



*The First Regional Workshop on
the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative*

Workshop Report

*31st January – 1st February 2008
Kathmandu, Nepal*

Acknowledgments

The organizers of the First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative would like to thank the Government of Nepal, in particular the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST) and the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC), for their help and support in organising this Workshop. Thanks especially goes to Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary, MoEST; Ms. Meena Khanal, Joint Secretary, MoEST; Mr. Arjun Kumar Thapa, Under Secretary, MoEST; Mr. Kamal Jung Kunwar, Assistant Planning Officer, MoFSC; Mr. Shyam Bajimaya, Director-General, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC); Dr. Narendra M. B. Pradhan, Planning Officer, DNPWC; and Mr Batu Krishna Uprety, Chief Environment Assessment Section, MoEST.

We would also like to thank all the country delegates who agreed to chair the various sessions of the workshop and guide discussions to a fruitful conclusion.

The success of the workshop was largely due to the brilliantly coordinated administrative logistical support provided by staff in WWF Nepal and TRAFFIC India. We would therefore like to thank Diwakar P. Chapagain, Sanjib Chaudhary, Corona Ghimire, Dr. Ghana Shyam Gurung, Dilpreet B Chhabra, Bijan Gurung, Santosh Nepal, Madhuri Peiris, Samir Sinha, and Ms Eliza Sthapit.

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The organizers would also like to express its deepest gratitude to the following organisations for their financial support of this workshop: SACEP, WWF Nepal, WWF UK and the United States Department of State.

Finally, the workshop would not have been possible without the active participation of all those who attended and thanks are especially extended to participants who led presentations for the workshop.

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*The First Regional Workshop on
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*Section 1
Introduction*

Workshop Outline

Background

In April 2004, a South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic workshop was organized by TRAFFIC in close cooperation with the CITES Secretariat and was attended by South Asian delegates from Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, amongst other participants. The workshop suggested that the key approach for regional cooperation was Coordination, Co-operation and Communication between countries towards a set of common goals.

At the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) on 25th January 2007, the Environment Ministers of the eight countries in the South Asia region expressed serious concerns at the growing threat of poaching and illegal trade of wild species of flora and fauna, which is seriously impeding biodiversity conservation efforts by all countries. The Governing Council decided that SACEP should incorporate a work programme for combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products and strengthen enforcement of CITES in the region.

In order to take this important decision of the Governing Council forward, on 20th July 2007, SACEP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TRAFFIC International to develop a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI). Under the MOU, both parties agreed to develop and implement a South Asia Regional Strategy for combating illegal trade in wild flora and fauna and to ensure that wildlife trade is maintained at sustainable levels in South Asia; establishment of a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network; and hold consultations on these topics.

The South Asian Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) is being modelled on the highly successful example in Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Wildlife Trade, which in itself led to the creation of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) by the Honourable Ministers of eight countries of South East Asia in 2005, set up with the instrumental help and technical advice of TRAFFIC.

Objectives

In the spirit of regional and international cooperation to facilitate sustainable use of wildlife resources and reduce wildlife crime and to protect our natural heritage in South Asia, the First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative was organised by the Nepal Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology; SACEP; WWF Nepal; and TRAFFIC.

The aims of the workshop were to follow-up on the 2004 Kathmandu Wildlife Trade Workshop and the SACEP Governing Council's decision for development of a work programme for combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products and strengthen enforcement of CITES in the region.

Participants

Held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 31st January – 1st February 2008, the workshop included participants from all eight South Asian countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In addition, participants included representatives from the CITES Secretariat, ASEAN-WEN Programme Coordination Unit, TRAFFIC, IUCN and WWF. Observers were also invited from relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as foreign governments. The Workshop was made possible with funding from the US Department of State, SACEP and WWF UK and WWF Nepal.

Outcomes

The Workshop participants agreed to a series of joint actions as part of a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative, including the establishment of a South Asia Experts Group on Wildlife Trade and the development of a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013). They also called upon the international community to support action in South Asia by providing financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the regional plan.

The South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade will focus on a number of key areas of work. These include co-operation and co-ordination; effective legislation, policies and law enforcement; sharing knowledge and

effective dissemination of information; sustainability of legal trade and livelihoods security; intelligence networks and early warning systems; and capacity building.

The decisions of this workshop will be presented for endorsement at Ministerial level at the Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP taking place later this year in New Delhi, India.

First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI)
Kathmandu, Nepal
(31 January -1 February 2008)

DAY I

Introduction / Overview and Perceptions of Wildlife Trade in South Asia

Time	Title	Details	Format	Lead / Speaker
08:00 ~ 09:00	Workshop Registration	Registration of the Participants	Admin	SACEP / TRAFFIC / WWF Nepal
09:00 ~ 10:20				
Inaugural session		Chair person of the inaugural session Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal , Secretary, MoEST, Government of Nepal		MC
5 min		Seating arrangements		MC
10 min	Welcome Address by Host	Welcome Address	Speech	Mr. Shyam Bajimaya DG, DNPWC, Nepal
10 min		Objectives of the workshop	Speech	Dr. Arvind Boaz, DG, SACEP
10 min		Remarks by the CITES Secretariat	Pres	Mr. John Sellar, CITES Secretariat
5 min		Remarks by co-organizers	Speech	Mr. Roland Melisch, TRAFFIC
10 min		Remarks by co-organizers	Speech	Mr. Anil Manandhar, CR WWF Nepal
10 min		Inaugural Address by Chief Guest	Speech	Mr. Tirtha Raj Sharma, Sec. MoFSC, Nepal
5 min	Vote of Thanks	Vote of Thanks	Speech	Ms Meena Khanal, Joint Secretary, MoEST, Nepal
10 min		Remarks from the Chair	Speech	Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary, MoEST, Nepal
15 min	Coffee Break			
5 min	Business Arrangements	Business and Housekeeping Announcements	Speech	SACEP / WWF- Nepal
5 min		Adoption of Agenda		SACEP
Session 1	Country Presentations on Wildlife Trade Chair : Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary, MoEST, Government of Nepal Co-Chair: Sri Lanka			
10:40 ~ 11:00	Country Presentation	Afghanistan	Pres	Afghanistan
11:00 ~ 11:20	Country Presentation	Bangladesh	Pres	Bangladesh
11:20 ~ 11:40	Country Presentation	Bhutan	Pres	Bhutan
11:40 ~ 12:00	Country Presentation	India	Pres	India
12:00 ~ 12:30	Questions from Plenary and remarks by the chair		Q & A	

12:30-13:30	Lunch Break			
<i>Session 2</i>	<i>Country Presentations on Wildlife Trade (cont'd)</i> Chair : Bhutan Co-Chair: Bangladesh			
13:30 ~ 13:50	Country Presentation	Maldives	Pres	Maldives
13:50 ~ 14:10	Country Presentation	Nepal	Pres	Nepal
14:10 ~ 14:30	Country Presentation	Pakistan	Pres	Pakistan
14:30 ~ 14:50	Country Presentation	Sri Lanka	Pres	Sri Lanka
14:50 ~ 15:10	Questions from Plenary and remarks by the chair		Q & A	
15:10 ~ 15:25	Coffee Break			
<i>Session 3</i>	<i>The Need for Regional Collaboration on Wildlife Trade</i> Chair : India Co-Chair: Maldives			
15:25 ~ 15:40	Update on the 2004 Kathmandu workshops on Wildlife Trade		Pres	Mr. James Compton, TRAFFIC
15:40 ~ 16:05	Case studies from Nepal		Pres	DoF / DNPWC/ WWF Nepal
16:05 ~ 16:35	South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI)	Towards Establishing a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI)	Pres	Mr. Anupam K. Mukerji, TRAFFIC
16:35 ~ 16:55	Questions from Plenary and remarks by the chair		Q & A	
16:55 ~ 17:00	Housekeeping issues			Local organizer
	<i>End of day 1</i>			
18:00 onwards	Dinner			Hosted by MoEST and WWF Nepal

DAY II				
<i>The Way Forward towards a Regional collaboration on Wildlife Trade Issues in South Asia</i>				
Time Slot	Title	Details	Format	Lead / Speaker
Session 4	<i>The Need for Regional Collaboration on Wildlife Trade</i> (cont'd) Chair: Pakistan Co-Chair: Afghanistan			
09:00 ~ 09:20	Experiences from other Regions	Learning from the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Wildlife Trade	Pres	Ms. Klairoong Poonpon ASEAN-WEN Program Co-ordination Unit
09:20 ~ 09:40	Discussions		Q & A	
09:40 ~ 10:00	South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI)	Consideration of Draft South Asian Action Plan on Wildlife Trade Issues	Pres	Mr. Anupam K. Mukerji and Roland Melisch TRAFFIC
10:00 ~ 10:15	Discussions		Q & A	Chaired
10:15 ~ 10:30	Draft Statement for adoption at next SACEP Governing Council Meeting	Consideration of a Draft Statement for adoption at Ministerial level for the Governing Council Meeting of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Program (SACEP)	Pres	Dr. Arvind Boaz, DG, SACEP
10:30 ~ 10:45	Remarks from Chair		Q & A	
10:45 ~ 11:00	Rules for group work			
11:00 ~ 11:15	Coffee Break			
11:00 ~ 12:00	Group work			
	Working Group 1: Defining the contours of Regional Co-operation	Preparation of draft Statement for adoption for the Governing Council Meeting of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)	WG	Group Facilitator
	Working Group 2: Defining the challenges of Implementing Wildlife Trade Regulations	Priorities for a South Asian Action Plan on Wildlife Trade Issues	WG	Group Facilitator
12:00 ~ 13:30	Lunch Break			
13:30~14:15	Group Work Continues			
Session 5	<i>Plenary</i> Chair : Dr. Udaya Raj Sharma, Secretary, Nepal Trust, Government of Nepal Co-chair: Dr. Arvind Boaz, DG, SACEP			
14:15 ~ 14:45	WG 1	Presentation	WG	Rapporteur WG 1
14:45 ~ 15:15	WG 2	Presentation	WG	Rapporteur WG 2
15:15 ~ 15:45	Questions from Plenary and remarks by the chair	Presentation	Q & A	

15:45~16:15	Adoption of WG results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Statement for the Governing Council Meeting of SACEP • Priorities for a South Asian Action Plan on Wildlife Trade 		Plenary
16:15 ~ 16:30	Remarks by the chair			
16:30 ~ 16:45	Coffee break			
<i>Closing Session</i>				
16:45~17:30		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Hon. Minister Farmullah Mansoor, MoEST, Government of Nepal • Closing remarks by DG SACEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant 1 Dr. (Mr) Bashir Ahmed Wani (Pakistan) • Participant 2 Mr Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmad (Bangladesh) • Participant 3 Mr Nazir Ahmad Farhang (Afghanistan) • Session Chair (Hon. Minister) 		

*The First Regional Workshop on
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*Section 2
Inaugural Session*

Welcoming address by the Chief Guest Mr. Tirtha Raj Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Nepal

Our earth is a common home to all the living species. These species are a gift of nature to the people. Because of their utility, beauty, curiosity and many other reasons, biodiversity has a strong relationship with people, creature and plants from the early days. In our ancient citations also many creatures and plant species have been conserved for their religious, cultural and humane values. However, due to the increasing materialism, consumerism, loss of values, competition in entertainment, and fashion in the modern world, our biodiversity are in peril. The species conserved with compassion in the past are being destroyed for short term benefits.

It is generally believed important and rare species are in demand than the nature can supply. Due to the increasing demand of these magnificent gifts of nature, many wildlife and plant species are on the verge of extinction. At this moment, the increasing consumerism has made the conservation of our important biodiversity a lot more challenging. Despite, the continuous and extensive conservation efforts from the national governments and society at large, the biodiversity degradation is continuing. This problem is not limited to a country or specific region but has evolved as a worldwide problem.

The tenth governing council meeting of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) has paved the way for the formulation of the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) largely to control the poaching and illegal trade of wildlife and plants in this region. In this context, I feel proud that the first regional workshop on facilitating sustainable wildlife trade and combating illegal wildlife trade in the South Asia region is being held in Nepal. I feel honoured to inaugurate the workshop.

Distinguished delegates,

Now I would like to present briefly on the efforts to control poaching of rare wildlife and plants and illegal trade of their parts and successes achieved in Nepal. We are committed to control the illegal trade of rare wildlife and species since we became the member of CITES in 1975. I would also like to inform you that Nepal is fully committed towards not letting any other party to conduct illegal wildlife trade through its territory.

The responsibility of controlling the poaching and wildlife trade cannot be confined to a single body in a country. In our context, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and Department of Forest, the Department of Plant Resources, Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police, Customs Administration, Post Office Administration, National Forensic Laboratory and the Natural Science Laboratory are key institutions to control and regulate the trade in the country. Conservation partners including WWF Nepal, NTNC, and IUCN have been helping financially, technically and physically.

In Nepal CITES Bill is at the last stage of endorsement in the parliament. The National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, Forest Act, Environment Protection Act and Import Export Act have been contributing towards the conservation of rare wildlife and plant species.

Respected friends,

We have been successful in controlling the Rhino poaching in 2007 that has escalated from 2002. During the period of conflict, several of our staff working in the field of conservation lost their lives. Even then the commitment and courage of the staff to work with high morale and honesty in the challenging situation continues. This has helped us in controlling the rhino poaching and we are proud for that. Now, we have been mobilizing local youth under the community based anti poaching operations to control the poaching of wildlife including the rare and endangered animal the Rhino.

We have been sharing the experiences in trans-boundary meetings and formulating strategies for future together with India, and China at government level to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade across the border. In local levels, Park Wardens and District Forest Officers work closely with their counterparts. Last month, a team from India visited Nepal to discuss the issue of transborder trade including the Red Sandalwood. To control the illegal trade of valuable herbs like *Cordyceps*, we are in the process of reviewing the existing policy on the sector. The new policy will be supporting of the livelihoods of local people in the ground. We are also making conservation efforts more effective by re-establishing the physical infrastructures that were damaged during the period of conflict.

Friends,

I would also like to put forward some suggestions.

Controlling the poaching and illegal wildlife trade is our common challenge. For this we need to move ahead together with the international community. I feel that there should be a system to share information and knowledge at regional level. I think the workshop will be a success if we are able to concentrate on the issues of being in continuous contact to share the experience, knowledge and skills, and developing electronic mechanism to do so, continuous monitoring of wildlife in border by both parties, and jointly listing the poachers, brokers and smugglers to bring them within the legal framework. Similarly, establishing a regional level award system for individuals, forestry staff, police and army personnel contributing towards the control of illegal wildlife trade and poaching is highly recommended. In addition, raising the staff morale through implementing measures for career development, study tour, training, incentives, capacity building, insurance and special security will help us in achieving the success.

While preventing the illegal trade of wildlife is imperative, we must also bear the responsibility of bringing those involved in wildlife crime within legal framework. Honouring the highest deference for human rights, we must also strengthen and reinforce our workforce by embracing latest research and investigative technologies. On the other hand, we must also fortify our legal institutions by making them more efficient and transparent so that justice is served to defaulters and criminals.

Besides this, the roles and responsibilities of different Non-Governmental agencies and media in controlling illegal wildlife and wildlife parts and products cannot be understated.

In the end, I believe that this workshop can come up with realistic strategies and action plans to control illegal trade in wildlife and support sustainable legal trade of the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. I thank you the organizer who gave me an opportunity to inaugurate this workshop.

Finally I would like to wish all the best for the successful completion of this workshop and wish our international participants and representatives a pleasant stay in Nepal.

Welcome Address and Objectives of the Workshop by Dr Arvind Boaz, Director General, SACEP

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of SACEP, to this First Regional Workshop on South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative, in this beautiful city of Kathmandu.

It is indeed a great honour for me to be present here. I am grateful to the Government of Nepal to accept our request to be the host for this extremely important initiative. It is indeed in the fitness of things that this workshop is being held here in Kathmandu during the tenure of Nepal as the Chairman of the SACEP Governing Council. It is also pertinent to say that the important decision to include this initiative in the Work Plan of SACEP was taken by the Hon' Ministers of the eight member countries of SACEP at the 10th GC held in this very city in January 2007.

Many of you may be aware that SACEP is an Intergovernmental Organisation, the first regional IGO to be established in the field of Environment, to deal exclusively with the environmental concerns of its member countries which comprise of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It came into being in February 1982 with the adoption of the Colombo Declaration and the Articles of Association.

The aims and objectives of SACEP are to promote and support the protection and enhancement of the South Asia individually, collectively and co-operatively and to encourage the judicious use of the resources of the environment with a view to alleviating poverty, reducing socio economic disparities and improving the quality of life of the people.

The key functions of SACEP are promoting co-operative activities in environmental protection and management which are beneficial to the member state; facilitating sharing of knowledge and expertise; and providing resources for project implementation through donor assistance and support.

As you are aware during the past two decades there has been a sudden and big increase in the unsustainable extraction and illegal trade of all types of wildlife products especially products of endangered animals and plants due to their ever increasing demand in medicine and cosmetics. This has become a serious cause of concern for all the countries in South Asia, which have very rich biodiversity wealth. As such there is now a growing need within each country to cooperate with other countries in the region to both regulate the legal trade and combat the illegal trade.

The 10th Governing Council of SACEP in its meeting held on 25th January 2007 expressed serious concern at the growing over exploitation of our wildlife resources and decided to incorporate a work programme for combating illegal trade in wildlife and to help strengthening the enforcement of CITES in the region.

As a follow up of this decision SACEP and TRAFFIC jointly held discussions with various South Asian country delegates during the 14th CoP of CITES held in Hague in June 2007, which also strongly supported development of regional network. After assessing the felt need of these countries for the development of regional cooperation and networking for efficiently managing the sustainable wildlife trade and to control illegal trade from the region, the SACEP and TRAFFIC entered into an MOU on 20th July 2007 to help in development and implementation of a long-term South Asia Regional strategy for achieving this goal.

The SACEP Initiative aims to increase regional cooperation in addressing wildlife trade issues of importance to the 8 Member Nations of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP). Concurrently, this initiative seeks to leverage national-level action and commitments. The implementation of effective measures to conserve and to combat illegal and unsustainable trade in key species will have beneficial impacts on other CITES-listed species also.

The South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative [SAWTI] will work under the mandate of SACEP and develop a work programme within the context of the national priorities after detail consultations with all the eight countries in the region.

The objective is to mainly assist the South Asian countries in achieving strategic goals as outlined in the CITES Strategic Vision 2008 – 2013 for facilitating and managing efficiently the legal and sustainable trade and eventually eliminating illegal trade in wildlife. The initiative will seek :

1. To develop strong elements of regional cooperation and coordination amongst the wildlife management and enforcement authorities
2. Development of common and effective National laws and policies.
3. Establishment of a Forum for sharing of knowledge and its effective dissemination
4. Ensuring species conservation, sustainable harvest, trade and livelihoods security.
5. Develop capacity for risk assessment and establishment of an early warning system.
6. Capacity building of the sustainable resource management and enforcement agencies

The present workshop, I feel, will enable the country delegates to deliberate in detail on various issues involved in consolidating such a regional network and cooperation initiative as well as development of the basic framework of overarching regional programmes with technical and financial help from various interested donor agencies.

I would also take this opportunity to brief this august house of another initiative of SACEP –the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force, that is only the third in the world and first in Asia, for the conservation, protection and development of the coral reefs and associated ecosystems, that was launched in July 2007 under the distinguished patronage of the Former Vice President of the International Court of Justice, Judge CG Weeramantry. This is a two tier task force with a regional body housed in SACEP and supported by country level task forces formed in each maritime country. Here we have brought together the five maritime nations of the South Asian region who are represented on the regional task force by their Environmental Secretaries and senior experts and managers of Marine Protected areas to develop regional cooperation, exchange of knowledge and development of a regional response and Plan of action to Coral reef conservation.

I am extremely indebted to TRAFFIC for joining hands with us to launch SAWTI initiative and to all my member countries with so enthusiastically supporting it. I am thankful to the Govt. of Nepal for hosting this workshop and to WWF Nepal for helping us organize it. My heartfelt thanks go out to the US Govt. for so generously providing financial support and to all those who have worked for the success of this workshop. I would also like to thank the Media and Press for giving us their valuable time for this inauguration.

I once again welcome you all and wish you very fruitful deliberations, leading to an agreed outcome for the way ahead with this initiative, in this pristine environment of our Himalayan landscape. In the end I extend full commitment and support on behalf of SACEP to take forward this initiative and am confident that this will emerge as an exemplary regional response to all wildlife issues for the South Asian region and will not only serve as a ray of hope to the dwindling wildlife of this region but also a sound footing for the sustainable use of wildlife to ensure livelihood security for the large forest dependent population of my South Asian region.

Opening remarks by Mr John Sellar, Senior Officer for Anti-smuggling, fraud and organized crime, CITES Secretariat

The CITES Secretariat was delighted to receive an invitation to attend this workshop, which we believe is a very important event for the sub-region. The Secretary-General of CITES apologizes that he could not attend personally but he sends his very best wishes for the success of the workshop and eagerly looks forward to learning of its outcomes.

The CITES Secretariat would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Government of Nepal for hosting the workshop, to the Secretariat of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and to TRAFFIC, which has facilitated our coming together and which is dedicated to taking this process forward.

Today's meeting is very much a logical and natural progression from the South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic Workshop that took place in this city in April 2004. I was pleased to represent CITES on that occasion and I'm very pleased to be back in Kathmandu once more.

