use of the form. Go to <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E068-form.pdf> for the form.

This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 966 of 7 March 1997.

16 December 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/069): Illegal trade in rhinoceros horns

At its 57th meeting (Geneva, July 2008), the Standing Committee agreed that a CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force should be convened to address illegal trade in specimens of this species. A Task Force, consisting of mainland China, Hong Kong S.A.R., Kenya, India, Mozambique, Nepal, South Africa, Thailand, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe, together with the CITES Secretariat, ICPO-Interpol and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, met in Nairobi, Kenya, on 18 and 19 November 2008. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime also participated as an observer.

The Task Force agreed that poaching of rhinoceroses and illegal trade in rhinoceros specimens has reached serious levels in some countries. These activities appear to involve organized and sophisticated criminality. It was noted that a number of individuals appear to have repeatedly engaged in poaching of rhinoceroses, dealing in their horns and the smuggling of specimens from one continent to another. However, it was also noted that information regarding such individuals has not been widely shared, collated centrally or effectively analysed. The Task Force is of the firm opinion that opportunities to bring such people, and their associates, to justice have been missed.

In order to address this, the Secretariat requests that, in future, all seizures of rhinoceros specimens (whether horns or other rhinoceros products), should be reported using the Ecomessage format that was designed by Interpol (see Notification to the Parties No. 2008/068, of 16 December 2008 for further details). Any incidents of illegal trade in rhinoceros specimens should also be reported, as should any rhinoceros poaching incidents where persons are detained or suspected. Completed Ecomessages, providing as much detail as possible about the individuals involved, their associates, travel history, intended final use of the specimens, etc. should be submitted to the CITES Secretariat or to the Interpol General Secretariat, via the relevant Interpol National Central Bureau.

16 December 2008

CITES Notification to the Parties (No. 2008/070): Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

In accordance with Article XI, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, at its 15th meeting, to be held in Doha (Qatar), from 16 to 28 January 2010, may decide on the venue of the 16th meeting, which is expected to be held during 2013. Any Party wishing to host the 16th meeting should announce its offer formally at the meeting in Doha through an official representative duly authorized to do so.

If several States offer to host the 16th meeting, the Conference of the Parties will choose the host country by a secret ballot vote.

The Secretariat invites Parties that might be interested in hosting the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to indicate this to the Secretariat. Following receipt of the expressions of interest, the Secretariat will provide copies of the Memorandum of Understanding that should be signed by the host country and the Secretariat, and of the provisional Statement of Requirements, which is an integral part of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Other Updates on Wildlife Trade and Wildlife:

9 October 2008

New foundation to promote sustainable collection of wild plants (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/10/8/new-foundation-to-promote-sustainable-collection-of-wild-pla.html>)

Barcelona, Spain —An important agreement was signed today between the four founding institutions of the International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) to endorse global implementation of the standard through the FairWild Foundation.

ISSC-MAP is a standard that promotes appropriate management of wild plant populations used in medicines and cosmetics to ensure they are not over-exploited. Under the new agreement, the FairWild Foundation will help develop an industry labelling system so products harvested using the sustainable ISSC-MAP criteria can be readily recognised and certified. Use of the standard will be promoted throughout the herbal products industry.

ISSC-MAP was developed by a partnership including the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the IUCN SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group (MPSG), WWF-Germany, and TRAFFIC, plus industry associations, companies, certifiers and community-based NGOs. The announcement was made at the World Conservation Congress, currently underway in Barcelona.

More than 400,000 tonnes of medicinal and aromatic plants are traded annually, with around 80% of the species harvested from the wild. Almost 3,000 species are traded, many of them over-exploited and in danger of extinction through over-collection and habitat loss. Implementation of the standard will stop more plants being over-exploited and becoming threatened with extinction under IUCN's Red List criteria.

15 October 2008

Tiger and other cat parts on open sale in Myanmar (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/10/15/tiger-and-other-cat-parts-on-open-sale-in-myanmar.html>

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia —Skin and bones, canines and claws from almost 1,200 wild cats were observed in Myanmar's wildlife markets during 12 surveys undertaken by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. They included parts of at least 107 Tigers and all eight cat species native to Myanmar.

Irregular surveys over the last 15 years have recorded a total of 1,320 wild cat parts, representing a minimum of 1,158 individual animals.

"The cat parts were openly displayed for sale and the dealers quite frank about the illegality of the trade, which suggests a serious lack of law enforcement," said Chris Shepherd, Programme Co-ordinator for TRAFFIC's Southeast Asia office.

People from neighbouring countries are the main buyers of these parts, as reflected by the locations of the markets—three of the four markets surveyed were located on international borders with China and Thailand. Prices were quoted in Thai or Chinese currency, or even US Dollars.

National legislation in Myanmar is imprecise as to how many cat species are totally protected, but at least five are. Native cats comprise Tiger, Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Marbled Cat, Asiatic Golden Cat, Fishing Cat, Leopard Cat and Jungle Cat. Five of them are listed in Appendix I of CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), which bans international trade. Myanmar has been a signatory to CITES since 1997.

"Myanmar has an amazing wealth and variety of wildlife. However, immediate action to close down these markets and prosecute those engaged in the trade of protected wildlife is essential," said Shepherd, adding that national legislation needed to be tightened and better cross-border co-operation with neighbouring countries, particularly Thailand and China was needed.

Myanmar is a member of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), a partnership that seeks to end illegal cross-border wildlife trade in the region.

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

3 November 2008

Illegal shark fishing compounds global management shortfall (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/11/3/illegal-shark-fishing-compounds-global-management-shortfall.html>)

Cambridge, UK / Canberra, Australia - As the world's demand for sharks continues to grow, shark populations are plummeting. The Asian market for shark fin is the key driver of shark fishing globally and is fuelling illegal fishing and high levels of legitimate shark fishing of questionable sustainability, according to a new report jointly published by the Australian Government and TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

Sharks are particularly vulnerable to overfishing because they grow slowly, are late to mature and produce relatively few young. Currently more than a fifth of shark species are listed as threatened with extinction.

The report was launched ahead of this week's United Nations Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO) meeting on sharks in Rome, which will discuss how to monitor shark fisheries and will consider the effect illegal fishing is having on shark numbers.

In 2000, FAO encouraged member countries to implement management of their shark populations, but seven years later fewer than 20% of members had introduced a plan to do so. Such national measures should include specific actions to tackle illegal shark fishing.

TRAFFIC believes it is imperative to create frameworks to support rapid national action to improve the management of sharks. Countries with developed management systems need to implement measures to address the impacts they are having on sharks. In addition, assistance should be provided to countries with less developed systems to establish monitoring and management of shark fisheries.

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

17 November 2008

Focus on Merbau trade (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/11/17/focus-on-merbau-trade.html>)

Singapore—Merbau, a tropical hardwood whose deep red-brown colour makes it popular for interior finishing, paneling, strip and parquet flooring, furniture, veneer, decorative and novelty items, comes under the spotlight today at an international workshop organized by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia to discuss the sustainability of international trade in this valuable timber.

Participants from Australia, China, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Thailand, representing the CITES Secretariat, national CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, international organizations, trade associations and research institutes are meeting in Singapore to discuss concerns over excessive logging and unsustainable merbau trade leading to over-exploitation.

Merbau includes species of the *Intsia* genus, several of which are traded, including the widespread *I. bijuga* found in Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Viet Nam and *I. palembanica* from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Thailand.

However, the harvest of these and many other tropical species is poorly documented and a lack of adequate data often contributes to unsustainable forestry management. The workshop aims to change this. The results of a TRAFFIC study into the merbau trade will be presented and participants will discuss ways to manage and meet demand for merbau sustainably.

A TRAFFIC Review of the merbau trade, together with the workshop's proceedings, will be published early in 2009.

Funding for the current workshop, which runs until 18 November, was provided by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the acting CITES Scientific Authority for Germany.

20 November 2008

Marine turtle campaign launched in Viet Nam (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/11/20/marine-turtle-campaign-launched-in-viet-nam.html>)

Ha Noi, Viet Nam—Travelers through Ha Noi this November might see something strange around West Lake: a line of cyclists dressed as turtles making their way through the traffic.

The cyclists, who will be carrying signs about marine turtle conservation, are part of a month-long strategic awareness campaign to alert the public to the conservation threat posed by illegal trade in marine turtles.

In addition to the bicycle road show, banners are being hung along major thoroughfares in Ha Noi, with messages highlighting the wild status of marine turtles and the illegality of purchasing marine turtles and their products.

Technical experts will be on hand to answer questions from passers by about marine turtles, their plight in Viet Nam and what consumers can do to protect them.

The campaign is organized by TRAFFIC and the Department of Capture Fisheries and Fisheries Resource Protection (DECAFIREP) and Ha Noi Fisheries, and funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

11 December 2008

Myanmar emerges as ivory trade and elephant smuggling hot spot (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/12/10/myanmar-emerges-as-ivory-trade-and-elephant-smuggling-hot-sp.html>)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia—Around 250 live Asian Elephants have been smuggled from Myanmar in the past decade, mostly destined for “elephant trekking” tourism activities in neighbouring Thailand, a new report by the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC reveals today.