Participants at the 2004 workshop identified the need for greater communication between countries in this part of the world and noted the importance of coordination and sharing of experience. They recognized that there were several steps that could be taken to promote compliance with national and international wildlife law and to facilitate sustainable trade when this meets national policies. They also noted, however, that this is a sub-region with considerable amounts of poaching and illegal trade and acknowledged that enforcement is essential; again at national, regional and international levels.

The 2004 workshop also noted the existence of formal mechanisms, such as the ASEAN CITES Experts Working Group, from which lessons could be learned.

In some ways, it doesn't seem so long since I was last discussing wildlife trade matters in Kathmandu but a great deal has happened since 2004. We've had two Conferences of the Parties, first in Bangkok and then in The Hague last year. At both of those events, the CITES community called upon Parties to engage in greater communication, collaboration and coordination. References to the three 'Cs' seem to have become a constant theme of any wildlife-related gathering. We all know what's best for us but perhaps we need to ask ourselves whether we are practising what we preach.

Since CoP14, ASEAN has established its Wildlife Enforcement Network and I was privileged to act for the CITES Secretariat in the development of the network. This is why the Secretary-General sent me to Nepal to see whether I can assist you too. I see from the background documents for this workshop that in January last year the Minister of State for Environment and Forests of India noted the need to combat illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. It would seem that a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network may well be a way forward for this sub-region as well. There are now several regional and sub-regional wildlife law enforcement bodies around the world and the CITES Secretariat believes that each, in its own way, has undoubtedly been successful. How South Asia should address such issues is a matter for you to decide but CITES very much hopes that you will seek to draw upon the available examples and I am ready to provide more information, if you wish.

Why should South Asia work together? Well, because experience has shown us that in today's world countries simply cannot protect their natural resources on their own. It is just too great a task. There are too many threats existing, some of which occur through forces of nature outside our control and for which we must come together in a responsive fashion, providing support to neighbours. Others are of a socio-economic manner, where humans encroach onto wildlife habitats or seek to harvest natural resources to feed, shelter or warm themselves. In such cases, we need to be pro-active, to ensure that such uses are sustainable and that, alongside meeting the needs and wishes of homo sapiens, we also guarantee a future for the world's wildlife.

Looking through the list of countries represented here today, the majority, since the Kathmandu workshop of 2004, have suffered some form of natural disaster or civil unrest. Such circumstances make it even more difficult for national governments to bear the burden of safeguarding their natural resources. Experience also shows us that poachers and unscrupulous wildlife traders invariably exploit those circumstances. Indeed, in some parts of the world, rebels deliberately engage in illegal trade in wildlife to help fund their activities and there are several examples of this related to elephant poaching in Africa. There are no doubt cases we could identify in this area too.

Domestic consumption of wildlife can sometimes be very heavy but over the next two days our focus will understandably be more on cross-border trade. For several of the countries here, especially those who share common borders, wildlife trade has gone on for centuries. In the past, it was probably manageable and sustainable. However, the consumption of natural resources, especially in recent years, has become so significant, particularly for many species of wildlife, that it requires very close attention to be paid to ensure that it remains manageable and sustainable. Achieving this is made easier if countries work together.

It's easier for the managers. Those who administer domestic and international wildlife trade policies and regulations. Those who design trade policies. And those who must design, and then implement, conservation strategies.

It's easier for the scientists. Those who contribute to conservation strategies and those who, day to day, need to monitor natural resources and guide the trade administrators. In the CITES context, non-detriment findings are facilitated if countries that share a species habitat also share their knowledge of populations, etc.

It's easier for the enforcers. If someone is illegally trading in one country, he or she may well be trading 'next door' too. The Police and Customs officials in those neighbouring countries need to know this and help each other in targeting them.

So, yes, it is perfectly clear that South Asia must work together. And, of course, it already does and this is demonstrated by the existence of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. What this workshop seeks to achieve is to lay the groundwork so that South Asia can work together even better.

As sovereign States, you may not wish to adopt identical wildlife trade policies. Some of the countries here today engage in significant levels of trade, whilst others totally prohibit commercial exploitation of some or all wildlife. Others may still be designing trade policies or may be reviewing existing ones. But, whatever your policy, it is vital that your neighbours know what it is. If for no other reason but that they are aware and respond when, for example, a wildlife product arrives from country 'X' yet country 'X' bans trade in the species. And we mustn't forget that wildlife trade isn't restricted to the fauna and flora that are listed in the CITES Appendices.

The CITES Resolution on compliance and enforcement calls for countries to establish regional networks and provides the Secretariat with the mandate to help you do so. That is why I am here today. But the Secretariat is also always there to help you in other ways too. By providing legislative assistance, something my colleagues have done for several countries represented here, and which we remain ready to do as many Parties in this region have still to reach Category 1 status. By providing scientific support. And by providing capacity building; and I've distributed examples of the several training tools that we've prepared.

CITES is currently engaged in assisting a small number of Parties spread around the world in reviewing national wildlife trade policies and this is something else that South Asia may wish to draw upon when these reviews are published, as they will be soon.

South Asia contains some of the world's most impressive biodiversity. Because it's impressive, it's valuable both in monetary and conservation terms. The 'megafauna' that is found in many countries here, such as the tiger, elephant and snow leopard, are among some of the most endangered animals on the planet. They are regularly targeted by organized and dangerous criminal gangs. Our host country knows only too well how difficult it is to combat such criminals. But CITES also knows the efforts that Nepal has made and the Secretary-General was pleased to recognize that work with the award of his Certificate of Commendation to the Chitwan National Park Authority and the Nepal Army in 2006.

Of course, it's not just terrestrial species that are important, so we shouldn't overlook the trade that involves what is removed from the seas of South Asia. And speaking of seas, I'm delighted that the Maldives is participating and the CITES Secretariat hopes that we will welcome it as a Party in CITES soon.

I've had the honour and privilege to visit five of the countries represented here, some several times. I know that they have officials that are dedicated to the goal of wildlife conservation and I know how beautiful their fauna, flora and habitats are. I have every confidence that South Asia will grasp the opportunity of this workshop to move forward collaboratively and if I and my colleagues can help you do so, we'll be delighted to assist.

I am very happy to be in Nepal again. I'm just sorry that old friends like Dr Maskey and Narayan Poudel, who were such shining examples of the dedication I've just referred to, cannot be with us. Narayan worked with me on the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force. I offer my condolences to their families and the families of all the others who lost their lives in that tragic helicopter crash in 2006. It is a testimony to the commitment to conservation which exists that others in Nepal and WWF have stepped forward to carry on their work.

I mean no criticism when I say that a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade is probably overdue. The CITES Secretariat hopes that the next two days will produce a draft that your relevant Ministers will adopt through the SACEP process.

As a member of the secretariat of an international organization, I know only too well the tremendous amount of work that goes in to convening a workshop such as this and I'd like to close by once again thanking our hosts in Nepal, SACEP and TRAFFIC for all they've done to bring us together.

Opening remarks by Mr Roland Melisch, Global Programme Co-ordinator, TRAFFIC International

TRAFFIC would like to particularly thank our hosts in both the Nepal Government and in WWF Nepal, not only for their valuable assistance and professional advice in organizing this workshop, but also for the kind friendship and hospitality they have shown us in this beautiful city of Kathmandu.

We would like to note that the last significant meetings that TRAFFIC was involved with in this city were the South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic and Enforcement Workshops that were held here in April 2004. We are very gratified to see that the workshop today will take the outcomes of those meetings to a higher level and we are looking forward to seeing constructive conservation actions agreed upon by the end of this meeting tomorrow.

We would certainly like to applaud the countries of South Asia for taking this important step in coming together as a region today and seeking to jointly address two pressing issues:

1. Ensuring sustainable wildlife use and trade and
2. Eliminating the problem of poaching and illegal trade.

Per its very nature, a lot of trade phenomena are driven by cross-border external demand, and consequently, they are by definition, international. TRAFFIC has therefore always felt that international cooperation – and, in particular, *regional* co-operation - is absolutely essential in tackling the challenges of wildlife trade.

TRAFFIC is a key strategic partner in a number of similar regional efforts worldwide. Participants this week will hear more about the work we have been involved in together with other partners with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, and the highly successful wildlife enforcement network that has been established there.

We have also been assisting the European Commission and European Union Member States in further strengthening their wildlife trade controls.

Today's workshop will hopefully see a similarly successful initiative emerging in the South Asia region.

If there is one crucial lesson we have learnt while working with governments in all those regional initiatives I mentioned earlier, it is that a significant success factor is partnerships. This not only means close and strong partnerships between the governments involved, but also forging partnerships with the relevant intergovernmental organisations – such as the CITES Secretariat – and regional bodies such as the ASEAN Secretariat, European Commission and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, SACEP. We therefore are very pleased to have entered into a partnership with SACEP last year – which has led to this workshop today.

Obviously, any partnership also means commitment. It means that such initiatives need the support and assistance of other governments, donor and aid agencies, non-governmental organisations, industry and business, as well as local communities. I would therefore call upon other governments, organisations and international bodies to respond to the brave initiative that is being embarked upon today by the eight member countries of SACEP by providing them with the financial, technical and other support needed to ensure that plans and commitments made this week are translated into positive conservation action.

On TRAFFIC's part, we are certainly committed to providing this regional initiative with all the technical expertise, experience and resources we have at our disposal. On that note, I would like to end by wishing participants a successful and productive meeting – and we look forward to working closely with you in making this initiative a resounding success.

Opening Remarks by Mr Anil Manandhar, Country Representative, WWF Nepal

It is an honour for me has opportunity say few words at this August gathering represented by distinguished delegates from the SAARC nations and eminent national and international participants.

Also WWF Nepal feels proud of being of a co-host to organize this important event.

Nepal has been recognized by international communities for its hard efforts to protect endangered species of wildlife by designating more than 19 percent of its land mass as a protected area to provide safe shelter for wild fauna and flora, legal protection for the endangered species of fauna and flora, anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts that have made significant impact on conserving endangered wildlife species in recent years. WWF Nepal is very proud of being a part of this.

Despite all our efforts in curbing the illegal trade of flora and fauna in the region, we all are aware that this menace still exists and increasing in some places and at particular time.

Layers of network of poachers, middleman, domestic traders and international traders have supported the illegal wildlife trade syndicate to thrive and also to expand in national, regional and international levels.

Our individual efforts may have won us a few battles, but there is still a long way to go to win the war against this heinous crime and menace. This we can only achieve if we all work together jointly and act as one force.

Distinguished participants let's join hands together to fight and end this menace in this region and once again show to the global community about our joint commitment and strength.

This is also an opportunity to all of us to prove our commitment to safeguard these God's magnificent creations, so that in the future, our children, grand children and great grand children will be proud of what we have done today.

WWF Nepal and its international network are and will be always with every step leading to the conservation of wildlife and their habitats as well to combat illegal activities against wild flora and fauna not only in Nepal but also in the region.

I am sure you all here can and will create a milestone in the history of conservation and in conserving nature's most magnificent creations.

So I request you all, appeal to you all to come up with joint actions to work together and act together to remove this menace from our region

I wish the all the distinguished delegates and participants a very pleasant and comfortable stay in Nepal.

Inaugural address by Mr. Shyam Bajimaya, Director-General, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation

First of all, I am very delighted to have the opportunity on behalf of the organizers to extend my warm welcome and greetings to all distinguished delegates, participants and guests of the “First Regional Workshop on Wildlife Trade in South Asia”. This regional workshop intends to establish a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative” under the mandate of SACEP to combat against the rising illegal trade on wild species of flora and fauna in South Asia. Though this workshop has come as a surprise to some of us but I think SACEP and TRAFFIC deserve our sincere thanks for getting South Asian’s countries together to discuss on common issues and problems pertaining to wildlife trade in the region and come up with a pragmatic and workable recommendations.

As we all know that South Asia is rich in biodiversity and they are under constant threats in view of the growing illegal trade on wild animals and plants and abated population growth in the region. Although we do not have information of actual trade volume to say how significant the trade is but recent seizures of body parts or parts of high value endangered species of wild animals and plants and occasional upsurge in poaching of endangered species certainly show increasing trend of such activities. The mode of operandi of offences has vividly indicated that it has become more organized, sophisticated and internationalized and has become a complex issue in conservation arena.

Keeping this in view, not only several international conventions and regional initiatives, for example, the 14th meeting of the CoP to CITES, the Special Decisions of CITES CoP on Asian Big Cats and Rhinoceros Conservation, the 4th General Assembly of the Global Tiger Forum GTF and the South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic Workshop of 2004 all have emphasized on coordination, cooperation and communication between countries in controlling illegal trade on wildlife and plants. And also several efforts have been undertaken at national and local levels to curtail the illegal activities. But, still, illegal trade has remained one of the main threats to the very survival of endangered species of flora and fauna and it is major challenge to conservationists, natural resource managers, conservation partners and various law enforcement authorities involved in biodiversity conservation.

I feel it will be worth mentioning to this distinguished gathering about Nepal’s initiatives in a nutshell for the benefit of our international participants. Nepal is a State Party to CITES since 1975 and the Department of Forest and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation are the Management Authorities for flora and fauna respectively. Nepal, in close collaboration with several conservation organization partners, has initiated trans-boundary cooperation with India and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, and conducting coordination meeting with relevant agencies, organizing training for law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies, producing awareness materials and manuals. The network of anti-poaching operation has been expanded through the community based organizations in and around protected areas. Also, Nepal is in the process of promulgating a separate National Legislation for effective implementation of CITES in spite of having one of the stringent wildlife conservation Act in the country.

Despite all these efforts, Nepal has been considered as a transit point for those kinds of activities. Since single nation’s efforts to curb illegal trade is next to impossible so collaborative and complementary efforts of all is necessary to get rid of illegal trade at least from the region.

So I am confident that this 2 days workshop will provide ample opportunity to interact, identify and address impediments faced in implementation and come up with a pragmatic recommendations for sustainable programs as well as effective and efficient institutional arrangement for concerted efforts in combating illegal wildlife trade so as to ensure the long-term survival of the most targeted species of the region.

Finally, I wish all success of the workshop and also wish to our international delegates and participants for their pleasure stay in Nepal.

Vote of Thanks by Ms Meena Khanal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Nepal

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the Chief Guest -Secretary of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation Mr. Tirtha Raj Sharma for inaugurating this workshop. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to today's Chairperson, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment Science and Technology Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal. My sincere thanks also goes out to SACEP for choosing Nepal as the venue for this workshop.

Likewise, my hearty thanks to all our guests who have arrived from afar to attend this important workshop. I would also like to thank to Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General, SACEP and Mr. Roland Melisch, Global Programme Co-ordinator, TRAFFIC for their tireless efforts in organizing this workshop. I am very grateful to the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, WWF Nepal, Department of Forests, Department of National Parks and all other institutions for their support in organizing this workshop.

My sincere gratitude to all the dignitaries for being present here today.

I would once again like to thank WWF Nepal, TRAFFIC and other agencies for their financial support in organizing this workshop. A big thank to you my colleagues and friends for your unwavering support and tireless efforts to bring this workshop in to life. We would like to acknowledge the tireless work of Steering committee members to make this workshop a success.

And thank you to all our journalist friends for accepting our invitation to this workshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This workshop is seeing the light of day despite of a short notice. Nonetheless, the success of this workshop lies in the distillation of concrete ideas which I believe will be forthcoming in these two days; to evaluate and ensure that proper mechanisms are in place to combat and control illegal trade of wildlife and/or their products and derivatives across our region. To this end, I believe that our long standing knowledge, experience, expertise and capacities will come on full throttle to formulate practicable, realistic and achievable goals and strategies to combat illegal wildlife trade in South Asia.

Finally, on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all individuals and organizations who contributed their time, ideas, and suggestions to make this workshop an effective one. I look forward to your continued support and wish all of us a very interesting and productive workshop.

Opening remarks by Mr Narayanan Prasad Silwal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Nepal

First of all I would like to extend my warm welcome to all of you on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal and myself for accepting our invitation and participating in The First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative.

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate this unique and historic workshop where all the eight countries of South Asia are participating to develop a new regional wildlife trade initiative through networking and cooperation for mutual help in ensuring sustainable wildlife trade and to combat illegal trade.

We all have similar cultural and social set up and have a long-standing tradition of protecting flora and fauna as well as wilderness and forests. The region also has remarkable ecological unity mainly as all the eight countries are dependent on the annual monsoon affected climate.

We are all aware of the fact that all the countries in this region have given special importance to the protection of wild flora and fauna and brought in country-specific forest and wildlife Protection Acts and Bylaws. All of them have well established Departments for wildlife conservation and management. And for those of you, who are having coast lands this also applies for marine and fisheries laws and departments. These departments are the key institutions for implementing the provisions of various National policies.

Nepal is party to several international conventions that aim at conserving the biological and cultural diversity of the nation. We are implementing different conservation programs through the mobilization of local communities.

Community forestry is one of the best known examples in Nepal catering the need of the people as well as conserving the biodiversity in the ground. Nepal also has declared buffer zones in and around the protected areas to garner the cooperation of the local communities for conservation. Members of community forests and buffer zones are actively engaged in the protection of wild flora and fauna in the country. The Government of Nepal is committed for the protection of forests, species and landscape in the country. The Department of Forests and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation are the key institutions responsible for the protection and management of the biodiversity in the country.

I hope that this workshop, with the participation of senior delegates of the member countries of the South Asia region under the umbrella of SACEP and with the joint technical support of TRAFFIC and WWF will develop a road map to help control wildlife trade in the region. I hope that the delegates will have ample opportunities to discuss, exchange views and deliberate to formulate the future course of action to develop this regional initiative and cooperation on all aspects of wildlife trade.

At the end, I would like to mention that this workshop has been possible with the help and coordination of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Department of Forest and WWF Nepal.

Once again I would like to welcome all of you present here. With this, I declare the inaugural session adjourns now to follow a technical session later.

*The First Regional Workshop on
the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative*

*Section 3
Presentations*

3.1 Country presentations on wildlife trade from within the region



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

***Workshop on Wildlife Trade in South Asia
Kathmandu, Nepal (31 January -1 February 2008)***

Agenda Item: Presentation of Country Governments of a Status Paper covering the field of wildlife trade and related legal policies, sustainable development, sustainable use and trade, regulated and illegal trade, bilateral and multilateral collaboration

Guidelines for Presentation

The aim of this agenda item is to allow participants to share information and views about their countries wildlife trade policies, regulations and practices, and examine areas for further regional and multilateral collaboration. 'Wildlife trade' refers to the sale and exchange of animal and plant resources, including products derived from terrestrial, freshwater and marine species, as well as timber and fisheries products.

Presentations should last strictly for 15 minutes and there will be 5 minutes available for questions. Presentations can be verbal or with Powerpoint presentations. Kindly provide your Status Paper electronically to SACEP by Friday January 26th at the SACEP address below.

It is hoped that the Status Paper and presentation will briefly cover the eight key points outlined below:

1. What are the relevant policies, legislation and regulatory measures governing wildlife and wildlife trade specifically? (e.g. legislation governing protected species, use and trade in species, CITES-implementing legislation, legislation relevant to a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation)
2. What are the relevant governmental structures that currently manage, implement and enforce the regulatory measures mentioned above? (e.g. Environment, Forest, Fisheries and/or Wildlife Departments, Customs, Police Forces, Coast Guard)
3. Provide one example on how illegal trade in a CITES Appendix I or national protected species is controlled and addressed (e.g. tigers, rhinos, elephants)
4. Provide one example on how legal trade is regulated and managed for a species that is sustainably used and traded (e.g. medicinal plants, timber, fisheries)
5. Provide examples of success stories in implementing or enforcing wildlife trade measures (for example, key seizures of wildlife trade products) and the key success factors in these.
6. What are the key challenges your government faces in implementing wildlife trade policies and legislation? (e.g. capacity building, lack of awareness, lack of resources [human, technical, financial], impacts on livelihoods)

7. In your experience, what examples are there of good regional, bilateral or multilateral cooperation in the implementation of wildlife trade policies and legislation?

8. What do you see as priority sectors or issues where there is good potential for greater regional cooperation among South Asian countries?

If you require further information on content and/or clarification, please contact:

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AFGHANISTAN



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



*National Environmental Protection Agency
NEPA*



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا إِلَى الطَّيْرِ فَوْقَهُمْ صَافًى وَيَقْبِضْنَ مَا يُمَسِّكُهُنَّ إِلَّا
الرَّحْمَنُ إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ بَصِيرٌ ﴿٦٧﴾



67.19] Have they not seen the birds above them lined up in columns and spreading their wings? The Most Gracious is the One who holds them in the air. He is Seer of all things.



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



History of Wildlife

As witnessed by the many observation recorded In the memoirs Babur, the founder of the Mughal Dynasty who ruled Afghanistan 1483 to 1530, the Country was renowned for its rich wildlife. Some Species then present, such as tiger, cheetah and Wild ass, have disappeared from the Country However with its diversity of different habitats, Afghanistan retains a wide variety of fauna.