Meanwhile blatant illegal ivory trade continues in Myanmar, with TRAFFIC surveys of 14 markets and three border markets in Thailand and China finding 9000 pieces of ivory and 16 whole tusks for sale.

Retailers generally displayed ivory and other elephant parts quite openly and rarely hesitated in disclosing smuggling techniques and other illegal activities to TRAFFIC staff posing as potential buyers.

The smuggling of live elephants, ivory and other elephant parts out of Myanmar and into neighbouring China and Thailand occurs in blatant contravention of national laws and CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

No cross-border trade of live elephants has been reported to CITES by either Myanmar or Thailand. Some traders questioned claimed elephants had disappeared from parts of Myanmar, owing to numbers captured for the live trade.

TRAFFIC and WWF call on authorities in Myanmar to work closely with enforcement officers in neighbouring Thailand and China to address the illegal trade in live elephants and ivory.

Both Thailand and Myanmar are also members of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, a regional network established to promote cross-border collaboration to tackle illegal wildlife trade.

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

12 December 2008

1000 new species in Greater Mekong (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/12/17/1000-new-species-in-greater-mekong.html>)

Ha Noi, Viet Nam—Over one thousand new species have been discovered in the Greater Mekong Region of Southeast Asia since 1997, says a new report by WWF.

Among the most incredible finds documented in *First Contact in the Greater Mekong* are the Lao Rock Rat, thought to have gone extinct 11 million years ago but discovered in a Lao food market; the hot-pink “dragon millipede” that produces cyanide in self-defense; the world’s largest huntsman spider, which has a leg span of over 30 centimeters; and a new species of purple banana from Southern China.

All told, over 500 plants, 250 fish, 80 frogs, 40 lizards, and 20 snakes, as well as 15 mammals, 4 birds, 4 turtles, 2 salamanders and a toad, were found throughout the six countries of the Greater Mekong region, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the southern Chinese province of Yunnan.

In documenting such a prolific rate of discovery—an average of two species per week were discovered over the past decade—the report’s findings reaffirm the importance of the Greater Mekong as a biodiversity hotspot and conservation priority. As a result of such high biodiversity, the region is also recognised as a hub for the illicit trade in wildlife. Plants and animals of all sizes and description are poached from their natural habitats, transported across the region to major markets such as China and Viet Nam.

23 December 2008

Malaysia’s Tigers thrown a lifeline (Source: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/12/23/malaysias-tigers-thrown-a-lifeline.html>)

Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia—Conservation groups today welcomed the release of the much-anticipated National Tiger Action Plan for Malaysia, calling the Plan an important milestone in Tiger conservation in the region.

The Plan aims to have 1,000 wild Tigers surviving on wild prey in the Central Forest Spine by 2020, through securing key forests areas in landscapes connected with corridors, providing long-term on-the-ground protection of Tigers and their prey, and promoting ecologically sound land-use practices. It prioritizes three core areas; the Belum-Temengor Complex, the Greater Taman Negara Complex and the Endau-Rompin Complex.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), Wildlife Conservation Society (Malaysia Programme) and WWF-Malaysia are all ready to help implement the 12-year plan alongside relevant government agencies, to help secure and increase the number of wild Tigers in Peninsular Malaysia.

The foundations for the Plan began with a National Tiger Conservation Workshop in 2006 hosted by the Malaysian Government’s Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) in collaboration with MNS, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Wildlife Conservation Society (Malaysia Programme) and WWF-Malaysia, under the Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT) platform. Other agencies involved in its development included the Department of Forestry Peninsular Malaysia and Department of Town and Country Planning Peninsular Malaysia.

The Plan uses existing government policies and legislative structures relevant to wildlife conservation such as the National Policy on Biological Diversity, National Physical Plan and National Forestry Policy.

Although implementation of some actions has already begun, a key challenge will be implementation at the State level, as the Plan is still a Federal policy document.

23 December 2008

Rare rhino calves found in Indonesian jungle (Source: AFP)

Four calves of the world's rarest species of rhino have been found in remote jungle on Indonesia's Java island, giving hope to efforts to save them from extinction, an official said Tuesday.

"Four Javan rhinos of six to seven months age were seen by scientists on the beach near the jungle during a recent field survey," Agus Primabudi, the head of the Ujung Kulon National Park in West Java, told AFP.

Alerted to the presence of humans, the baby rhinos fled into the park to where two adult rhinos aged roughly 35 to 36, believed to be their parents, were staying, Primabudi said. Primabudi said that the birth of the four calves has given new hope that the Javan rhinos can breed in the wild at levels high enough to keep the local population alive into the future.

"The most important thing we can do is to protect their habitat so that they can breed easily," he said.

The Javan rhino, which is distinguished by its small size, single horn and loose skin folds, is likely the most endangered large mammal on the planet, according to WWF. Roughly 90 percent of the world's 50 or so Javan rhinos live in Ujung Kulon park, an oasis of wilderness on the western edge of one of the world's most densely populated islands. The Javan rhino is classified as critically endangered by WWF and none of the animals currently live in captivity.

7 January 2009

Illegal trade in Malayan Box Turtles continues (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2009/1/7/illegal-trade-in-malayan-box-turtles-continuestraffic.html>)

The Malayan Box Turtle is disappearing across Malaysia despite a ban on its export, finds a new report by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. The turtles are in high demand in East Asia for their meat and for use in traditional Chinese medicine.

In 2005, an export ban on Malayan Box Turtles was introduced by Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN), the government's wildlife agency in Peninsular Malaysia, and similar exports bans exist in Sabah and Sarawak.

Following the ban, exports of turtles for the pet trade in Japan, Europe and the USA apparently ceased, but the latest TRAFFIC report found widespread evidence of continuing illegal export, mainly to Hong Kong, China and to a lesser extent Singapore.

"A harvest survey at two traders in Selangor, for example yielded 385 Malayan Box Turtles in a 38 day period; multiplying by the number of known illegal suppliers of turtles gives a conservative estimate of almost 22,000 animals illegally exported per year from Malaysia," said Dr Sabine Schoppe, the author of the report.

The vast majority of Malayan Box Turtles illegally exported are adults, which poses a particular threat to this species, which has a slow reproductive cycle, only maturing late, and producing a limited number of eggs.

There are indications from every State in Peninsular Malaysia that populations of the Malayan Box Turtle are over-exploited or even locally extinct. According to local people, Malayan Box Turtles are rarely observed in the wild compared to only 5–10 years ago. The Asian Box Turtle was listed as Vulnerable to extinction by IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, in 2000.

To help restore populations of Malayan Box Turtles, TRAFFIC recommends a total harvest ban or the strict implementation by PERHILITAN of the existing export ban for one generation to allow numbers to recover; conduct a non-detrimental finding on the Malayan Box Turtles, improvement of trade control measures, such as development of a bribe-proof CITES permit system; better international co-operation between government agencies in the region for controlling illegal wildlife trade, particularly at border crossings; and regular inspections and appropriate law enforcement actions taken against traders, markets and pet and aquarium shops trading illegally by relevant government authorities.

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

7 January 2009

Asian, US police meet on tackling wildlife crime (Source:

<http://www.france24.com/en/20090107-asian-us-police-meet-tackling-wildlife-crime>)

Police investigators from Southeast Asia, China and the United States met in Bangkok Wednesday to share strategies for tackling the illegal international trade in tigers, leopards and pangolins.

Big cats prized for their skin and body parts and pangolins, or scaly anteaters, which are used in cooking, are under particular threat from organised trafficking gangs in Asia. Investigators from Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia and Vietnam joined representatives from China and the United States for a three-day workshop on curbing the crime.

"Concerted and coordinated joint actions are required to address the illegal exploitation and trade," said Chumphon Suckasaem, a senior officer with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Wildlife Enforcement Network.

Chumphon said the trade had already taken its toll, "threatening to irrevocably damage Southeast Asia's ecosystems."

But he said more than 100 arrests connected with major wildlife crime had been made since mid-July 2008. "Compared to the past the police are more interested in the wildlife issue... it's stronger than it was before," said Colonel Subsak Chavalviwat of Thailand's wildlife police department.

Subsak admitted there remained difficult cultural barriers in countries such as China, where there is still a strong demand for big cat parts.

"Sometimes it's difficult but I'm confident so I'm going to keep doing it and keep trying," he said.

"It's saving the animals, saving the forests and saving the humans because if the biodiversity is good then we are living in a good environment for humans' health," he added.

Pangolins are the most traded species in Southeast Asia, with Chumphon estimating 30,000 specimens had been confiscated by authorities between 1998 and 2007.

The World Wildlife Fund estimated last year that there were only around 3,500 tigers left in the world.

8 January 2009

Private farms play part in tiger trade (Source:

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/9304/private-farms-play-part-in-tiger-trade>)

Some private tiger farms in Thailand are probably a part of the region's illegal tiger trade which sends most of the endangered animals to China, according to the Asean Wildlife Enforcement Network (Asean-Wen).