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



Many of Afghanistan's bird species are also globally threatened including the Siberian crane white-headed duck ,Marbled teal , Pallas,s sea-eagle , greater spotted eagle , Lesser kestrel



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan





National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



Afghanistan's Mammals

order	Species
insectivore	7
chiroptera	34
primates	1
carnivora	29
perissodactyla	1
Artiodactyls	9
Lagomorpha	4
Rodentia	34
TOTAL	120



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



Afghanistan's Birds

- 460 Species (180 + breed in Afghanistan)
- 52 families
- One endemic species (Afghan snow Finch)
- 18 Red listed species



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



Afghanistan's Reptiles

- 109 Species
- 2 Red listed Species

Insects :

- 100,000 Species
- 2 Red Listed Species



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



Afghanistan's Fish

- 126 Species
- 15 Families 69 species in cyprindae carp
- 10 introduced species
- 1 endemic (a loach Discovered in 1998)
- 0 Endangered





National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



Afghanistan's Amphibians

- 8 Species
- 1 Red listed Species
- 1 Endemic

Plants :

About 4000 Species

1 Red listed Species



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



Afghanistan's Protected Areas

1- National Park

Band- e Amir II 41,000 1973

2- Waterfowl Sanctuary

-Ab-i-Estada IV 27,000 1977

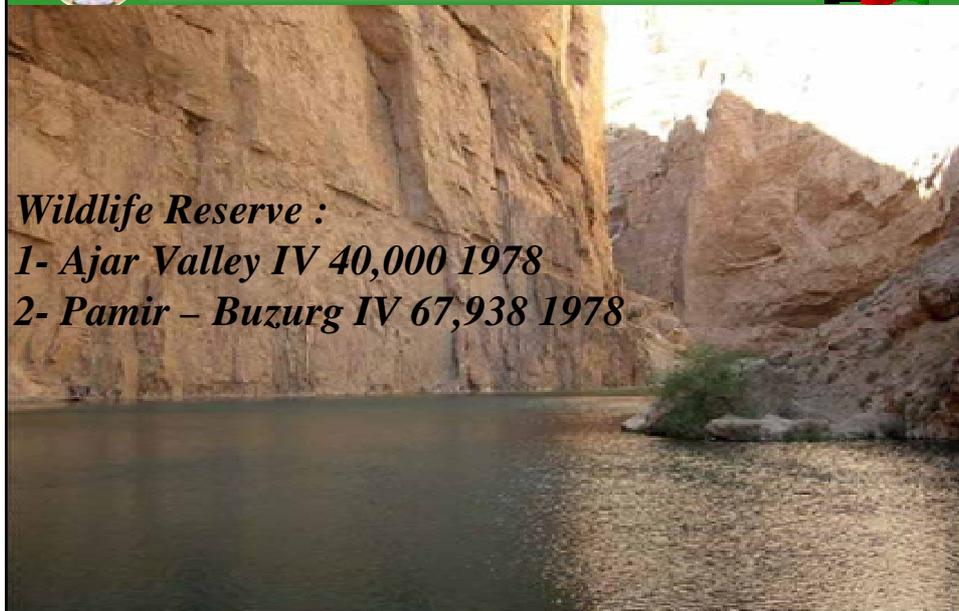
- Dasht Nāwer IV 7,500 1977

-Hamun-i-Puzak IV 35,000 1973





National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



Wildlife Reserve :

1- Ajar Valley IV 40,000 1978

2- Pamir – Buzurg IV 67,938 1978



National Environmental Protection Agency - Afghanistan



***Afghanistan's Biodiversity is Poorly
known***

a - Distribution and status of Vertebrates
Poorly Known .

b-Information on Plants is Scattered.

BANGLADESH

Trade and to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade in Bangladesh

Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmad
Conservator of Forests
Wildlife and Nature Conservation circle
Forest Department

Mr. Bashir Uddin Ahmed
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forest

Jayanti Sanyal
Senior Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forest

Wildlife Habitat in Bangladesh

- Hill Forests:
 - Tropical wet evergreen forests: Sylhet and some part of Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts
 - Tropical semi ever green forests: most of the hill forests of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Chittagong hill tract.
- Tropical moist deciduous forests: The Sal forest in greater districts of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Dinajpur etc.
- Fresh water wetland forests: Haor basin and wetland comprise this forest.
- Mangrove forests: All coastal tidal forest and Sundarbans belong this forest.



Biodiversity and Bangladesh



<i>Fauna</i>	<i>Recorded sp.</i>	<i>Flora</i>	<i>Recorded sp.</i>
Mammals	125	Angiosperms	3,000
Birds	778	Gymnosperms	5
Reptiles	136	Pteridophytes	200
Amphibians	23	Bryophytes	290
Fish	735	Algae	3,600
Invertebrates	2,672		



Threatened Species of Bangladesh

Fauna:

Mammals (43),
Birds (47),
Amphibians (8),
Reptiles (63),
Fishes (58)



Hoolock Gibbon



Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel

Flora:

CR (1), EN (1),
VU (2), LR (3),
DD (25)



Asian Elephant



Salt Water Crocodile

Source: IUCN
Bangladesh,
2000

Wildlife Trade-related Legal Instruments

- Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) (Amendment) Act 1974
- Forest Act 1927 (amended in 1990, 2000)
- Environment Conservation Act, 1995 (Amendments 2000, 2002)
- Export Policy 2006-2009 (Ministry of Commerce)
- Imports and Exports (Control) Act 1957
- Destructive Insects and Pests Act (1914) and Rules (1966)
- Drug Act (1940, 1951)
- Narcotics Act (1990)

Wildlife Trade-related Legal Instruments: Draft

- Biodiversity and Community Knowledge Protection Act (1998)
- Plant Variety Protection Act (2003)
- Medicinal Plants Protection Act (2005)
- Pet and Caged Birds Import and Export Guidelines (2004)
- Wildlife Act, 2005 or amendments of the existing Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) (Amendment) Act 1974

Legal Policy of Bangladesh

- Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) (Amendment) Act 1974 has three schedules in which list of animals are found for ordinary game hunting permission and for protected animals which shall not be hunted, killed or captured according to law. CITES declared species of fauna are treated as protected animal in Bangladesh.
- In draft Wildlife Act, 2005 or amendments of the existing Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) (Amendment) Act 1974, CITES species of flora and Fauna are incorporated

CITES species of Bangladesh – Flora

Group	Appendix I	Appendix II	Appendix III
Angiosperms	3	184	2
Gymnosperms		1	1
Pteridophytes		3	
11 Families	<i>Nepenthes khasiana</i> <i>Paphiopedilum venustum</i> <i>Paphiopedilum insigne</i>	<i>Cyathea brunoniana</i> <i>Cyathea contaminans</i> <i>Cyathea gigantea</i> <i>Cycas pectinata</i> <i>Euphorbia nerifolia</i> <i>Euphorbia milii</i> (cv 'Mili')	<i>Cedrela odorata</i> <i>Gnetum montanum</i> <i>Podocarpus nerifolius</i>
		<i>Opuntia dilleanii</i> Orchidaceae spp. <i>Aquilaria aghallocha</i> <i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i> <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> <i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	

CITES species of Bangladesh – Fauna

Order	Appendix I	Appendix II
Mammals	29	26
Birds	10	94
Reptiles	16	22
Amphibians	-	-
Examples	<i>Hoolock hoolock</i> <i>Platanista gangetica</i> <i>Panthera tigris</i> <i>Elephas maximum</i> <i>Vultur gryphus</i> <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> <i>Crocodylus porosus</i> <i>Gavialis gangeticus</i> <i>Varanus bengalensis</i> <i>Python molurus</i>	<i>Canis lupus (wolf)</i> <i>Aonyx cinerea (otter)</i> <i>Lissemys punctata</i> <i>Najas najas</i> <i>Rana tigrina</i>

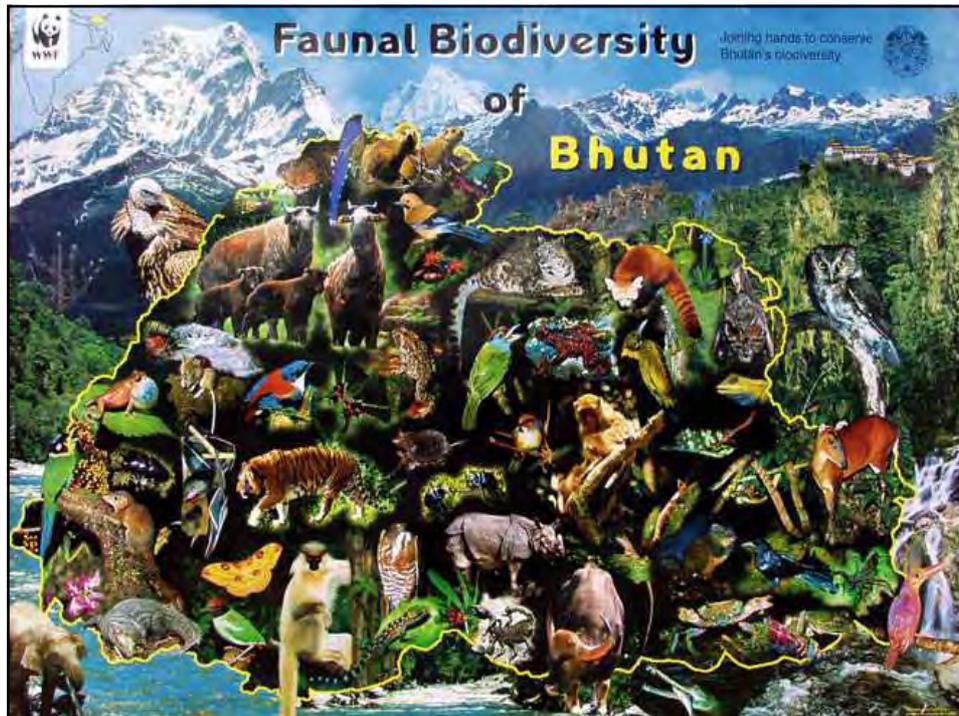
Wildlife Trade

- Bangladesh has virtually no regular trade on CITES species from mid ninety.
- Last export of *Lissemys punctata* was allowed by the government in 2000.
- Though permission was given for *Lissemys punctata* trade in 2001, export finally stopped.
- During 2001 to 2004 there was no trade of CITES species in Bangladesh.
- During 2004 75 *Crocodylus porosus* was imported from East Malaysia for the purpose of framing by a private farm named Reptiles Farm Ltd.
- Till to date no CITES permission is given for trading of flora.

CITES Annual Reports for the Period : 2005-2007

Report-2005						
Appendix	Species	Description	Quantity (No)	Destination	Country of origin	Purpose
I	Indian Lion (Asian) (<i>Panthera Leo Asiatica</i>)	Live	2 (One male and one female)	Kathmandu Central Zoo Nepal	Bangladesh Captive bred (Zoo)	For Kathmandu Central Zoo
Report-2005						
I	Musk Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>)	Live	40 Adults (20 ♂, 20 ♀)	Bangladesh	India (Captive)	For Lalshahar Safari Park, Cox's Bazar
Report-2006						
I	Royal Bengal tiger (<i>Panthera tigris</i>)	Live	2 (One male and one female)	Kowal zoo	Bangladesh Captive bred (Zoo)	For Kowal zoo
II	Hippopotamus (<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>)	Live	One male	Kowal zoo	Bangladesh Captive bred (Zoo)	For Kowal zoo
Report-2007						
I	Asian Elephant (<i>Elephas maximus</i>)	Legs of 18 months/19 months/20 months	4 (Four) 20 x 125 Cm	France	Bangladesh	Exhibition
II/Wild	Indian flying fox (<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>)	Blood/Serum/Saliva/Urine	750 tubes	Australia	Bangladesh	Research and Study
II/Wild	Indian flying fox (<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>)	Blood/Serum/Saliva/Urine	750 tubes	USA	Bangladesh	Research and Study
II/Wild	Indian flying fox (<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>)	Blood/Serum/Saliva/Urine	815 tubes	Australia	Bangladesh	Research and Study
II/Wild	Indian flying fox (<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>)	Blood/Serum/Saliva/Urine	815 tubes	USA	Bangladesh	Research and Study

BHUTAN



Wildlife Trade in South Asia: Bhutan

Kathmandu, Nepal
(31st January-1st February 2008)

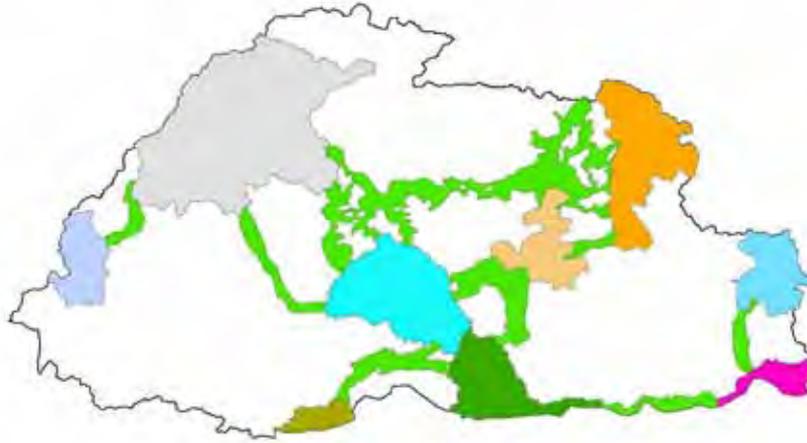
Outline of the Presentation

- Bhutan's Background
- Current Situation (Poaching)
- Legal Framework
- Bhutan Schedule
- Law Enforcement
- GAP in Bhutan Schedule
- Current & Future Activities

Background: Natural Ecosystems

- Status of natural ecosystems
 - Forest cover: 72%, and national policy to maintain 60% (policy has been legalized by Environment Act 2003).
 - More or less intact and pristine.
 - 35% of land under PAs and Biological Corridors.

Background...Protected Natural Areas



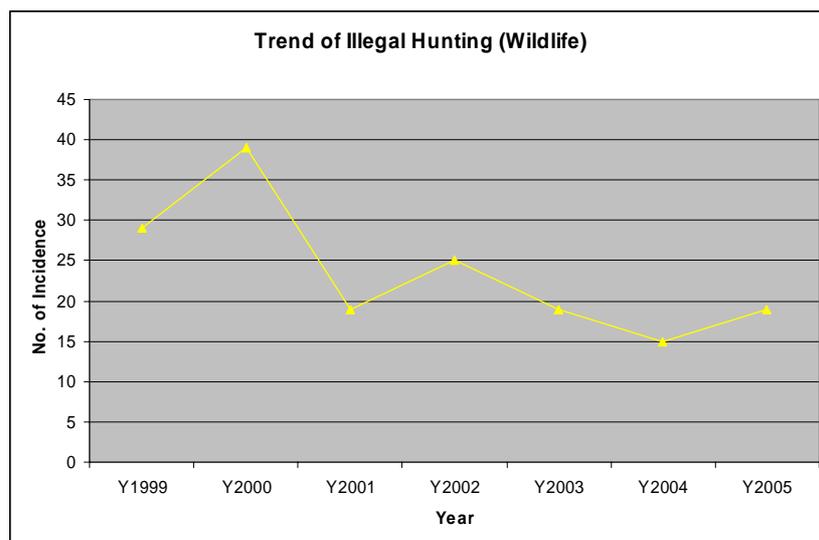
Background...Species Diversity of Bhutan

- Documented Biodiversity
 - 5446 plants, 369 orchids (16 endemic),
 - 660 birds(770 probable),
 - 165 mammals (183 probable),
 - 49 fishes (fishbase.org),
 - 32 herpeto-fauna, and
 - unaccounted invertebrate species
- Bhutan's Species in CITES/IUCN
 - 93
 - 65/22 of birds
 - 61/44 of mammals
 - Literature search on-going
 - Literature search on-going
 - -

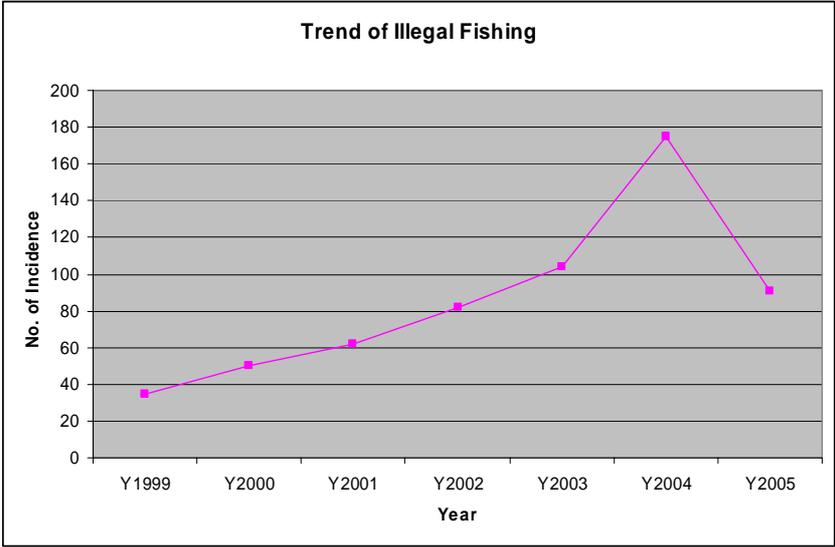
Background... Bhutan's History of CITES

- 13th November 2002: Bhutan became a party to CITES
- No legal trade of any wildlife

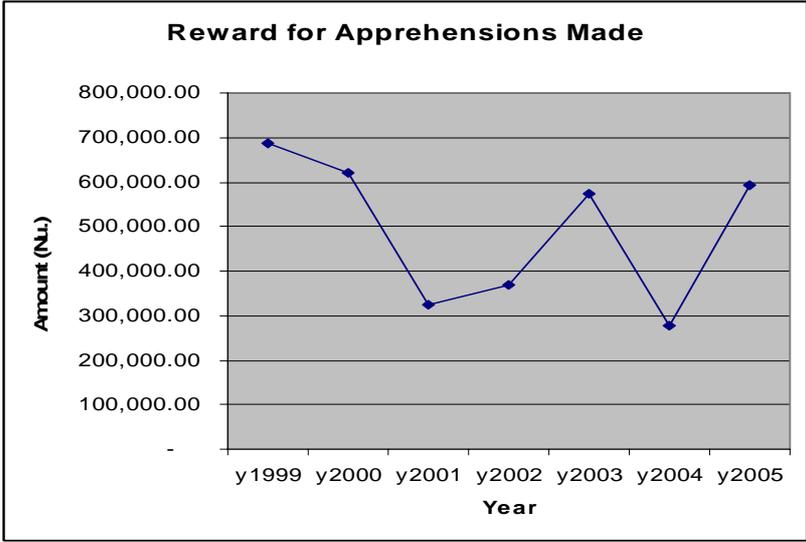
Current Situation (poaching)



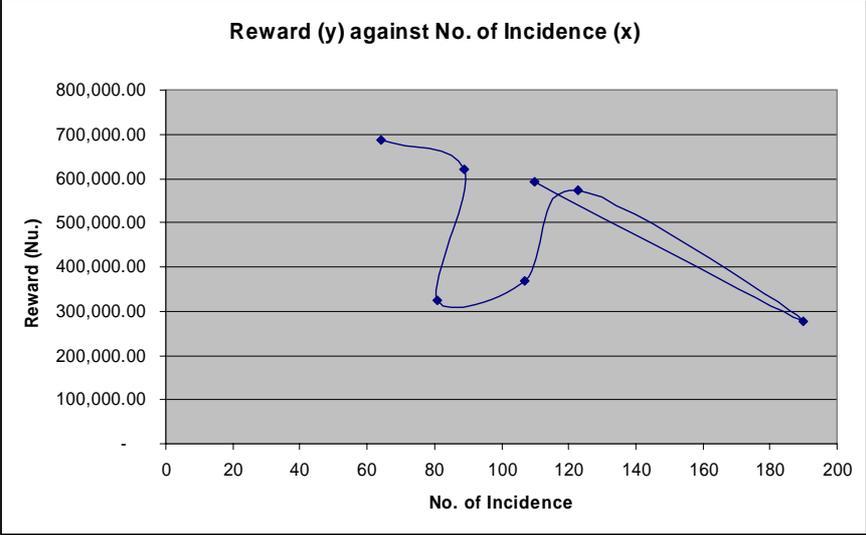
Current Situation (poaching)..