Chumphon Suckasaem, of Asean-Wen, a network of wildlife officials, police and customs officers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said most tiger carcasses confiscated from wildlife traffickers by police come from private farms here in Thailand.

"Finding tigers in their natural habitat is not easy because very few are left in the wild," he said. Thai forests have about 2,500 tigers. Tiger meat is in high demand in China. The animal is transported from many Southeast Asian countries with Bangkok and Laos serving as transit points.

Tiger carcasses seized in Prachuap Khiri Khan on Monday were suspected to be captive tigers kept at a private farm. Authorities use DNA testing to differentiate domesticated tigers from those from the wild. They can also tell by the animal's physical appearance if they come from the wild or a breeding farm. Captive tigers have fewer scars or wounds. The surface of their paws is also smooth as they do not have to fight or survive in the jungle.

Under Thai wildlife protection laws and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites), the trade in tigers is illegal, no matter whether the animals are domesticated or come from the wild.

Mr Chumphon said tiger farms were required by law to report to wildlife authorities about any tigers which are born or die at their premises so a record can be kept of numbers at each location. However, the monitoring system is still inadequate.

Mr Chumphon was speaking on the sidelines of a three-day workshop on the illegal wildlife trade for 70 officials from Asean-Wen member countries.

9 January 2009

Rare gibbon faces extinction (Source: The Jakarta Post)

The Indonesian Primatological Association warned Thursday that Indonesian could lose the unique Owa Jawa (Javanese Gibbon) in less than a decade unless serious action is taken to protect the species.

A 2008 survey found only 2,000 Javanese Gibbons (*Hylobates moloch*) still lived in Java's forests, mainly in Ujung Kulon National Park, Tangkuban Perahu Mountain, Ciremai Mountain and Papandayan Mountain, almost half as many as the 4,500 reported in 2004.

"The threats to the Javanese Gibbon include habitat degradation and fragmentation, and the trapping of their young to be kept as pets," Made Wedana from the Indonesian Primatological Association told The Jakarta Post on Thursday.

The survey was conducted in December 2008 in 63 areas throughout West and Central Java. The study found only 300 Javanese Gibbons in Ujung Kulon National Park and said the species stands a 50 percent chance of extinction within the next 10 years, or three generations.

The survey blamed dwindling forest areas in Java for the drastic decrease in the gibbon population, and said surveyors found animal traps and Javanese Gibbons being kept illegally for sale. Only 5 percent of the Javanese Gibbon's former habitat now remains due to progressive and vast deforestation.

Made said the grey-colored primate, which has a loud and distinctive voice and eats fruit bugs and leaves, requires the safety of a heavy forest canopy for survival. "The current scarcity of this gibbon demonstrates the critical condition of Java's forest," Made said. "I think we have to be more concerned about our forests, not only to save the Javanese Gibbons but to ensure human survival," Made said. "The Javanese Gibbon is not as popular as the Orangutan, but we have to protect them or these creatures will entirely disappear."

Recent Notable Seizures:

Pangolin smugglers held (Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/10/20/nation/2321350&sec=nation>)

Muar, Malaysia, 20 Oct 2008: Marine police here detained two men and seized 42 pangolins during an operation in the Malacca Straits on Sunday. The men, aged 24 and 46, were caught when two marine police patrol vessels intercepted a high-powered boat about 3.5 nautical miles off Parit Jawa at around 12.50am. Initial investigations revealed that the men, from Serom and Parit Bakar, brought the pangolins from Bengkalis in Sumatra for sale to certain parties here.

Poachers in Apo Reef elude arrest (Source:

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/inquirerheadlines/regions/view/20081021-167523/Poachers-in-Apo-Reef-elude-arrest>)

Camp Nakar, Lucena City, 21 October 2008: Two speed boats from a ship believed to be of foreign origin and suspected to be poaching in the world renowned Apo Reef off Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, eluded arrest from government forces Thursday, a regional military spokesperson said Saturday. The government troops, however, were able to recover 12 sea turtles, 10 of which were already dead. Two of the turtles had deep wounds and are being kept by park officials. As government forces approached, the two unidentified speed boats sped off toward Palawan, leaving behind a two-kilometer long illegal fishnet embedded 22 meters deep.