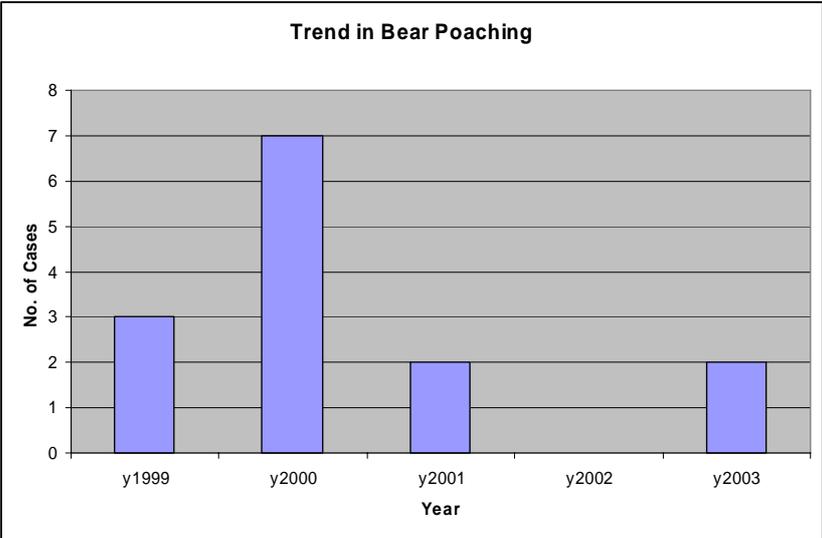
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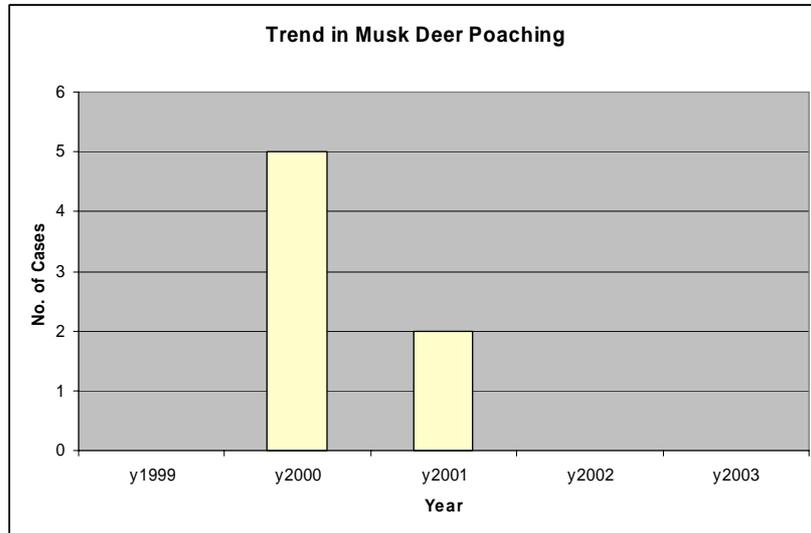
Current Situation (poaching)..



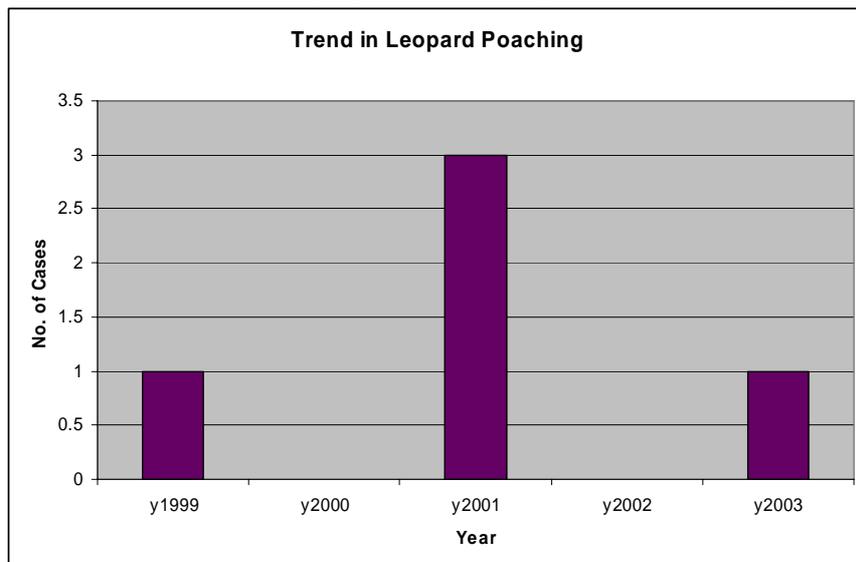
Current Situation (species poaching)...



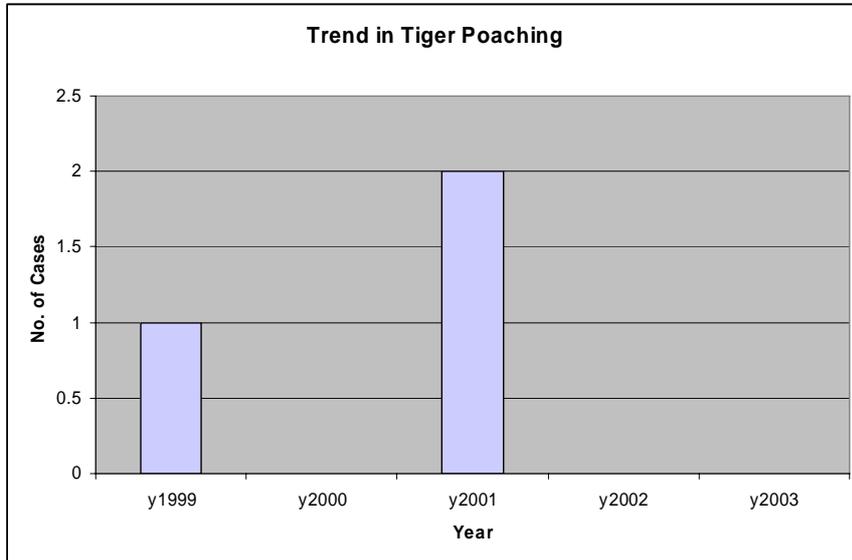
Current Situation (species poaching)...



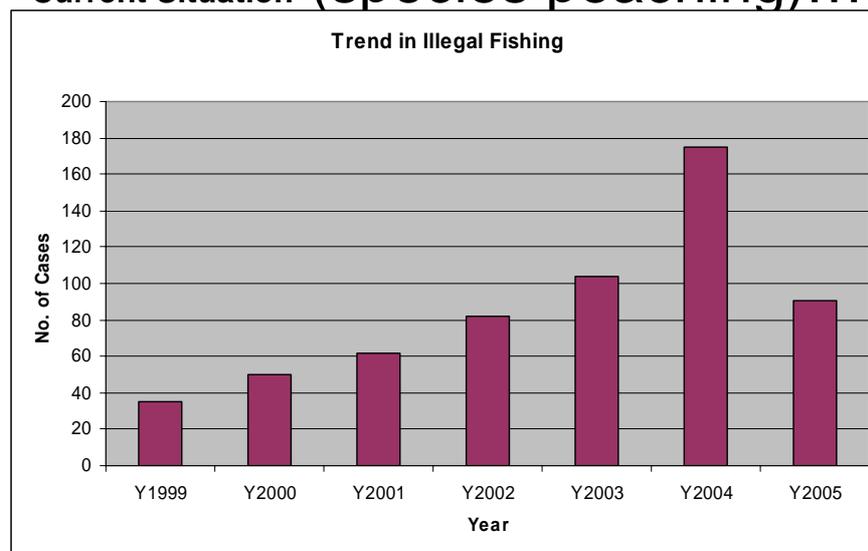
Current Situation (species poaching)...



Current Situation (species poaching)...



Current Situation (species poaching)...



Legal Framework

- Umbrella Act
 - *Thrimzhung Chenmo 1957*
- Natural Resources Acts
 - Forest Act 1969
 - Forest and Nature Conservation Act 1995
- Other Acts
 - Land Act 1979, 2007
 - Police Act 1980
 - Firearms Act 1990
 - Plant Quarantine Act 1993
 - Sales, Tax and Excise Act 2000
 - Environment Act 2003

Law Enforcement

- Forest & Nature Conservation Rules 2000 Vol. I
- Primary enforcers
 - Department of Forests
- Collaborators
 - Department of Revenue & Customs
 - Bhutan Agri & Food Regulatory Authority
 - Police
 - Interpol

Legal Penalty for Poaching Mammals

• Animals	Fine
– Asian One-horned Rhino:	50,000.00
– Asian Elephant:	50,000.00
– Musk Deer:	25,000.00
– Royal Bengal Tiger:	15,000.00
– Others:	350.00

Legal Penalty for Poaching Birds

• Birds	Fine
– Black-necked Crane	2000.00
– Rufous-necked Hornbill	1500.00
– Others	350.00

Anti-poaching Strategy

- Identify key areas and species subject to poaching
- Co-ordination by NCD of data collection and planning anti-poaching activities
- Strengthen HRD to support anti-poaching programme
- Development of effective and efficient patrolling and espionage network
- Collaboration with neighbour countries in tightening law enforcement
- Multi-media awareness raising
- Compensation for livestock predation by carnivores

Bhutan Schedule

Diversity	Bhutan Sched.	CITIES/IUCN
Plant: 5446	7	93/
Mammals:160	17	61/48
Birds: 770	5	65/22
Fishes: 49
Herpect: 32
Invertbrates: -

GAPs

- No clear criteria set for species listing and de-listing.
- Popular species listed.
- Status of species not understood well.
- Species without historical record listed.
- Species of global conservation concern not listed (44 cites listed, 37 iucn listed).
- Such gap in information create problems during the process of enforcement and legal procedures.
- Poor data updating & reporting
- Lack of regional collaboration and intelligence sharing
- Lack of skilled human resources and funding

Current Activities

- Law enforcement being carried on by anti-poaching squad specifically and forestry officials in general.
- Police forces and officials of the revenue and customs also contribute significantly at check points, entry and exit stations of the country.
- Nature Conservation Division has begun to study to revise Bhutan schedule funded by SDS.
- Working in collaboration with BAFRA to reduce smuggling of flora and fauna
- Livestock depredation by carnivores being compensated
- National strategy for human-wildlife conflicts being developed
- Eco-development activities for uplifting rural poverty in and around the protected areas through ICDP

Schedule of Compensation

Livestock	Rate (Nu.)
Mithun breed (adult)	5000.00
Mithun breed (Calf)	2500.00
Jersey (adult)	7500.00
Jersey (Calf)	2500.00
Cows/Oxen	5000.00
Yak	9000.00
Mule	10,000.00
Donkey	5000.00
House	6000.00
Heifer	2500.00

Future Activities

- Put Anti-Poaching Strategy for NCD into action.
- Improve number and technical quality of anti-poaching/patrolling squad.
- Provide training on identification skills on species, trophies and parts to customs officials and police forces.
- Reintroduction plans for historically recorded species
- Regional collaboration in intelligence sharing through Interpol or other mechanisms
- Regular trans-boundary meetings

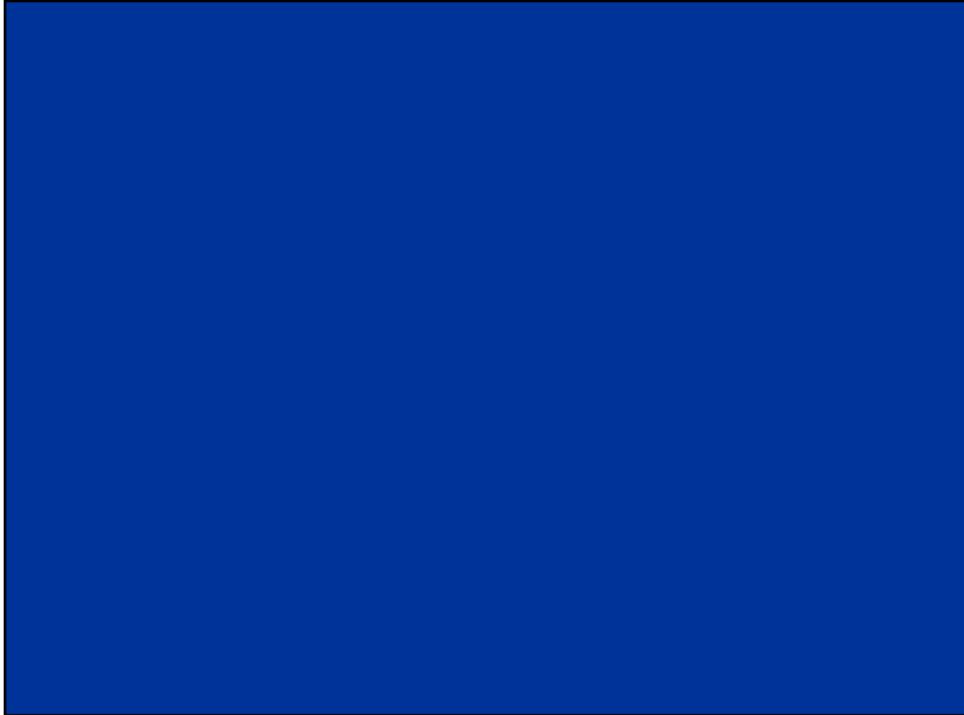
INDIA

Wild Life-Legal and policy frame work in India

India Mega biodiversity nation

- Proximity to tropics
- Extensive mountain systems
- Geological stability
- Long coastline
- Dynamic ecological and socio-economic front
- Varied bio-geographical zones





Protected Areas

- India developed a conservation planning framework in mid-1980's using the principles of biogeography
- Protected Area (PA) networks - (99 National parks, 513 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 41 Conservation Reserves, 4 community Reserves)
- Community Conserved Areas-Sacred Groves, community forests, wetlands etc.
- Protected Areas are distributed across the biogeographic zones

Historical perspective...

- Concepts of conservation advocating wise sustainable use of earth and natural resources are enshrined in ancient scriptures, which are many thousand year old.
- Pillar edicts (252 BC) prescribed measures for protection of all living beings.
- Practice of setting 'sacred groves' as  continued in different cultures, historically.

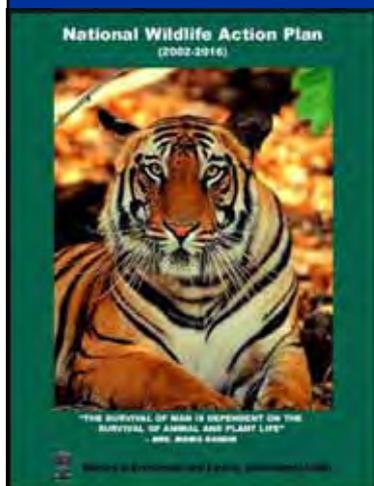
Modern Perspective-Conservation of forests and wildlife

- Concurrent List
- Art.51(A)(g): Fundamental duties
- Directive Principles of State Policy

Legal and enabling framework in the modern perspective

- Indian Forest Act, 1927
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- Environment Protection Act, 1986
- The Biological diversity Act, 2002
- Strong and independent Judiciary
- Free press

Policy framework in the modern perspective



- National Environment Policy
- National Forest Policy
- National Wildlife Action Plan
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- National Forestry Action Plan

Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

- Preamble: “An Act to provide for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants ... with a view to ensuring ecological and environmental security of the country”
- Domestic trade in Sch.I & Part 2 of Sch.II, Prohibited, rest regulated except Sch.V
- Plants also in Sch.VI
- Penalties increased in 2003 upto 7 years
- Dynamic-Amendments to take care of changes with time

Exit point regulation

- Demand: domestic and international
- Under garb of bonafide trade
- Foreign Trade Regulation, 1992- Foreign Trade Policy; Customs Act, 1962
- Exim of Flora/Fauna listed in Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972-Prohibited
- Regional Offices of Wild Life Preservation as a specialized agency to aid and assist Customs

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Mo E& F is the nodal agency for the various international conventions related to climate change, bio-diversity, wildlife conservation etc.
- India is a party to five major international conventions related to wildlife conservation,
 1. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES),
 2. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN),
 3. International Whaling Commission (IWC),
 4. United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization-World Heritage Committee (UNESCO-WHC)
 5. Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Global Tiger Forum (GTF)
- Coalition against Wild Life Trade (CAWT)
- Indo-Chinese Protocol on tiger conservation
- MOU with Government of Nepal on wildlife/ tiger conservation/ protection
- Enforcement Assistance through Interpol

CITES

- Director, Wild Life Preservation, Govt. of India – Management Authority
- Regional Dy. Directors, WLP-Asst. Management Authorities
- Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India, Wild Life Institute of India, Central Marine and Fisheries Institute- Scientific Authorities

CITES Enforcement

- Provisions of CITES reflected through Exim Policy
- Violations are punishable offences under Customs Act, 1972.
- Annual Reports reflect the legal/ illegal trade/ attempts.

CITES/Wild Life Enforcement

- Wild Life Crime Control Bureau through amendment in 2006.
- To coordinate the actions of various central/state/international agencies towards a coordinated universal action for wild life crime control
- Collect and disseminate the intelligence relating to wildlife crimes
- Capacity building towards scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes

Anthropogenic threats

- Nature of dependency- From subsistence to market oriented
- Global life style changes and demand for exotic products
- Population and developmental pressure
- Limited alternative livelihood opportunities

Humane approach

- Involvement of local communities and stake holders as partners in natural resource management
- PRI/ JFM/ EDC/ FDA
- Non-consumptive use practices- Periyar



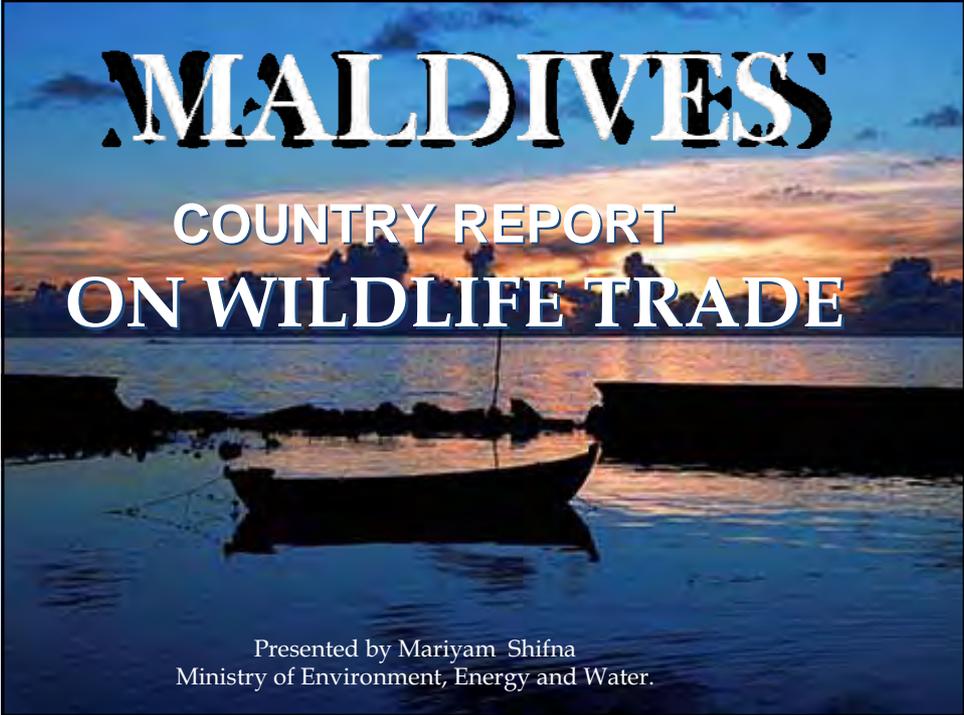
India supports the concept of conservation coupled with sustained development...

..the sustainable development that ensures ecological security, social equity and economic up-liftment...

Sustainable use must accord due consideration to the ethics, culture and acceptable traditions of the country...

India, however, believes that the principle of sustainable use need not be consumptive use alone. We must explore the possibilities of non consumptive use also...

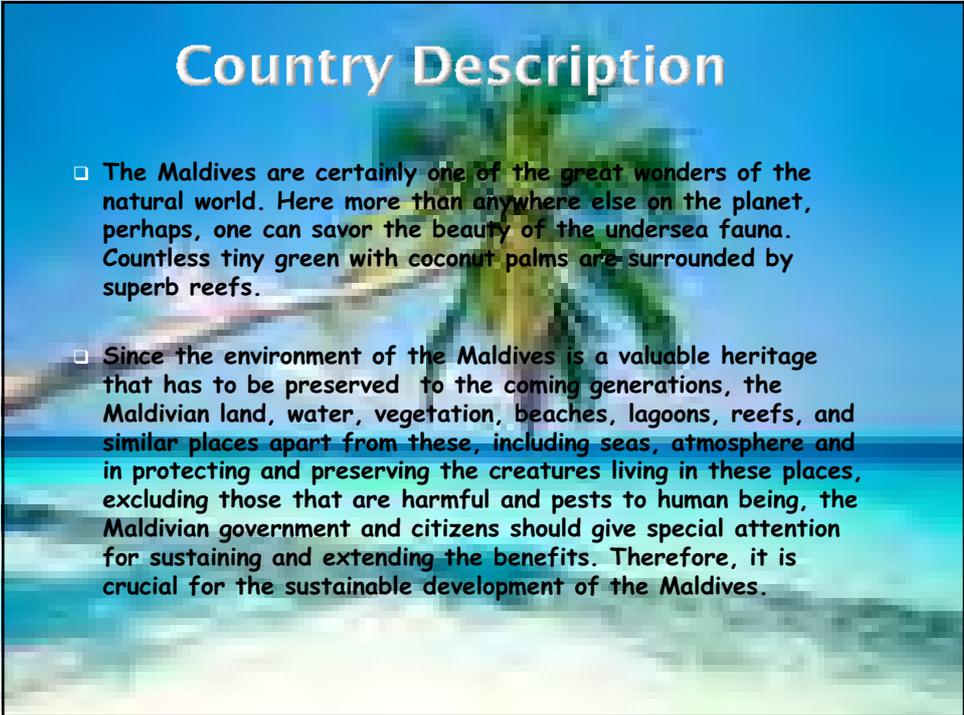
THE MALDIVES



MALDIVES

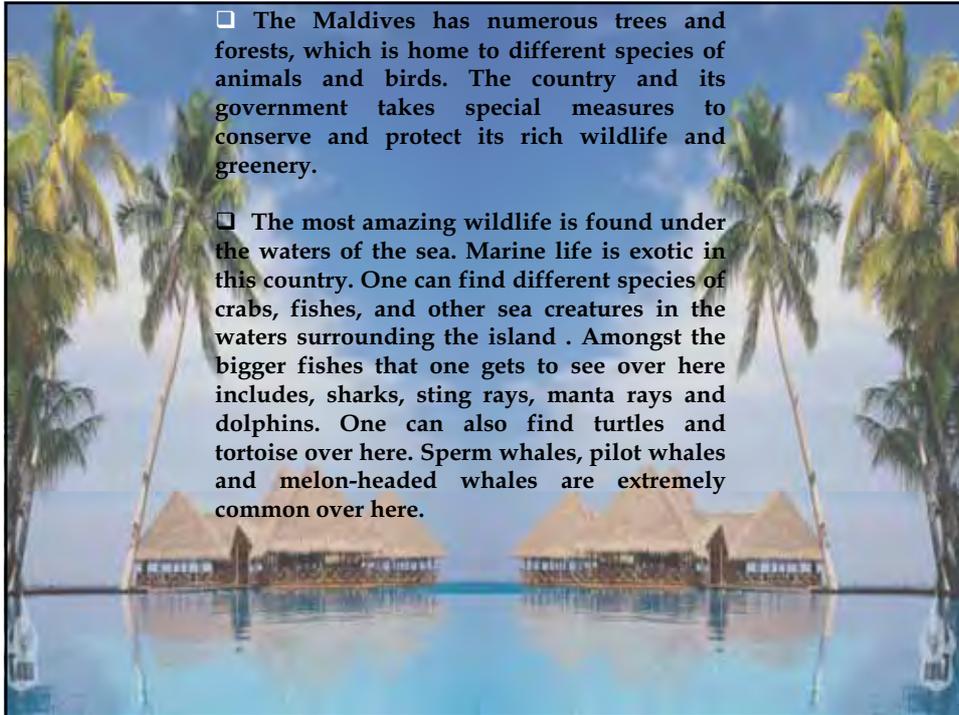
COUNTRY REPORT ON WILDLIFE TRADE

Presented by Mariyam Shifna
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water.



Country Description

- The Maldives are certainly one of the great wonders of the natural world. Here more than anywhere else on the planet, perhaps, one can savor the beauty of the undersea fauna. Countless tiny green with coconut palms are surrounded by superb reefs.
- Since the environment of the Maldives is a valuable heritage that has to be preserved to the coming generations, the Maldivian land, water, vegetation, beaches, lagoons, reefs, and similar places apart from these, including seas, atmosphere and in protecting and preserving the creatures living in these places, excluding those that are harmful and pests to human being, the Maldivian government and citizens should give special attention for sustaining and extending the benefits. Therefore, it is crucial for the sustainable development of the Maldives.



□ The Maldives has numerous trees and forests, which is home to different species of animals and birds. The country and its government takes special measures to conserve and protect its rich wildlife and greenery.

□ The most amazing wildlife is found under the waters of the sea. Marine life is exotic in this country. One can find different species of crabs, fishes, and other sea creatures in the waters surrounding the island . Amongst the bigger fishes that one gets to see over here includes, sharks, sting rays, manta rays and dolphins. One can also find turtles and tortoise over here. Sperm whales, pilot whales and melon-headed whales are extremely common over here.

IN THIS
PRESENTATION,
WE WILL BE
HIGHLIGHTING
WILDLIFE TRADE
OF TURTLES,
AND RESOURCES
SUCH AS TIMBER.



TURTLES

□ During the past, turtles were usually hunted for their meat, but the advent of tourism, turtle shell/scutes became a useful material for making ornaments, sovereigns, and jewellery. In addition, turtles that come ashore to lay eggs are also caught sometimes. These turtles are caught by over turning them, which makes them helpless. This is an act of extreme atrocity.

□ They are also caught off the reefs, by taking them to exhaustion or by hooking them. One or two hooks pierces its skin and the turtle is caught. Once caught, it is subjected to torture whether it is caught for food or otherwise. Slaughtering turtles is different from slaughtering any other animal.



All throughout the pitiless operation, the turtle lies there feebly moving its limbs and tears streaming down its eyes. There is another way of removing the outer layer of the scutes, this time sparing the life of the victim, probably for a very short period. Boiling water is poured on the back of the turtle and the shell is forcibly removed of the live turtle. After removing the scutes, the turtle is thrown into the sea where it is soon eaten by a predator or is left to spend dying moments of its life in agony.



The art of processing or stuffing was evidently learnt, although there are no figures for this trade. But the number of shells and turtles displayed and the number of departing tourists that openly carried objects were great. In a single day in 1977, some 400 turtles were for sale in just shops near the waterfront on Male' the capital. So the total number for sale in just Male' was about 1000 on that day.

SAVE THE TURTLES!

- ☞ The Maldivian government is trying its best to protect the turtles that inhabit the territorial waters. Presently, the bulk of turtles killing attributed to the tourist industry as there is a high demand for items made of turtle shell.
- ☞ The only species of the turtle which exists on the shorelines and beaches of the islands of the Maldives. *Kanzu kahanbu* black turtle (sp *Melanochelys trijuga thermalis*) is in the verge of extinction. So to protect and to conserve this species this government of Maldives has taken action.
- ☞ Under the Law Number 4/93 (Environment Protection and Preservation Act of Maldives 1993, section 4(H) the black turtle is being protected by the government of Maldives and hereby, the public is being informed in this notice.

- ☞ Therefore, from 22nd May 2003, it is outlawed to catch or harm the black turtle and also the trade of this species is banned.



TIMBER

- A typical island has only few of these plants grown close by, and removing few of them can be vulnerable to the total survival of the others. Each plant species is interdependent on others for their survival. Timbers are normally managed and harvested giving them time for re growth. These timbers are used for firewood and for boat and house construction.
- The island population depends on the forest for firewood and huge proportion of their daily feed. And in case where there is heavy pressure on land, people tend to use the neighboring uninhabited island. Timber cutting is controlled by issuing permits and allowing to cut them only after maturity. The by products of such plants and coconuts are only allowed to use as firewood.

- The country has a well organized policy on conservation of timber plants. This law can be cited as 'by law about the cutting down, uprooting, digging out and export of trees and palms from one island to another.

The purpose of this law is to educate citizens and developers about the importance of trees including best management practices for maintaining trees and to provide standards for the preservations of trees in Maldives and to set down rules and regulations to be adhered to prior to commencing felling, uprooting, digging out and exporting of trees from one island to another in Maldives.

There has been an increase in the indiscriminate cutting down and removal of trees in various islands which has led to the demise of the natural greenery in the islands. Vegetation in general, provides a stabilizing effect on the terrain and when large trees are removed and the void created from the removal of these trees is not covered properly with soil, it leads to adverse environmental problems.

Clearing natural vegetation can have adverse effects on the topography which is made unstable and much of the topsoil is left exposed to erosive forces, also resulting in the depletion of the water lens. Due to the cutting down, uprooting, digging and export of trees and palms from one island to another, it has led to adverse effects on the environment and the various organisms that live in and around the area that is being cleared. The purpose of this law is to minimize the ill effects posed by this deforestation to the Nation's environment and to use our land in a sustainable way.



The cutting down, uprooting, digging out and export of trees and palms from one island to another can only be done if it is absolutely necessary and there is no other alternative.

For every tree or palm removed in Maldives, two more should be planted and grown in the island.





Any person(s) that contravenes any part of this by law by cutting down, uprooting, digging out and exporting trees and palms from one island to another will be prosecuted under the Law Number 4/93 (Environment Protection and Preservation Act of Maldives 1993). Post cutting down, uprooting, digging out and export trees/palms from one island to another, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water will carry out an investigation of the possible environmental detriments to the island caused by this activity and a monetary fine may also be imposed on the individual(s) responsible for the export of the said trees/palms depending on the gravity of the damaged suffered by the island; the place, island or resort the plants are exported to and the place where they are being replanted must be communicated to the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water. Any contravention to any part of this by law will be an offence punishable by Law Number 4/93.

An organization or individual may offer plants for sale and exempt from this by law provided the nursery plants are grown from seeds, cutting by trees or by grafting. The nurseries in all inhabited islands will keep a record of the number of plants grown there.

All the requirements stated in the law number 21/98 (the law on the palms and trees in the inhabited islands in the maldives) will be exempt by this law.





- ☞ In addition to the animals and wildlife trade, the Maldivian government have taken steps to protect birds and some areas of the country.
- ☞ On 5th june 1996, 70 species of birds such as common white tern (*dhondheeni*), whimbrel (*bulhi thunbi*) and etc.
- ☞ Some areas of the country such as *eedhigali kulhi*, *huraa kulhi* and etc



THE RELEVANT STRUCTURES THAT ARE CURRENTLY MANAGE IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE THE REGULATIONS MENTION ABOVE ARE:-

- Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water
- Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine resources
- Ministry of Economy, Development and Trade
- Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation.
- Maldives Customs Service
- Maldives National Defense Force
- Maldives Police Service
- and other NGOs



Unlike other South Asian countries, maldives do have wildlife trade.

After the Environment Protection Act of Maldives in 1993 has been established, and due to pursuing the laws and regulations the trade of marine species has come to an end.



NEPAL

NEPAL

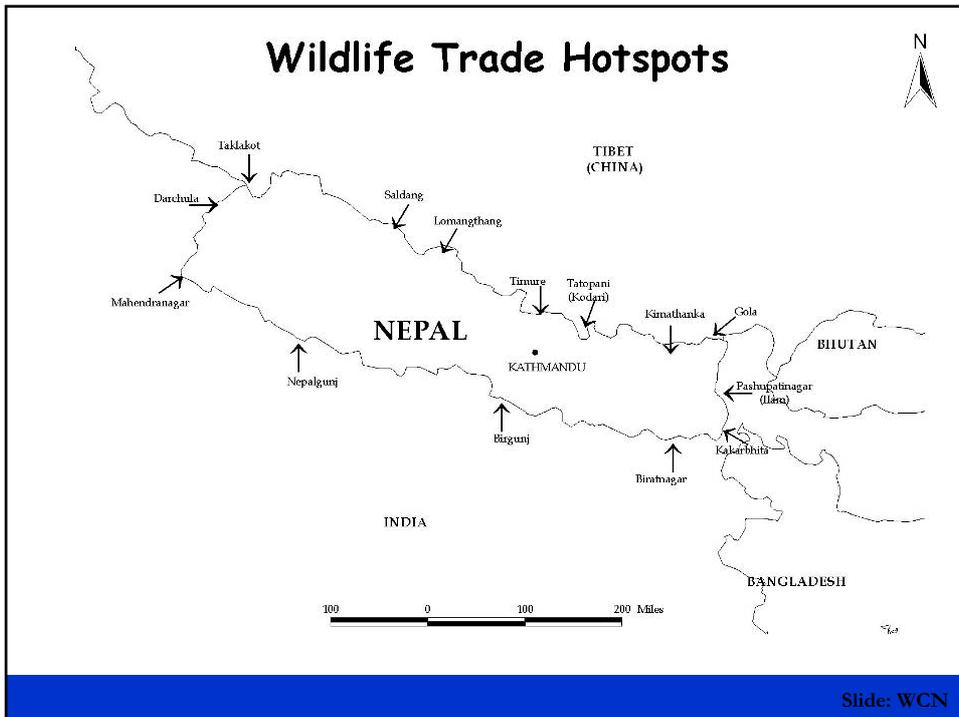
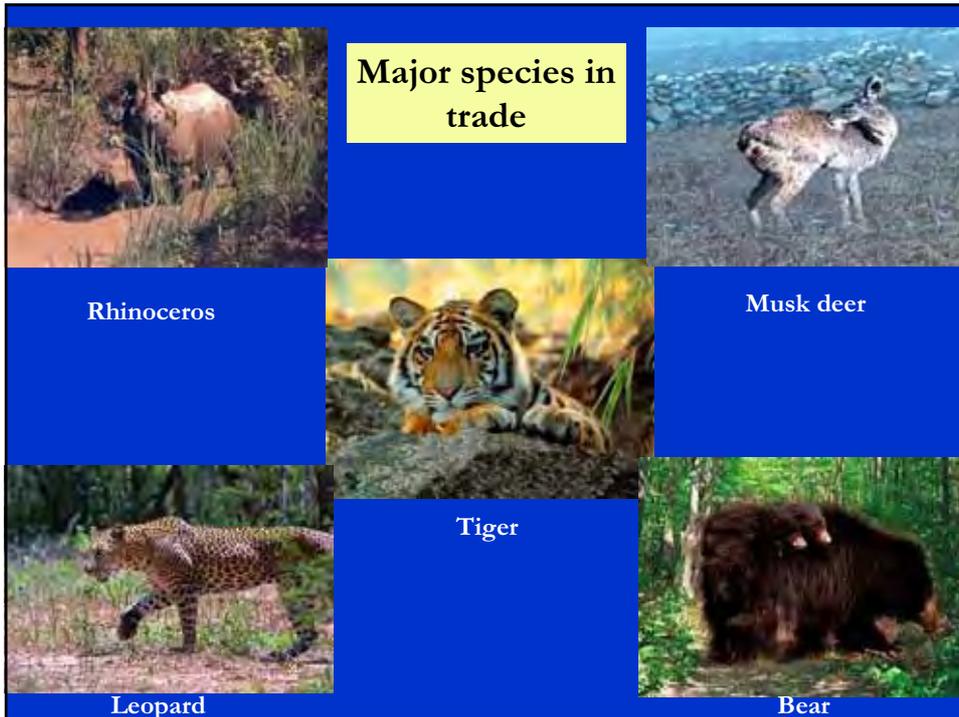


- Narendra M B Pradhan
Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation

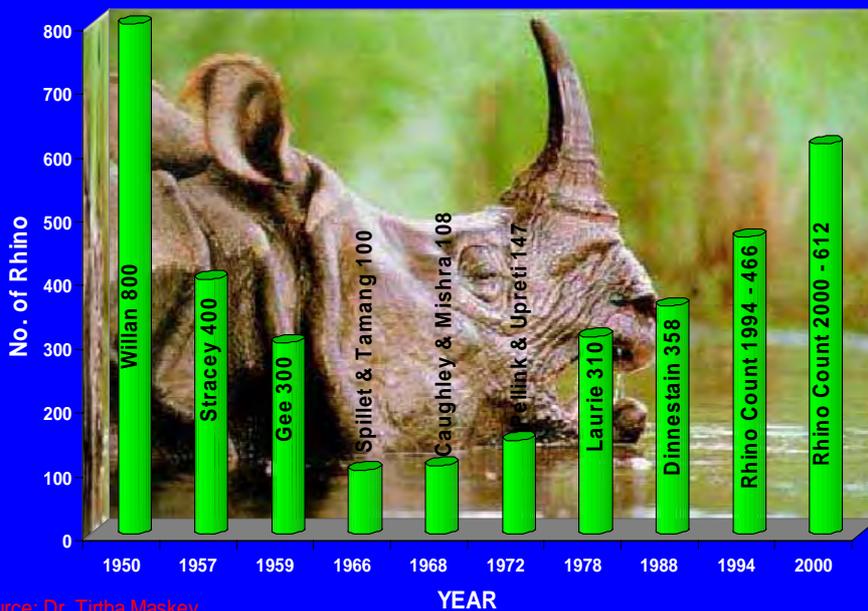
Wildlife Trade

Sale and exchange of wild animals and plants, and products made from them.

- As food and pets (live animal)
- Ornamental plants and timber
- Exotic leather goods
- Medicines

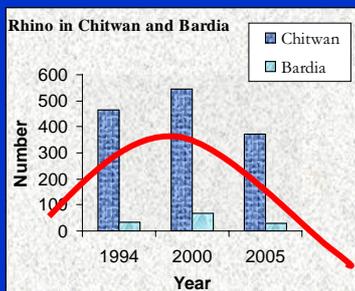


Population Trend of Rhinoceros in Nepal

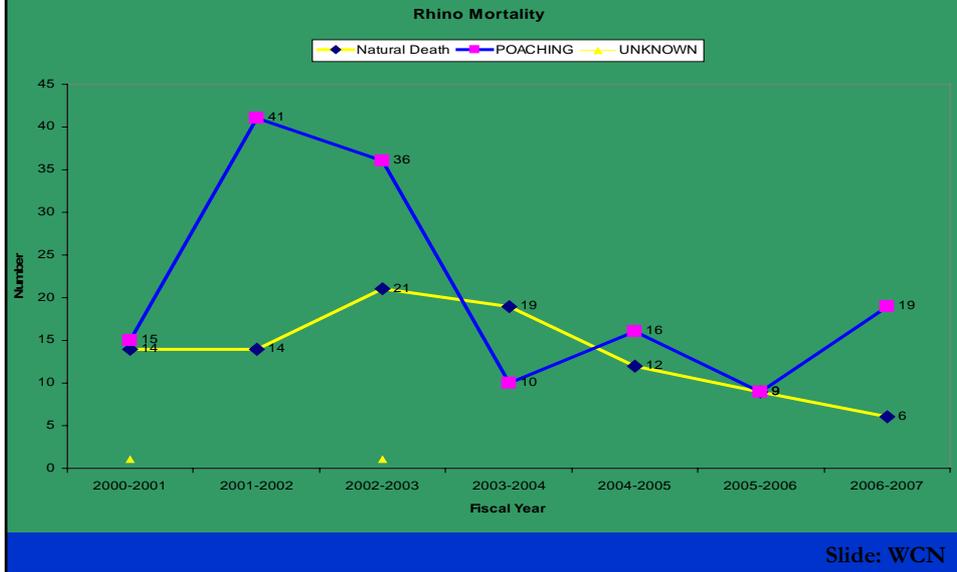


Source: Dr. Tirtha Maskey

Past Few Years

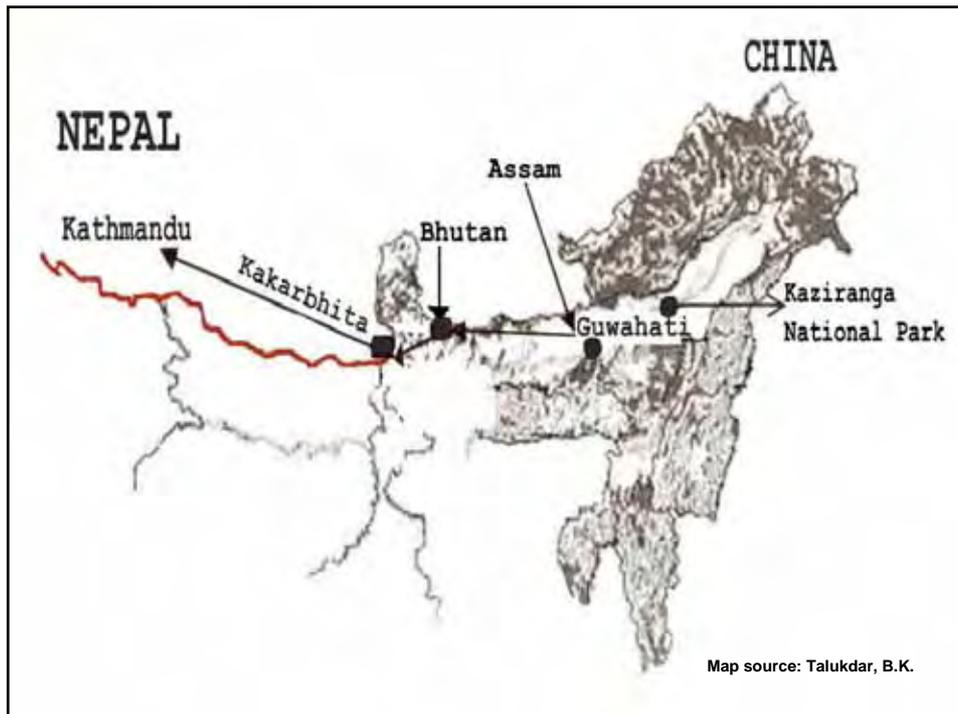


Losing Rhinos



Illegal Trade of Rhino Horn





Only in Chitwan National Park since 2002 to date more than 200 Poachers, mediators and traders of rhino horns, tiger skin and bones were arrested and punished according to the NPWC act 1972.



Tiger

PA	1995/96	1999	2000-2001
CNP	48 - 49	50	60
BNP	30 - 32	36	40
SWR	15 - 16	23	26
Total Breeding Tiger	93 - 97	109	126
Total Estimated Tiger Population in Nepal			340 - 350



Estimated Tiger Population in 1970

About 100

Tiger parts seized and poacher arrested in Nepal, 2004 to March 2007

Location	Poachers arrested	Tiger parts seized		Remarks
		Skin	Bones (Kg)	
Kathmandu	11	9	4	Leopard skin 45 and 238 pieces of Otter skin, 5 sacks of wildlife bones
Chitwan	6	1	-	NRs. 43,000.00
Rasuwa	3	5	113.5	Leopard skin 36 and Otter skin 238, Truck 1
Nawalparasi	2	2	-	Rhino horn 1, Motorcycle 1
Kanchanpur	2	-	11	Leopard skin 5
Dang	1	2	-	
Banke	1	6	-	
Total	26	25	128.5 kg	Leopard skin 86 and Otter skin 476, Rhino horn 1, Truck 1, Motorcycle 1

Major Tiger bone and skin Trade Route



Trade in Kathmandu

- Kalanki
- Balkhu
- Balaju
- Boudha

Why Trade

- International demand
- High Profit with Quick turn over
- Minimum involvement
- Strong Nexus - organized
- Backup support in case of arrest

Traders are mostly

Humle in origin

Tibetans with link in Tibet

Indian Bawarias and Behaliyas

Poachers

- Three levels
- Easy resources
- Less risk
- Poverty, livelihood
- Education



Major legislations

- National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973
- Forest Act 1993
- Export Import (Control) Act 1961
- Customs Act 1963
- Environmental Protection Act 1997
- Wildlife farming, breeding and research policy 2003

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 2029

NPWC Act 2029 features:

- Different categories of protected areas
- Protected species
- Prohibited hunting without a license
- Regulate hunting
- Prohibit to carry arms, ammunition or poison in side PAs

NPWC Act

- Power to inspect and search
- Power to arrest without warrant
- Power to confiscate
- Penalties
- Rewards

NPWCA 1973 (Schedule-1)

Protected species

Mammals (26)

- Assamese Red Monkey
- Pangolin
- Hispid Hare
- Gangetic Dolphin
- Grey Wolf
- Himalayan Brown Bear
- Red Panda
- Spotted Linsang
- Stripped Hyena
- Gaur
- Wild yak
- Wild buffalo
- Leopard Cat
- Lynx
- Clouded Leopard
- Tiger
- Snow Leopard
- Wild Elephant
- One-horned rhinoceros
- Pygmy Hog
- Himalayan Musk Deer
- Swamp Deer
- Great Tibetan Sheep
- Tibetan Antelope
- Black Buck
- Four-horned Antelope

Protected species.....