Exotic animals in jungle cabin seized (Source:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10538985)

Kuantan, Malaysia, 23 Oct 2008: Malaysian marine police have seized 1272 protected animals believed to be bound for the cooking pot in countries including China, Thailand and

Hong Kong. The live animals, which were packed into 72 plastic containers and 40 wooden crates, were discovered in a jungle cabin in the central Pahang state. The animals - 1244 clouded monitor lizards, 17 water monitor lizards and 11 pythons - are all protected and believed to be worth \$250,000. They were handed over to the state wildlife department.

45 poachers nabbed in Tubbataha Reefs (Source:

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/regions/view/20081022-167879/45-poachers-nabbed-in-Tubbataha-Reefs>)

Puerto Princesa City, Philippines, 22 Oct 2008—Rangers guarding the Tubbataha National Marine Park arrested 45 suspected poachers from Cebu after they tried to bribe the guards deployed in the park in exchange for allowing them to illegally collect a threatened species of shell, the Philippine Daily Inquirer learned Wednesday. According to park manager Angelique Songco, the poachers proceeded directly to the ranger station upon arriving in the area Monday and tried to offer the rangers P100,000 bribe to allow them to gather samung (sp. *Trochus niloticus*), a protected species of shell sought for its ornamental value.

Pampanga home yields endangered animals (Source:

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/regions/view/20081029-169029/Pampanga-home-yields-endangered-animals>)

Manila, Philippines, 29 October 2008—Nearly 30 threatened species including a Palawan bear cat, a Philippine eagle owl and an Oriental small clawed otter were turned over Tuesday to the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) after they were rescued by authorities from a man who reportedly kept them as pets in his home in Pampanga province.

Armed with a court warrant, the National Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Organized Crime Division swooped down on the man's home in Magalang, Pampanga on Thursday to rescue the animals. Various penalties and imprisonment face the pet owner if he is found guilty of violating the Wildlife Conservation Act. Among the threatened species rescued from the home were 11 Nicobar pigeons, 10 white-breasted sea eagles, an Oriental small clawed otter, Philippine bear cat, Philippine hawk eagle and Philippine eagle owl. Lim explained that threatened species were classified as vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered.

10000 smuggled turtle eggs seized (Source: New Strait Times, Malaysia)

Sandakan, Malaysia, 4 November 2008 – The marine police have cracked their biggest case of turtle eggs smuggling this year with the seizure of some 10000 eggs from the Philippines. Four smugglers were unloading the eggs, worth about RM28000 from a speedboat on Sunday night when a team of policemen arrived at the scene at 815pm. On seeing the policemen, the smugglers panicked and escaped in the boat, leaving 20 sacks of eggs on the beach. Initial investigations have revealed that a syndicate obtained the eggs from several islands in the Philippines.

Bangkok market home to illegal wildlife trade (Source:

http://www.iar.org.uk/globalnews/articles/2008/11/bangkok_market_home_to_illegal_wildlife_trade_573.html)

Bangkok, Thailand, 7 November 2008 - Bangkok's popular Chatuchak market is home to an illegal trade in endangered animals, according to the AFP news agency. Undercover police officers arrested two smugglers in the largest market in Thailand, after they were caught attempting to sell three Madagascar Ploughshare tortoises, which are so rare that there are only an estimated 300 remaining in the world. In addition, the raid on the market uncovered a trafficker selling slow lorises, which is an endangered primate that lives in south-east Asian

forests.

Ebony Smuggling to Malaysia Foiled (Source:

<http://www.sinarharapan.co.id/berita/0811/10/sh08.html>)

Palu, Indonesia, 10 November 2008 - Central Sulawesi Provincial Police (Polda) has foiled the smuggling of approximately 4 cubic meter of Ebony form Malei Village, western coast of Balaesang Tanjung Sub-district, Donggala Regency, Central Sulawesi, to Tawau Malaysia. The shipment was intercepted in Makassar Strait on Sunday (9/11) at 3.00 am Wita, based on a tip from local. Police then conducted a three-day investigation before seizing the illegal timber. Police said the modus operandi was to submerge the timber 2 meters deep in water, then to take and transport the timber using small boats to take to an awaiting ship in the middle of the sea. The timber was transported little by little.

Raid nets RM3mil in exotic wildlife (Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/11/13/nation/2528184&sec=nation>)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 13 November 2008 - More than RM3mil worth of live and dead animals were seized when the Wildlife and National Parks Department raided two locations in Johor last week. Among the animals were 7,000 clouded monitor lizards, 1,000 owls, pangolins, crested serpent eagles, pythons, mousedeer, Malayan porcupine and wild pigs. Bear parts were also found in the raid. A 49-year-old man was charged in a magistrate's court in Tangkak on Nov 7 and is out on a RM19,000 bail.