Birds (9)

- Black Stork
- White Stork
- Sarus Crane
- Cheer Pheasant
- Impeyan pheasant
- Bengal Florican
- Lesser Florican
- Giant Hornbill
- Crimson-horned Pheasant

Reptiles (3)

- Asiatic Rock Python
- Gharial Crocodile
- Golden Monitor Lizard

Regulations

- National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Regulation 2030BS
- Chitwan National Park Regulation 2030
- Wildlife Reserve Regulation 2034
- Himalayan National Park Regulation 2036
- Kaptad National Park Regulation 2044
- Buffer Zone Management Regulation 2052
- Bardia National Park Regulation 2053
- Conservation Area Management Regulation 2053 (NGO)
- Conservation Area Regulation 2057 (Govt.)

Provision of punishment

Rhino, Tiger, Elephant, Musk deer, Clouded leopard, Snow leopard, and Gaur

- Penalties: NRS 50,000/- to NRS 100,000 or
5 years to 15 years in prison or both

Other protected species

- NRS 40,000- to NRS 75,000 or
1 to 10 years in prison or both

Punishment for Helper in poaching:

- Same as main culprit in the case of Rhino, Tiger and Elephant
- Half of the main culprit in other case

Nepal in CITES

18 June, 1975

Administrative arrangement:

Management Authorities

Fauna - Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation

Flora - Department of Forest

Scientific Authorities

Fauna - Natural History Museum

Flora - Department of Plant Resources

Agencies Responsible for Anti-poaching

- Department of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation
- Department of Forests
- National Parks and Wildlife Reserves
- District Forest Offices
- Royal Nepal Army
- Nepal Police

Agencies Responsible Anti-smuggling

- Customs
- Revenue Investigation Department
- Foreign Post Office
- National Investigation Departments
- Royal Nepal Army
- Nepal Police
- National Parks and Wildlife Reserves
- District Forest Offices

Supporting agencies for controlling illegal activities against wildlife and plant species and their parts

- Department of Plant Resources
- Natural History Museum
- Forensic Lab
- RONAST
- World Wildlife Fund
- Nature Trust for Nature Conservation
- Other conservation related NGO's and INGo's
- Civil Societies

Control Mechanism

- Patrol, Monitor, intelligence sharing
- Confiscation, seizures and arrests
- Awareness Campaign & Awards
- Database
- Trans-boundary cooperation

Finally,

Cooperation and support from different enforcement agencies

Cooperation and support between two countries to control trade

Include grass-root level communities in rhino conservation

Capacity enhancement to train officers, ranks and stakeholders (PAs and other concern authorities)

Need adequate support (human and finance) for anti-poaching activities

Urban monitoring of traders and poachers

Media friendly & Empower people

Livelihood and alternate plans for poachers family



Anti-poaching Activities



Major seizures

(March 29-9 July, 2004)



Tiger bone
Tiger head

5 sacks+ 165 pieces
1

Major seizures (March 29-9 July, 2004)



Tiger skin 3 pieces
Leopard skin 23 pieces

Major seizures (March 29-9 July, 2004)



Tiger bone 5 sacks+ 165 pieces
Tiger skull 1

(March 29-July, 2004)



Rhino skin	165
Rhino horns	5





RHINO POACHERS

Arrested over 35 in 2006

Dil Bahadur

2007 – Over 20 arrested



Raj Kumar Praja





11th December 2005

Traders

5th April 2006






18th March 2006



19th March 2006



27th April 2006



4th June 2006



14th February fake horns
seized in Chitwan

PAKISTAN



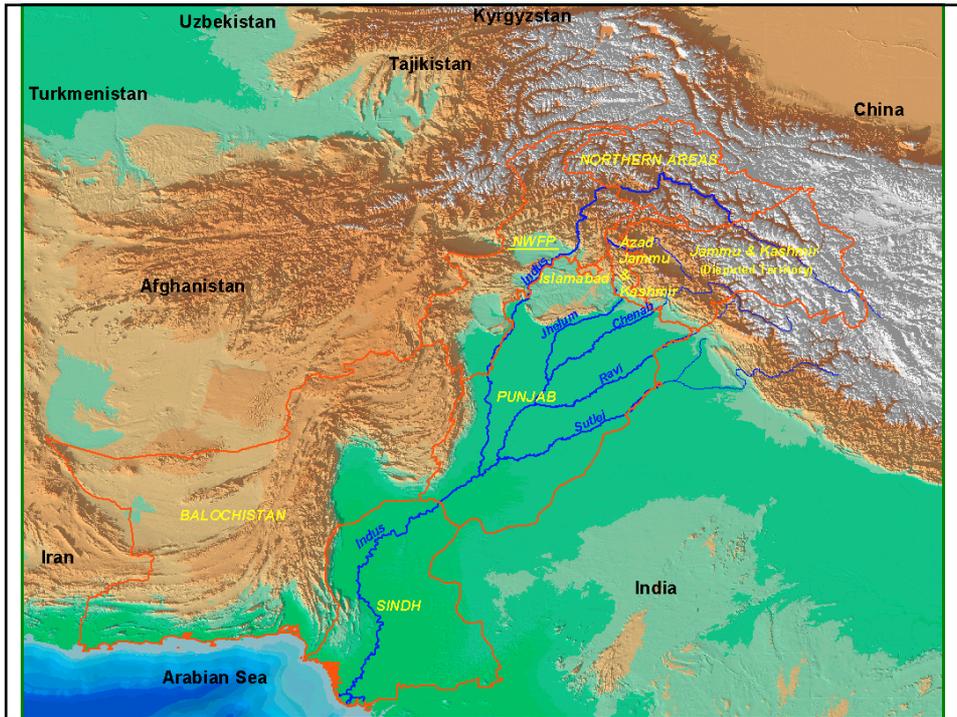
Regional Workshop on South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI)

Kathmandu, Nepal
January 31st – February 01, 2008

**Country Presentation
Pakistan**

Government of Pakistan



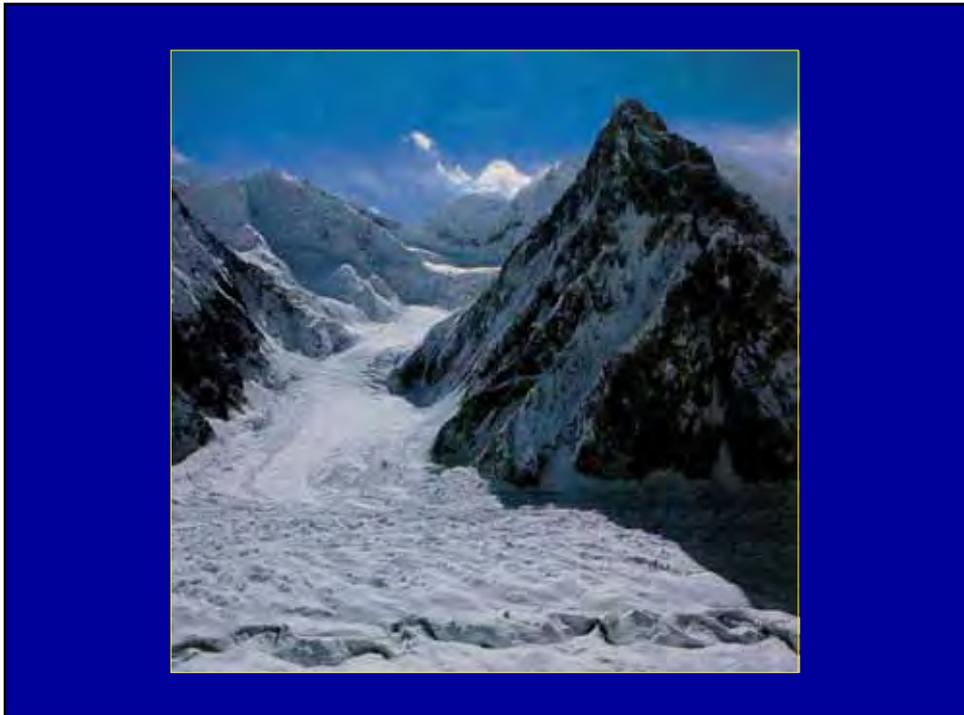


Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Federal Capital: Islamabad
Total Population: > 160 million people
Area: approx. 800,000 sq. km
Provinces and Territories: Six

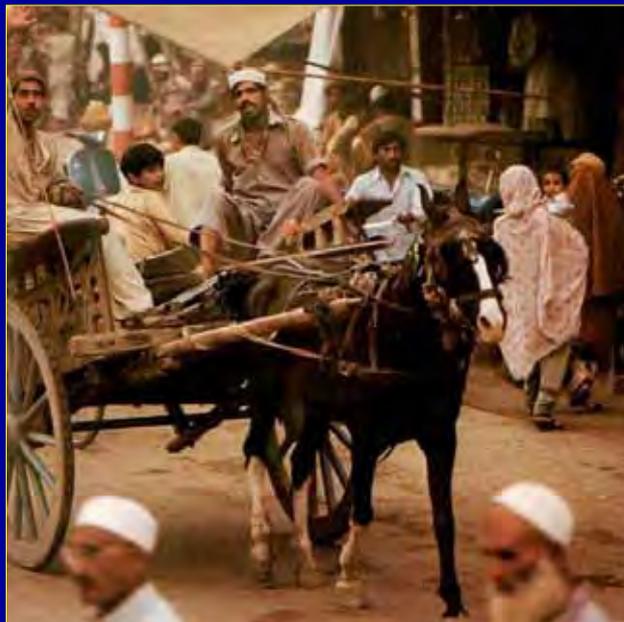


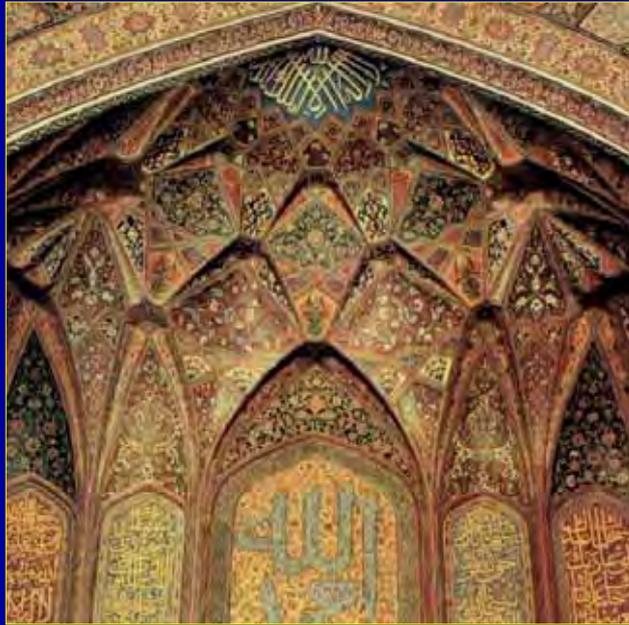
Government of Pakistan

How Diverse is Pakistan's Environment?



Freshwater









Hump-backed Dolphin



Dalmatian Pelican



Eurasian Curlew

05 Dec, 2007, Chikil area in west of Baku, Azerbaijan
Copyright © Chikil Rashed Mehrali / PWT - Azerbaijan

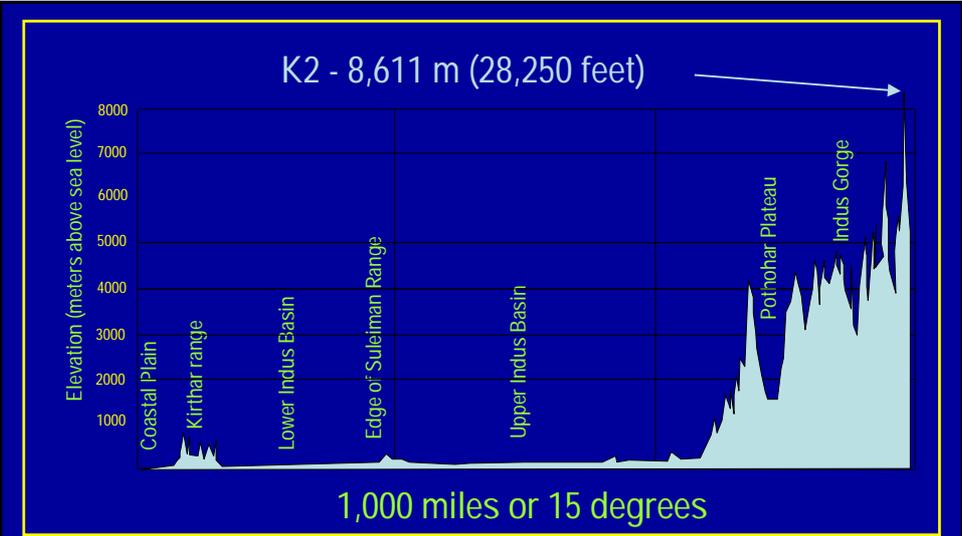


Spinner Dolphin

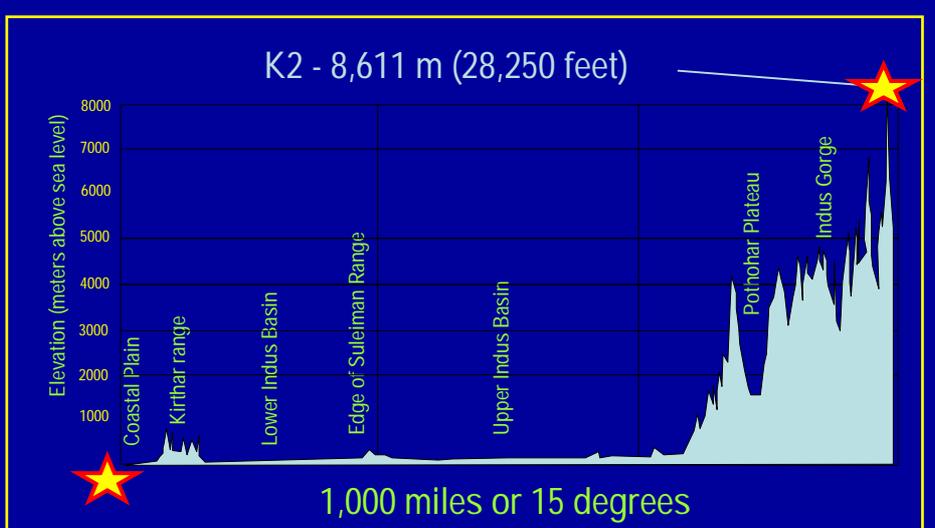
Hump-backed Whale



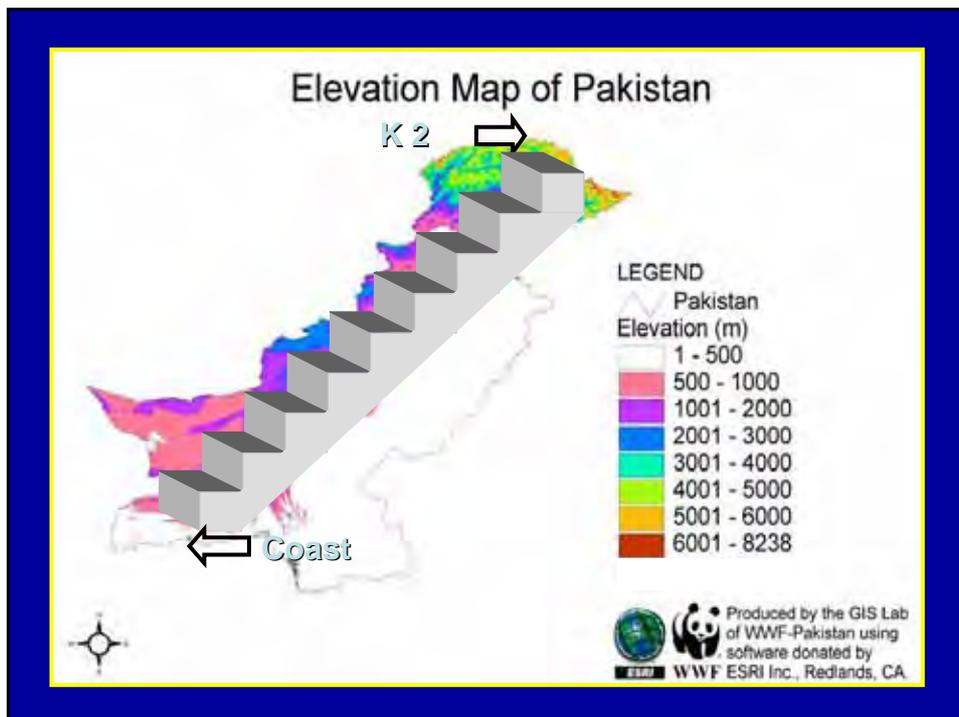
areas of true coral reef

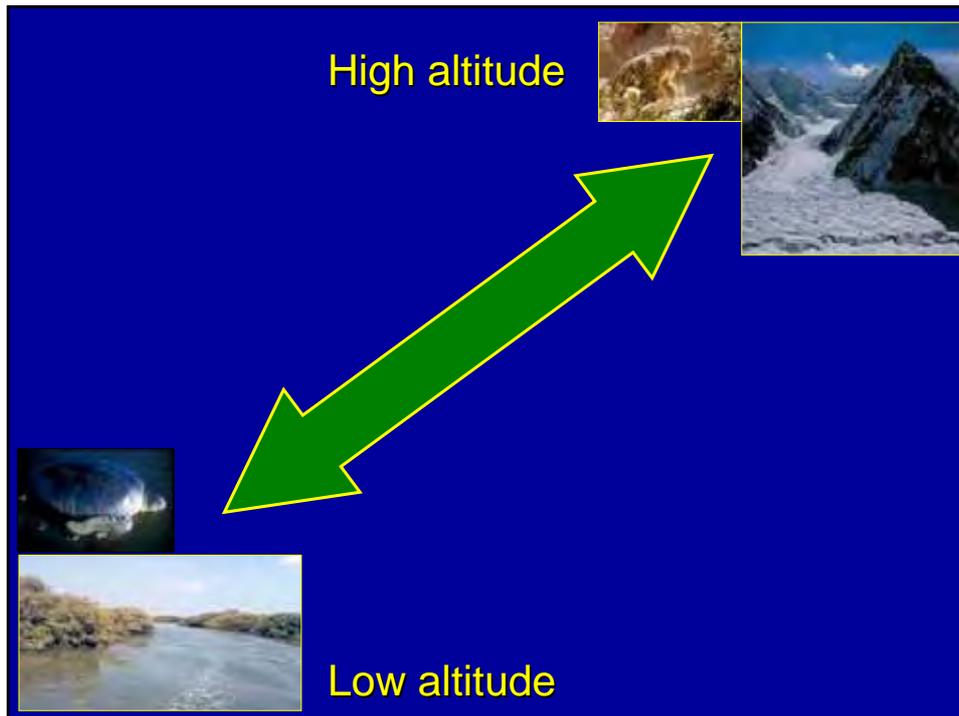


A Profile of Pakistan from the sea bed off Sonmiani Bay to the Summit of K2



Over 28,000 feet - the greatest change in elevation within any sovereign state on earth!

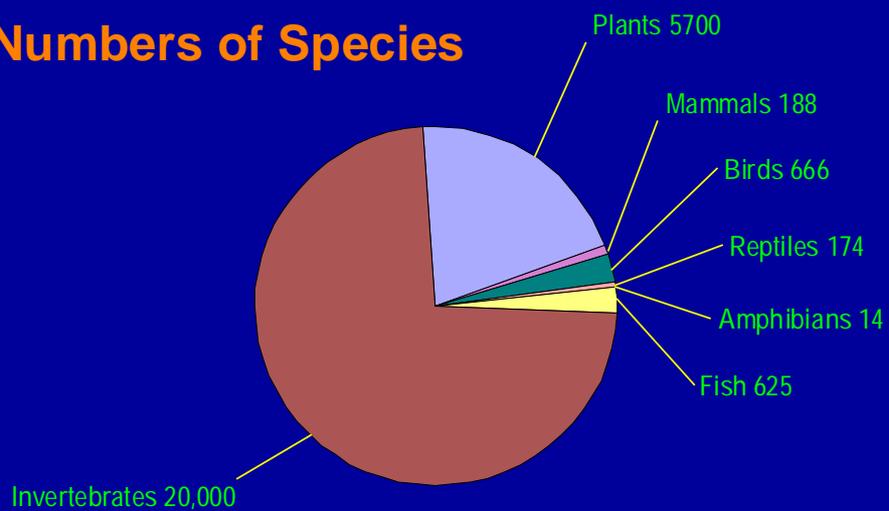




Ecologists recognise a total of nine distinct eco-regions in Pakistan

The spectrum of physical and biological conditions have generated a range of sub-species in the region....