Perhilitan uses Internet to stop wildlife trader (Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/11/21/nation/2605751&sec=nation>)

Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, 21 November 2008 - Going where it has never gone before, the Wildlife and National Park Department (Perhilitan) trawled the Internet and struck pay dirt — it found a man offering to sell protected wildlife. On Sunday, four Perhilitan officers from Shah Alam staked out the USJ toll plaza parking lot in Puchong. The man was waiting for the “buyer” when they closed in on him. When officers inspected his car, they found seven Ball pythons, four Burmese pythons, one Green Tree python, one Carpet python and two Blood pythons.

Python-packed cars seized in Cambodia (Source: <http://ki-media.blogspot.com/2008/11/python-packed-cars-seized-in-cambodia.html>)

Cambodia, 24 November 2008 - Two wildlife smugglers transporting hundreds of live turtles and pythons jammed into the backs of cars have been arrested by Cambodian officials. The drivers were apparently heading to neighbouring Vietnam to sell the animals—many of them rare—to the region's illegal wildlife markets. The smugglers were stopped in Kâmpóng Chhnăng Province in central Cambodia while heading east toward Vietnam. In the two vehicles' trunks, officials found 1,069 pounds (485 kilograms) of live wildlife, including three species of turtles—yellow-headed temple turtles, Malayan snail-eating turtles, and Asiatic softshell turtles—that are listed as either endangered or vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species. The loot also included king cobras, reticulated pythons, and Burmese pythons. The animals, thought to have come from protected areas in Battambang Province in western Cambodia, were released into a protected area near Tonle Sap Lake in the country's central region, according to Wildlife Alliance.

Another pangolin smuggling attempt foiled (Source:

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/11/26/nation/20081126151243&sec=nation>)

Muar, Malaysia, 26 November 2008 - Marine police here detained three men and seized 65 pangolins and one tortoise during a raid at a house near Bukit Pasir at about 10pm Tuesday. The men, including two orang asli, aged between 28 and 39, were believed to be members of a syndicate involved in smuggling exotic animals into the country. Muar marine police base commanding officer Asst Supt Mohamad Pouzi Abdul Rauf said the pangolins were estimated to be worth more than RM72,000.

Fishermen's catch of the day — 44 pangolins (Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/12/4/nation/2712461&sec=nation>)

Muar, Malaysia, 4 December 2008 - Two fishermen were detained for trying to smuggle 44 pangolins from Indonesia into the country. The men, aged 50 and 22, were caught after a marine police patrol unit stopped their fishing trawler in the waters off Sungai Balang near here at 9.30pm on Wednesday. Muar marine police base commanding officer Asst Supt Mohamad Pouzi Rauf said the patrol unit, headed by Sjn Abdul Rahman Hassan, was on surveillance duty in the sea when they spotted the two fishermen, a former soldier and a son of another ex-serviceman, acting suspiciously. Upon searching the vessel, the marine police team found some 37 sacks of pangolins hidden inside. The men, engaged by a trawler operator in Parit Jawa, admitted getting paid to bring in the animals from Indonesia, he told reporters at the marine jetty here yesterday.

Man Held For Keeping Wildlife Parts in Freezer (Source:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=379464>)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 19 December 2008 -- When officers of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and the police called on a 60-year-old man in Jinjang Selatan today, they were not interested in the chicken wings he had in his freezer. They went for the 46.82 kg of wild boar meat, four civet cats, 430 gall bladders of wild animals, three pieces of python skin, a pangolin hide, a bear's claw and a suspected genital organ of a wild animal -- all worth about RM20,000. The man, believed to be the owner of the freezer located next to a market, was hauled up for keeping the wildlife parts without a licence from the department.

130 smuggled pangolins seized (Source:

http://www.straitstimes.com/print/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_316412.html

Bangkok, Thailand, 19 December 2008 - THAI customs officers said on Friday they had rescued 130 pangolins and arrested one man attempting to smuggle the endangered animals out of the country. Customs officers intercepted a truck in Thailand's central Prachuab Khirikhan province late on Thursday night and found the pangolins, or scaly anteaters, trapped in 26 cases. The mammals are usually exported to China via neighbouring Laos, for cooking. Customs officials estimated the pangolins, brought up by truck from southern Songkhla province, were worth 650,000 baht (S\$27,200). The Thai driver was arrested and charged with possessing and smuggling endangered wildlife, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

676 lizards seized at KLIA complex (Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/12/21/nation/2867184&sec=nation>)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21 December 2008: The Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) foiled an attempt to smuggle out 676 clouded monitor lizards during a cargo inspection at the KL International Airport (KLIA). Perhilitan legal and enforcement director Dr Sivananthan Elagupilay said the lizards, of the *Varanus bengalensis*, were found hidden under several boxes of fish at the KLIA Cargo Complex on Thursday. Also seized were python meat and skin, and civet meat.