Numbers of Species



Coastline: > 1000 km long

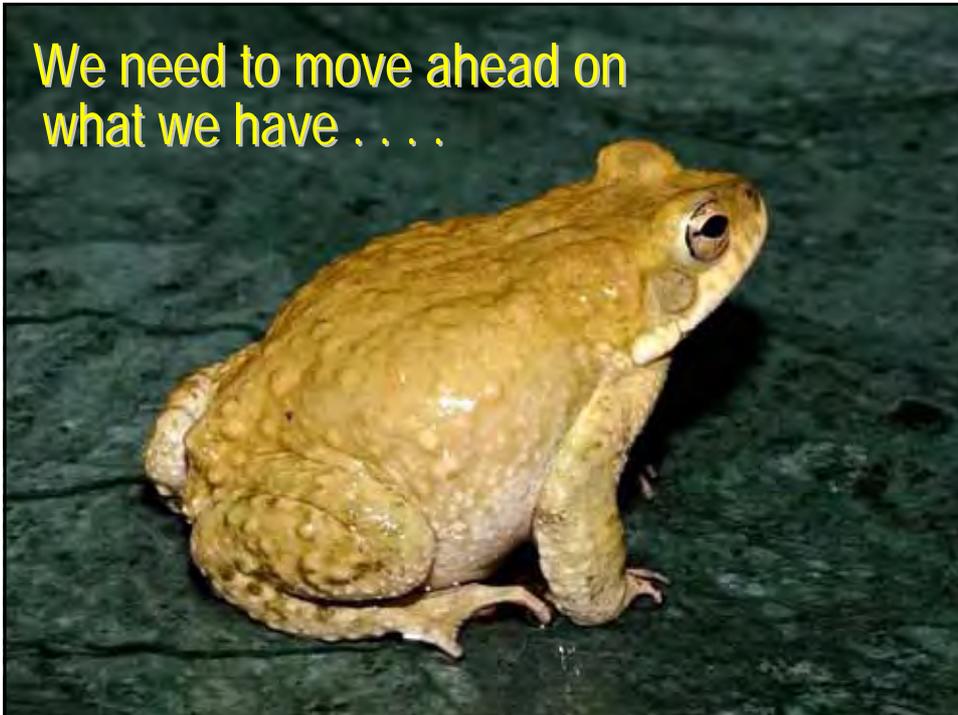
No. of Protected Areas: 229

No. of Ramsar Sites: 19



A School of Spinner Dolphin

**We need to move ahead on
what we have**



Participants of the TRAFFIC International Workshop in Islamabad on December 03, 2007. . . .



Opportunity to take this initiative forward more effectively



Policies, Legislations and regulatory measures governing wildlife and wildlife trade

- 1. Wildlife Enquiry Committee: made the basis for policies**
- 2. Forest Policy: includes a component of biodiversity conservation**
- 3. Provincial and Territorial Wildlife Acts of 1974 and 1975**
- 4. NCCW Meetings: CITES implementing authority**
- 5. Fisheries Acts: Federal and Provincial**
- 6. National Conservation Strategy**
- 7. Biodiversity Action Plan**

Government of Pakistan



Government Structures currently managing, implementing and enforcing regulatory measures

1. Ministry of Environment
2. Provincial and Territorial Forest and Wildlife Departments
3. Pakistan Customs Department
4. Ministry of Commerce

Government of Pakistan



Controlling illegal trade in a CITES Appendix I or national protected species

1. Markhor *Capra falconeri*
2. Freshwater softshell turtles
3. Snow Leopard
4. Falcon



Government of Pakistan



Legal trade of species that is sustainably used

Markhor *Capra falconeri*



Community-based Trophy Hunting Programme



Government of Pakistan



Examples of success stories in implementing or enforcing wildlife trade measures

❑ Freshwater softshell turtles



Government of Pakistan



Government of Pakistan



Government of Pakistan



Key challenges the government is facing in implementing wildlife trade policies and legislation

- 1. Lack of capacity in surveys and identification**
- 2. Lack of awareness amongst the decision and policy makers**
- 3. Lack of financial, physical and human resources**
- 4. Issues relating to “Compensation for wildlife depredation” and human wildlife conflicts**

Government of Pakistan



Examples of good regional, bilateral or multilateral cooperation

Occasionally (e.g. Dubai and Japan), where live Falcons and Snow Leopard Skins consignments were seized and informed immediately



Government of Pakistan



Priority sectors or issues where there is a good potential for greater regional cooperation

1. Develop a regional roster of experts for species identification in support of Customs Departments at international gateways
2. Invite international experts to train the relevant staff of the Customs Department at the regional level
3. Develop a centralised filing system for recording of illegal wildlife trade cases for identifying the issue and the scale of the problem, etc.
4. Initiate awareness-raising campaigns at the local, national and international level to sensitise the regional stakeholders, especially law enforcement agencies

Government of Pakistan



Priority sectors or issues where there is a good potential for greater regional cooperation

5. Implement a campaign for alerting visitors to the country for providing information regarding the illegal trade in live animals and its parts and derivatives. This could take the form of leaflets for distribution on board arriving international flights and / or panaflex or poster displays in the international arrivals halls.
6. Blacklist individuals and businesses at the regional level that are involved in illegal wildlife trade and share information at the regional and international level.
7. Consider involving the anti-narcotics agencies in actions against smuggling as international studies of the wildlife trade have indicated that similar methods and routes are used by narcotics and wildlife products smugglers.

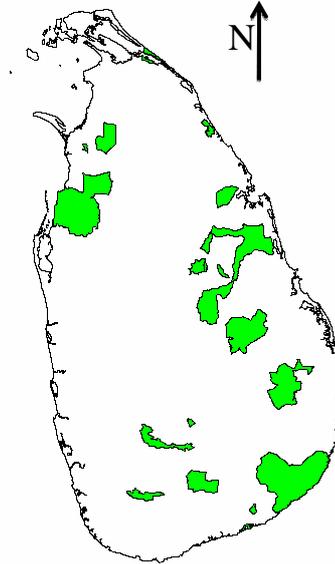
Government of Pakistan

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka Protected Area Network

- *About 20 % land mass having forest cover today*

- Strictly Nature reserve
- Nature reserve
- National Parks
- Sanctuaries
- Buffer zones
- Jungle corridors



1

Key Functional bodies

Government agencies

- Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Forest Department
- Sri Lanka Customs BPU
- Police department.
- Fisheries Department
- National Aquatic Research Agency
- National Zoological department
- National Museum
- National Botanical Garden
- National Herbarium

Non Government Organizations

- IUCN
- Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum
- The Young Zoologists Association of Sri Lanka
- Environmental foundation limited.

2

1. Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance

- 1937, (Amend. Act No. 49 of 1993);
- FFPO regulates import and export of wildlife from Sri Lanka,
- Sec.11/19/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42 and Schedules lists I – V.
- Prohibitions of Imports & Exports of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and invertebrates dead or alive or parts eggs larvae etc.
- Permits will be issued only by Director General of Wildlife Conservation.

3

2. The Customs Ordinance

- (amended in 1988)
- Active body is customs Biodiversity Protection Unit.
- Regulates international trade on wildlife in Sri Lanka.

4

3. The Forest Ordinance

- 1907; Act No. 16 of 1907, Act No. 13 of 1966, Act no 23 of 1995 Gazette notification of 26/12/79 and Gazette notification 1161/6 of 05/12/2000 under Section.24 Section 12
- Which Regulate to export of Forest produces
- Export permits for forest produces, forest seeds and timber
- ***Conservator General of Forest*** is only the authorized officer

5

4. Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act

- 1996
- Provide legal protection to wildlife in the country, costal line and sea.
- Control and regulate fisheries industry.

6

5. Dried Meat Ordinance

- No.19 of 1908 (Chap 480) Act No. 22 of 1955 under section 09
- Prohibit the exportation of dried meat and its products.

7

6. CITIES

- There is no CITES specific legislation in Sri Lanka.

8

Conservation initiatives

A C T I V I T Y

- Law and Law enforcement through existing law.
- Regular patrolling and monitoring
- Implement Education and awareness programs
- Sharing information.

9

Efforts for controlling illegal activity

M E A S U R E M E N T

- Establish a Biodiversity secretariat at Ministry level.
- DWC officers all over the country & regular amendments of FFPO.
- Forest offices all over the country and forest ordinance.
- Custom Biodiversity Protection Unit at airport and Port with custom ordinance.
- Police department has empower implement all ordinance.

10

Kotala Himbutu export banned

• **Wednesday, 12 July 2006 - 4:31 AM SL Time**

The government has banned all Kotala Himbutu (botanical Name) related exports. The Fauna and Flora (prohibition of export) Regulations No. 01 of 2006, published in Gazette extraordinary no. 1449/16 of 15.06.2006, under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, bans the export of raw materials, plants, dried leaves and value added medicines of Kotala Himbutu.

Kotala Himbutu is a traditional herbal medicine for diabetes. Kotala Himbutu plants have been illegally exported to Japan for years. The Japanese companies have obtained a number of patent licences for Kotala Himbutu related medicines.

The Custom Department detected the first illegal Kotala Himbutu consignment in 1998. Then Conservator General of Forests, issued an order to stop the Kotala Himbutu exports. some times back Kotala Himbutu consignments have been exported illegally. The last Kotala Himbutu consignment of ten tonnes had been exported last year.

Environmentalists praised the new regulation banning the Kotala Himbutu exports.

11

Challenges

30-44<70W300

- Protected area net work surrounded by human settlements.
- Availability of limited number of staff and other facilities.
- Lack of expertise knowledge.
- Poverty of the community.
- Political will.

12

An example for controlling the illegal trade of a national protected species

- *Elephas maximus maximus* , is protected under Part II –FFPO
 - Sec.12 Protection of elephant in areas outside PAs
 - Sec 19 Prohibition of export of an elephant or any part of an elephant(tusk or tush, any part of tusk or tush or any article containing ivory)

Actions for greater regional cooperation

LAWS GOVERNING THE MOVEMENTS OF (IMPORT & EXPORT) OF FAUNA & FLORA		
ORDINANCE/ACT	SECTIONS	REGULATIONS
CONTROLLING LAWS		
1 Customs Ordinance (Chap 235) Ordinance No.17 of 1869 Act No.02 of 2003	Section 12 Schedule B	Co-ordinate the application of written laws with the C.O.
2 Imports & Exports Control Act No. 1 of 1969 (Chap 347)	Sec. 21	Provide for the application of the C.O. stipulates
FAUNA AND FLORA		
3 Fauna & Flora Protection Ordinance Ord. No.02 of 1937 (Chap 469) Amend. Act No. 49 of 1993 Gazette notification 1411/9 of 19/09/2005 Gazette notification 1449/16 of 15/06/2006	Sec.11/19/35/36/37 38/39/40/41/42 Schedules I - V Sec 45 Sec 45	Prohibitions of Imports & Exports of mammals, birds, reptiles amphibians, fishes and invertebrates dead or alive or parts eggs larvae etc. * Permits only for scientific purposes by Director General of Wildlife Conservation Export permits required for the protected plants in schedule V Restriction on the exportation of planting materials of Cinnamon Prohibition the Exports of <i>Salacia</i> species
4 Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999 Gazette notification 165/2 of 02.11.1981	Sec.12/13	Prohibition and restrictions for importation of plants, fruits seeds, vegeta. of and their products etc. as per schedules.
5 Agricultural products Ordinance Ordinance No. 29 of 1939	Sec.05/07/08/15	Importation of Agricultural Products Lic. from Commissioner of Agriculture for restricted goods Application of C.O.
6 Forest Ordinance Act No. 16 of 1907 Act No. 13 of 1966 Act no 23 of 1995 Gazette notification of 26/12/79 Gazette notification 1151/6 of 05/12/2000	Sec.24 Sec 12	Application of C.O. for regulations to export of Forest produces Export permits for forest produces, forest seeds and timber from Conservator General of Forest
7 Rubber Control Act Ordinance No.30 of 1930 Act No. 11 of 1956	Sec 23	Export permit required from Controller of Rubber for any living portion of a rubber plant capable for propagation
8 Tea Control Act Act No. 51 of 1957	Sec. 28	Export permit required from Commissioner of Tea for any living portion of a Tea plant capable for propagation
9 Water Hyacinth Ordinance Ordinance no.04 of 1909(Chap 277) Gazette notification 43/4 of 02/07/79	Sec.03/05/06/07	Prohibition the importation of water hyacinth Power of Customs officers
10 Poisons, Opium & Dangerous Drugs Ordinance No. 17 of 1929 Act No.22 of 1955 (Chap 218)	Sec.28/29/30/69/70	Prohibitions against Import, Export and Transition of Poppy plants, Coca plants or Hemp plants or seeds, pods, leaves flowers or any part of any such plants
11 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 02 1996 Extra. Ord., Gazette notification No.1036/13 : 16/07/98 No.1098/3 : 20/09/99 No.1123/2 : 13/13/2000 No.1273/6 : 27.01.2003 No. 1298/1 : 21/07/2003	Sec 11/29/30/ 63/64/67	Fishes which may not be exported except under permit Schedule on prohibited , restricted Import & Export of Live fish Schedule on prohibited , restricted Import & Export of Live fish Lobster Fisheries Management Regulations of 2000 Prohibits the importation of two species of live fish Restrictions on export of chanks
12 Dried Meat Ordinance Ord. No. 19 of 1908 (Chap 480) Act No. 22 of 1955	Sec 09	Prohibit the exportation of dried meat

3.1 Country presentations on wildlife trade from within the region

DISCUSSION

Pakistan noted that musk deer populations in Pakistan are on the verge of extinction and sought the possibility of collaborating with Bhutan and learning from its experiences with regard to stopping illegal trade in musk deer. Bhutan noted that it worked at various levels to protect the species. At one level, Bhutan targeted the source of poaching, identified poaching hotspots and assigned its anti-poaching squads to curbing this illegal activity. Customs and police were also made partners in combating illegal wildlife trade. At another level, Bhutan used incentives for informants and others to obtain information related to poaching and trade. This rewards system contributed greatly to bringing down poaching levels. Bhutan noted that the system was introduced only a few years back and reporting and information flow has increased since then, providing more accurate poaching and trade data. Bhutan indicated that there is also active patrolling and cross border initiatives being undertaken, particularly with officials from the Indian States of Assam and North Bengal. There is sharing of information and assistance is extended as and when required. Bhutan indicated that it would be very happy to collaborate with other countries to share its experiences.

Pakistan stressed the need to partner with communities and share incentives before banning a species in trade, citing restrictions on trade of the CITES Appendix I – listed in ‘Kuth’ *Saussurea costus*, where such restrictions did not provide any incentive for local communities to stop engaging in this trade. India clarified that Kuth is in Schedule VI of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 of the country, under which trade is not prohibited but regulated such that trade is not allowed on specimens collected from the wild but allowed from CITES certified nurseries.

TRAFFIC brought to the attention of participants reports on the musk deer trade available on its website and the International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP).

Pakistan also noted several integrated forestry management projects it implements which involve rural development work, including a project in the Paras valley supported by the European Union. The project addresses the most backward community of the region, where conservation activities were extended to include livelihood issues such as, education, livestock and irrigation.

With regard to human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation strategies and the HWC relevance to supply wildlife products for the trade chain, Bhutan noted that it works with WWF and UNDP on this issue and Bhutan has promulgated a Human-Wildlife Strategy (HWS) to address the issues of crop-destruction by elephants and wild-boar, and livestock depredation. Various schemes, ranging from compensation plans to insurance policies (similar to the scheme for snow leopard in the Ladakh area), are being tried to reduce the level of conflict. India noted that it did not have positive results with such compensation schemes, but is trying to implement landscape practices to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, such as encouraging cultivation of crops that wild animals do not eat. India noted that the problem is increasing due to increased fragmentation of habitats and corridors between these habitats are being established. India also noted positive outcomes in the voluntary relocation of communities in some areas, such as Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary and Nagarhole National Park, to areas where communities were provided with better livelihood and infrastructure support.

With regard to the Markhor trophy hunting case study presented by Pakistan, Pakistan noted that involving local communities in such efforts not only benefits the conservation of this species but other wildlife in this area as well. Pakistan noted that communities in some areas have stopped killing predator species and are actively protecting them. Pakistan also said that income from the scheme does not go to individuals but goes to a village fund. The CITES Secretariat noted the trend of less illegal trade of big cats in Africa is mainly because of the existence of legal hunting that bring benefits to the local communities involved. He noted that this model of trophy hunting works but has to be effectively managed.

SACEP highlighted the issue of the illegal trade in plants, noting that there is already a great deal of joint work being done between India and Nepal but also highlighting the need for more collaborative initiatives between other countries. SACEP noted positive models in India such as in Chhattisgarh, where the community-based natural resource management model subsumes all aspects of social development and allows the Forest Department to even cater to the socio economic needs of the communities, including the health care and education. SACEP noted that this is very successful model since the community has developed trust in the forest department and encouraged countries to share examples of such working models.

*The First Regional Workshop on
the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative*

*Section 3
Presentations*

3.2 The need for regional collaboration on wildlife trade

FIRST REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE SOUTH ASIA WILDLIFE TRADE INITIATIVE (SAWTI)

Building on Recommendations from 2004

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

TRAFFIC / James Compton

2008 Workshop Program

- **Mapping the Way Forward**
 - Needs for Regional Co-Operation on Wildlife Trade, including national examples
 - History and Other Regional Examples
 - Discussion of Draft South Asia Action Plan, Draft Statement to SACEP Ministerial level
 - Working Groups
 - Conclusions and Next Steps

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

Background on South Asia priorities

- Incredible biodiversity richness and diversity
- Economic growth – transport and communications infrastructure, purchasing power, expanded global trade links
- South Asia → Hotspot for wildlife trade
 - 2004 Diagnostic and Enforcement workshop in Kathmandu brought together delegates from 6 of the 8 countries represented here in 2008
 - Examined main impediments and best practice examples, and discussed a way forward to achieve better **communication, co-ordination** and **collaboration** on South Asia's regional management of legal trade and interdiction of illegal trade

TRAFFIC
The wildlife trade monitoring network

South Asia Diagnostic and Law Enforcement Workshop April 2004



TRAFFIC
The wildlife trade monitoring network

Recommendations from 2004

DIAGNOSTIC WORKSHOP OUTPUTS

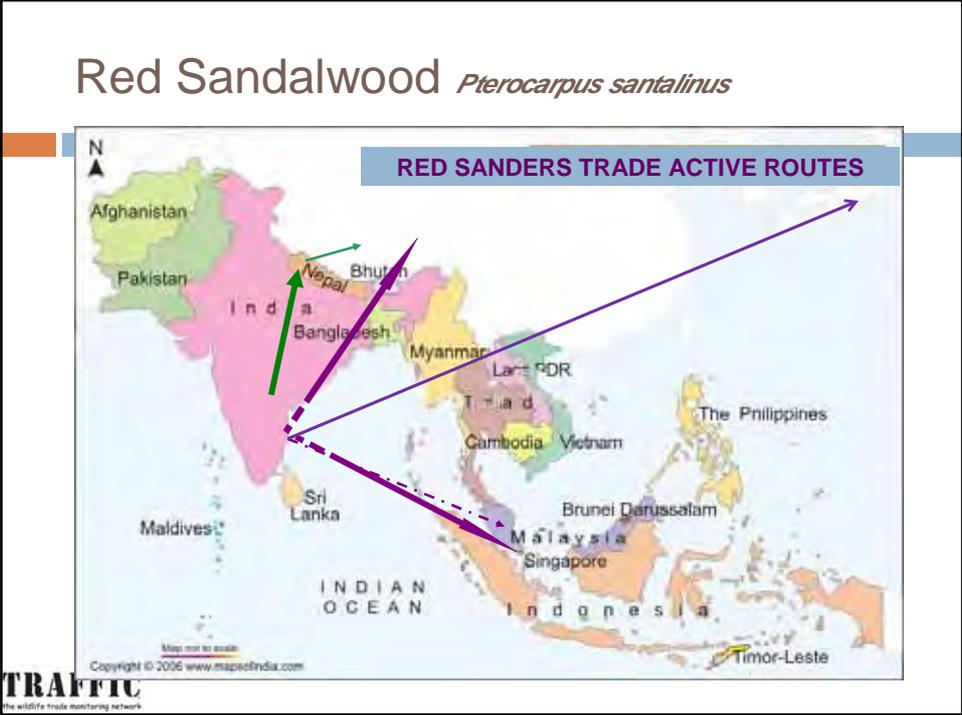
- 1) REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
- 2) CITES IMPLEMENTATION
- 3) LAW ENFORCEMENT



Big Cats *Panthera tigris*, *P. pardus*, *Uncia uncia*



Red Sandalwood *Pterocarpus santalinus*



Indian Star Tortoise *Geochelone elegans*



Agarwood *Aquilaria spp.*



1) Regional Co-Operation

- Networking among key stakeholders (e.g. CITES MA/SA, Customs, police etc), ensuring a reliable commitment to feedback and response.
 - *Nomination of focal points at National level for information exchange*
 - *Promote bilateral engagements between key countries*
 - *Engage with regional bodies (SACEP, SAARC) to establish regional platform*
 - *Regional support from "third party" such as TRAFFIC*

1) REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

- Ensure **adequate knowledge** and **capacity** of relevant government officials; **build awareness** of private sector and civil society
- Establish **information-sharing** mechanisms
- Mutual understanding between South Asian countries on **national legislation, policy and penalties**
- Include wildlife management/trade in regular trans-boundary and border meetings

1) REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

- Develop **'action plan'** for follow up that could be supported/facilitated by a 'third party' such as TRAFFIC.
- **Identify funding** and **technical resources** identified to support this regional co-operation on wildlife trade and CITES matters.
- Need to engage **high-level political will** and maintain momentum

2) CITES Implementation

- Increased **political commitment** at national level
- Develop **specific legislative provisions** for CITES
- Strengthen CITES Secretariat's ability to **support South Asian Parties**
 - *Development of regional capacity building / training initiative on CITES – e.g. Regional training workshop on CITES implementation, enforcement, science, resource management, etc.*

3) Law Enforcement

- Establish **National Wildlife Law Enforcement Committee** at Federal and State/Provincial levels.
- Build on **existing structures** - e.g. national networks, task forces to develop specialised / dedicated unit within enforcement agencies.
 - *Enforcement focal points in relevant agencies*
- Establish **Wildlife Enforcement Network** for South Asia, including regular enforcement meetings at field level (national, regional).