Vietnam customs seize five tons of frozen pangolin meat (Source:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/msid-3873473,prtpage-1.cms>)

Hanoi, Vietnam, 22 December 2008 - Vietnam customs officials said on Monday they had seized about five tons of frozen pangolin meat, a protected species whose trade is illegal. The 270 boxes of pangolin meat were found Friday in northern Quang Ninh province, said an official at the Cai Lan port customs office, asking not to be named. Officials suspected the cargo was on its way to China, she said. Another source at the port's customs office, who also asked not to be named, said the meat came from 1,481 pangolins.

2 weeks' jail and fined for having protected animals (Source:

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Thursday/National/2436484/Article/pppull_index.html)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24 December 2008 - A 65-year-old market trader was slapped with a RM5,000 fine and sentenced to two weeks' jail by the magistrate's court yesterday for illegal possession of protected animals. Yap Kum Weng pleaded guilty to five charges of unlawful possession of the scales of a pangolin (*Manis javanica*), wild boar meat (*Sus scrofa*), the skin of a blood python (*Python curtus*), the skins of two reticulated pythons (*Python reticulatus*) and four dead civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) at his shop lot in Kepong Baru market at 9.30am on Dec 19.

Thai police seize four tiger carcasses (Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2009/1/7/nation/20090107140242&sec=nation>)

Thailand, 7 January 2009 - Thai Police have seized four tiger carcasses said to have been smuggled in from Malaysia, in the resort town of Hua Hin. Bangkok Post reported on Tuesday that the Police have arrested two Thai men in connection with the smuggling. The dead tigers, with their heads cut off, weighed 250kg and were found on Monday in a truck passing through Hua Hin in the Prachuap Kiri Khan province. Police said the dead tigers were believed to have come from Malaysia and were being transported to China.

Hanoi's Environmental Police record largest-ever seizure (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2009/1/19/hanoi-environmental-police-record-largest-ever-seizure.html>)

Hanoi, Viet Nam, 19 January 2009—Hanoi's Environmental Police have made their largest-ever seizure of wildlife products following the confiscation of more than two tonnes of bones from a store in Dong Da district, Hanoi, on 10 January. Environmental Police first stopped a man transporting a set of tiger bones and ten kilograms of serow bones and horns by motorbike in Ba Dinh district. Following investigations, they raided the end destination of the products, a store belonging to Ms Nguyen Thi Thanh Tam, and discovered another set of tiger bones, six frozen pieces of tiger skin, seven bear paws, 16 bear gall bladders, six porcupine stomachs and 69 bags of bones from various wild animals. Her testimony led to a third and final arrest of a man manufacturing the tiger bone gel found in Ms Tam's warehouse.

Navy Impounds 32 Foreign Vessels in Papua Region (Source: The Jakarta Globe)

Indonesia, 19 January 2009 - The Indonesian Navy has seized 32 foreign ships in Papuan waters since the beginning of the month for crimes ranging from illegal fishing to the transportation of illegally harvested timber. Thirty-two ships have been captured and detained during the month by patrols coordinated at the main naval base in Jayapura [the capital of Papua Province], Navy spokesman First Adm. Iskandar Sitompul said. Iskandar said that most were from Malaysia, the Philippines, China and Thailand. Most of the crew members were

Indonesians, he said. He said that investigations had already been launched into all the cases and hoped that prosecutions would be filed in the near future. He said that the seized ships were being held at a number of naval bases, including Jayapura, and Sorong and Manokwari in West Papua.

Thailand seizes 270 pangolins (Source:

<http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story20090130-118198.html>)

Bangkok, Thailand, 30 January 2009 - THAI customs on Friday seized 270 pangolins and arrested a man who was attempting to smuggle the endangered animals out of the country, an official said. Customs officers intercepted a truck headed towards Bangkok in central Prachuab Khirikhan province on Thursday morning and found the pangolins, or scaly anteaters, hidden in plastic baskets, senior customs official Rakop Srisupa-at told AFP.

The mammals are usually exported via neighbouring Laos to China, where they are eaten as an expensive delicacy. Srisupa-at estimated the pangolins were worth 1.4 million baht (\$60,000).

NB: This e-bulletin does not take any responsibility for the accurateness of the reported seizures as all information is taken as presented, from the media.

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