3) Law Enforcement

- Evaluate and review formal agreements between wildlife authorities and Enforcement agencies to ensure effective collaboration.
- Promote awareness and motivation among prosecutors and the judiciary.
 - Develop national / regional enforcement / judicial training package in local languages
 - Establish appropriate penalties and disincentives
- Establish wildlife trade control desk at major Ports
 - Awareness campaigns developed in partnership with NGOs at ports.
- Mobilise community engagement in local protection, awareness and informer networks.

2004 → 2008 : Key Issues

- **Political Will** – endorse recommendations, support priorities for action
- **Co-Ordination** – develop action plan
- **Inter-agency Co-Operation** – focal points for communication; formalized agreements
- **Information Exchange** – accurate research and timely exchange will drive sound decision making and facilitate action
- **Resources** – secure financial, human and technical resource needs



Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Nepal

Department of National Parks and Wildlife
Conservation
&
WWF Nepal

31 January 2008



Outline

1 Rhino Poaching in Chitwan

2 Illegal Trade of Wildlife Parts

3 Challenges

4 Future Strategies



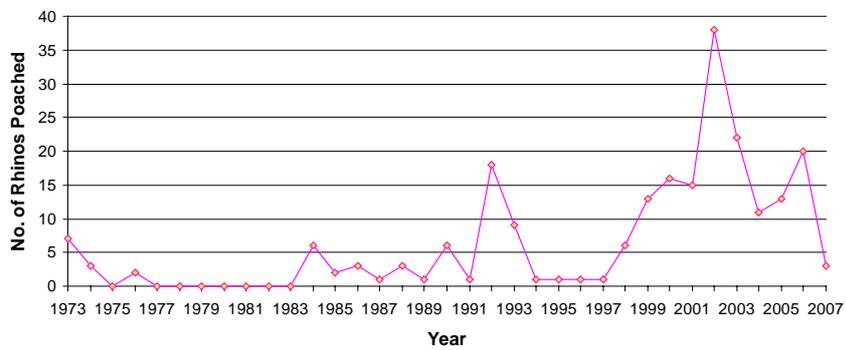
Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade

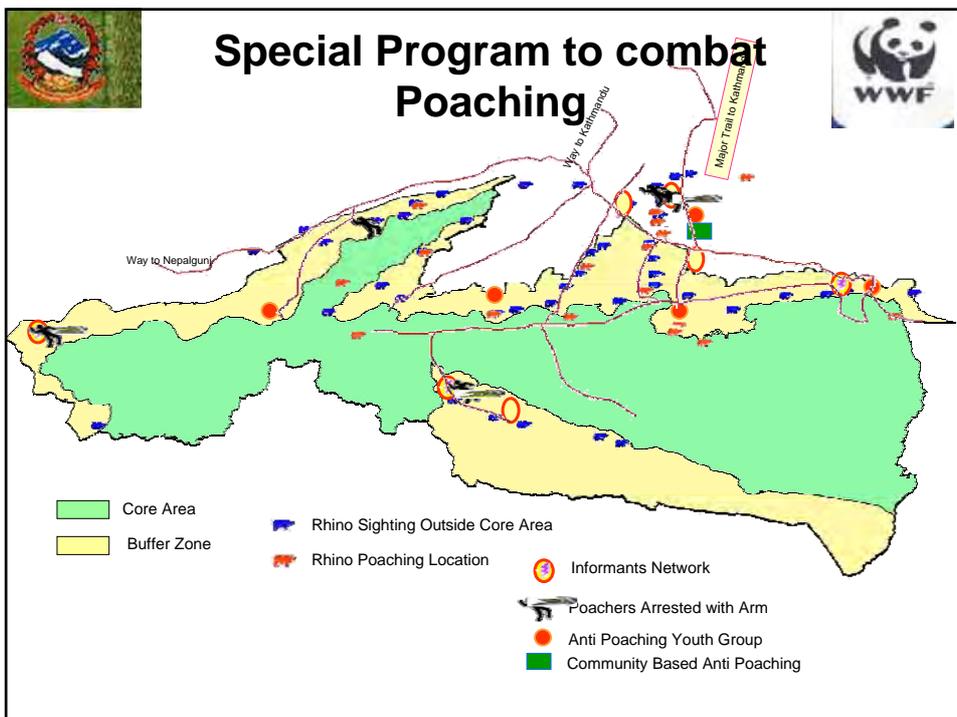
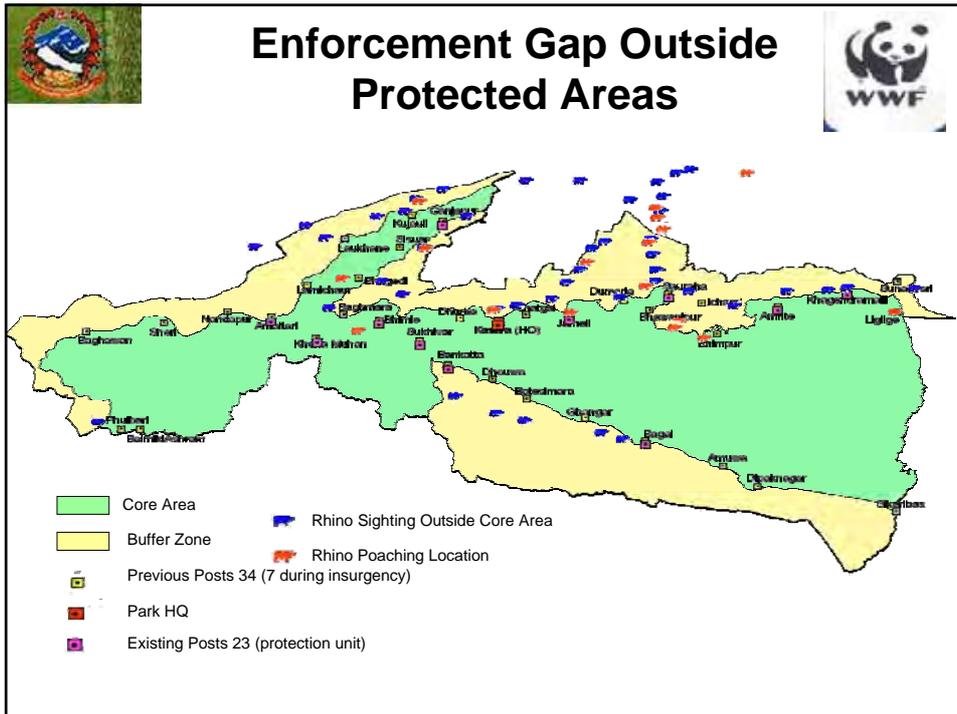


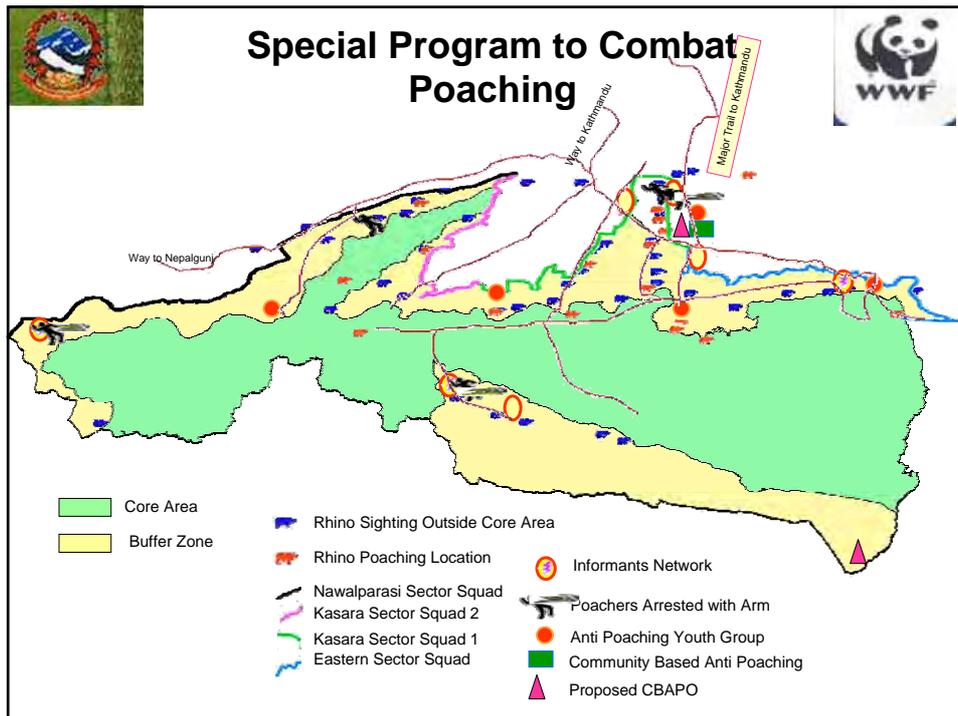
20 Rhinos were poached in Jan.2006-Jan.2007
(5 % of 372)



Trends of Rhino Poaching in CNP







- ## Joint Response
- **Mobilized financial as well as material support for Anti-poaching operation.**
 - **Mobilize squads outside PA.**
 - **Supported to establish CBAPOs and Youth Groups.**
 - **Establish informant's network in strategic locations.**



Response conti...



- Sensitized political parties and formed Rhino Conservation Coordination Committee.
- Declared Rhino Conservation Chitwan Declaration and Developed Action Plan.
- A high level task force formed at centre.



Major Wildlife Parts in Illegal Trade

<u>Wildlife</u>		<u>Parts</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Rhino	-	Horn and skin
<input type="checkbox"/> Tiger	-	Skin and bone
<input type="checkbox"/> Leopard	-	Skin and bone
<input type="checkbox"/> Musk Deer	-	Musk pod
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear	-	Bile
<input type="checkbox"/> Otter	-	Skin
<input type="checkbox"/> Turtle	-	Live
<input type="checkbox"/> Birds	-	Live





Some Major Seizures of Wildlife Parts



Tiger and Leopard

- April 2003** 109 leopard skin 14 Otter Skins
(Kathmandu)
- October 2003** 32 Tiger Skins
579 Leopard Skins
600 Otter Skins (Tibetan Border)
- January 2004** 1 Tiger skin and bones
(Kathmandu)
- March 2004** 7 Tiger Skins
6 Jungle Cat Skins
165 kg Tiger Bones
185 Rhino skins
(Daklang – Way to Tibet)



Some Major Seizures of Wildlife Parts



- March 2004** 7 Leopard skins, 6 Otter skins, 165 pieces of Leopard and Tiger bone and 185 pieces of Rhino skin
(Sindhupalchok)
- April 2004** 6 Tiger skins, 24 Leopard skins, 12 Otter skins.
2 Tiger skins, 8 Leopard skins, 4 sacks of fresh tiger bones and a sack of rhino bones (Kathmandu).
- May 2004** 3 full seize of Leopard skins (Nepalganj)
- July 2004** 1 Tiger Skull, 2 Tiger Skins, 5 Sacks of Tiger bones, 8 Leopard Skins (Kath.)





Major Seizures of Wildlife Parts



Tiger and Leopard

- 2004 332 pieces of tiger bones (Kathmandu)
- 2005 1 Tiger skin, 2 leopard skins and tiger bones (Kathmandu)
- 2005 5 Tiger Skins, 36 Leopard skins, 113 Kg tiger bones and 238 otter skins Rasuwa
- 2005 7 Full seize of Leopard skins (Darchula)



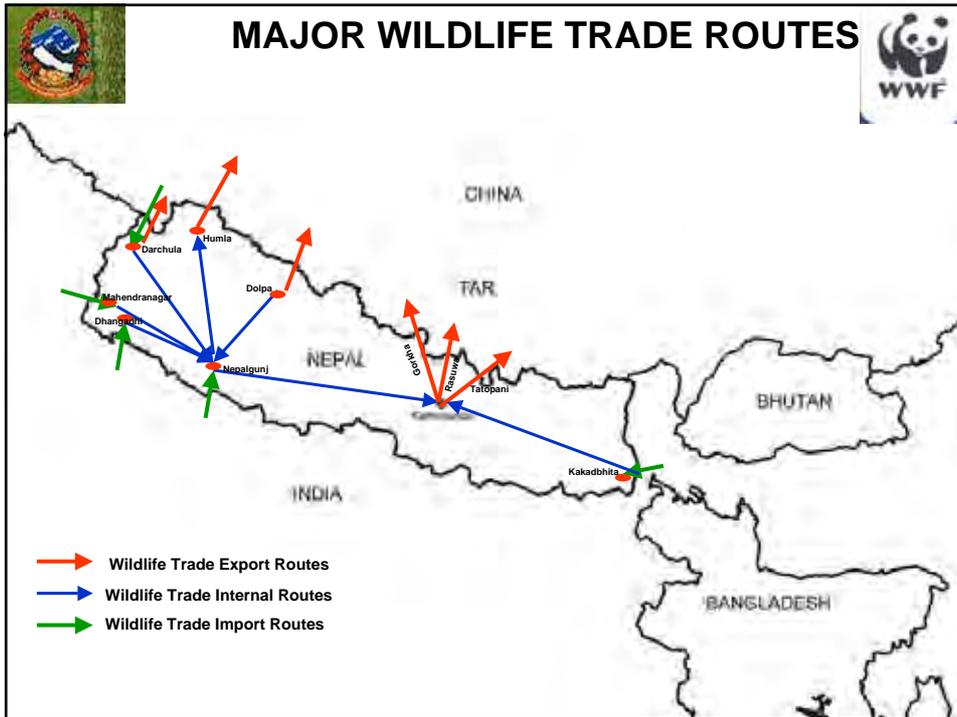
Major Seizures of Wildlife Parts



Tiger and Leopard

- 2006 Tiger bones, Kathmandu
- 2006 6 Leopard skins and Tiger bones, Bardia
- 2006 3 Tiger skins in different part of Nepal.
- 2007 5 Leopard skins and 15 kg tiger, Dhangadi
- 2007 5 Leopard Skins, Kathmandu
- 2007 19 Shatoosh Shawls, Kathmandu







Challenges



- Open border and inaccessible mountain passes.
- Inadequate and inefficient intelligence networks
- Weak law enforcement
- Defective law and institutional arrangement
- Inadequate coordination among the enforcement agencies
- Inadequate of resources



Future Strategies



Strengthen Anti- poaching Operation in and around PAs and National Forests

Expansion/strengthen CBAPOs

Establishment of Intelligence Network in Major transits and centers.

Strengthening the capacity of enforcement officials





Future Strategies cont....



Work with and mobilize local communities and CBOs

Strengthening Trans- boundary cooperation

Strengthen coordination and partnership

Seek support from regional and international communities to curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade





SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

*Workshop on Wildlife Trade in South Asia
KATHMANDU, NEPAL (31 January -1 February 2008)*

Towards Establishing a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative [SAWTI]

by A.K. Mukerji

South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative Senior Advisor, TRAFFIC International
Director General of Forests, Govt. of India (Retd)

VISION: - Develop a regional initiative for providing mutual help through cooperation, coordination and communication for conservation, sustainable use, regulated wildlife trade and livelihoods of eco-dependent people, as well as elimination of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna & related products and derivatives.

MISSION: - To Establish a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative [SAWTI], within the mandate of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and with the technical and other assistance from the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, for the development of common strategies and work programmes through a regional network. This network would encourage exchange of information, consultations, human resource development, and capacity building, exchange of expertise, needs-based research and other activities to facilitate sustainable harvesting and trade as well as to eliminate illegal trade in wildlife in the region. SACEP in collaboration with TRAFFIC will assist in the establishment of this network by facilitating interactive and open dialog with concerned authorities and technical experts of the eight member countries of SACEP, through a regional workshop followed by a Ministerial level declaration endorsing such an initiative in the forthcoming 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP. Subsequently SACEP and TRAFFIC will collaborate in the establishment a technical support group to facilitate regional cooperation, networking and the development of overarching regional support programmes, while seeking financial support from the donor community.

1. BACKGROUND

South Asia is a region that is rich in biodiversity, with *Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka being home to over 15% of the world's flora and 12 % of its fauna* [The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in it's State of The Environment report for South Asia in 2001, recommended that, in view of the growing illegal trade in animal and plant parts through well-established international crime networks of operators, there was an urgent need for strengthening of existing conservation and enforcement measures in South Asian countries through regional cooperation. This was considered feasible, as most of these countries were Parties to international conventions concerned with conservation, sustainable management and use of biodiversity, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). All eight countries of the region are parties to the CBD and most countries are parties to CITES.

In April 2004, a South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic workshop was organized by the TRAFFIC in close cooperation with the CITES Secretariat and was attended by 70 representatives from all countries of South Asia. The workshop suggested that the key approach for regional cooperation was Coordination, Co-operation and Communication between countries in moving forward through collaborative efforts towards a set of common goals. It was agreed that efforts were required for fostering broader awareness of the issues and implications of wildlife trade across countries, sharing of information, developing responses, strategies and action plans to tackle

common problems of the region and its close neighbours. It also recommended the establishment of a South Asia regional wildlife enforcement network.

On May 3 2005, member countries of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted an ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora [2005 – 2010]. Subsequently, on December 1, ASEAN Ministers launched the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) with support and participation of the CITES Authorities, specialized wildlife law enforcement organizations, Police, Customs, and other related departments. It is understood that ASEAN-WEN is now functioning very effectively, with TRAFFIC providing instrumental help and technical advice in collaboration with the relevant governments and other NGOs.

2. RATIONAL

At the 10th Governing Council meeting of SACEP held on 25th January 2007, the eight member countries expressed serious concerns over the growing threat of poaching and illegal trade of wild fauna and flora and decided to initiate a specific programme to combat this menace in 2007-2008 [para 9.3 of proceedings] As such it was felt that immediate efforts were needed for the launch of a regional wildlife trade initiative in the South Asia region similar to that in ASEAN and the development of a long-term strategy for regional cooperation in regulating trans-boundary wildlife trade, managing the legal trade effectively and efficiently, and eliminating all illegal trade.

The 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES held in June 2007 strongly supported the development and strengthening of such regional networks, with CITES Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP14) on Compliance and Enforcement highlighting the need for improved cooperation and coordination among CITES authorities and wildlife-law enforcement agencies at the regional level and an upcoming meeting of the CITES Enforcement Expert Group was directed to examine the issue. It is expected that governmental aid agencies, CITES and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations such as UNEP, FAO, WWF and IUCN may be keen to provide technical and financial support for any regional collaborative efforts in South Asia, with SACEP and TRAFFIC ready to provide all necessary assistance to such a network.

Keeping these objectives in view, SACEP and TRAFFIC entered into an MOU on the 20th of July 2007 to (i) develop and implement a South Asia Regional Strategy for combating illegal trade in wild flora and fauna and to ensure that the trade is maintained at sustainable levels and (ii) establish a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative to support this effort.

3. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: -

a) During the past two decades there has been a sudden and big increase in the unsustainable extraction and illegal trade of all types of wildlife products, both flora and fauna for food, medicinal and other uses. These include fibers, skin, hide, bones, corals, exotic woods [such as Sandalwood, Red sanders and Agarwood] gums, bark, medicinal and cosmetic herbal plant parts, curios, pets, wild flowers and birds, in addition to products of endangered animals and plants. This has become a serious cause of concern for all the countries in South Asia, which have very rich biodiversity. As such there is now a growing willingness within each country to cooperate with other countries in the region to both regulate the legal trade and curtail the illegal trade.

b) There exists nearby a very successful working model in ASEAN, which can be adapted to suit the specific requirements of the countries in South Asia region for a similar regional network. Moreover, most of the eight countries are already signatories to various international conventions and agreements for protection of wildlife (such as CBD, CITES and the Global Tiger forum). The Environment Ministers of these countries had the vision in as far back as 1982 to establish SACEP, the first regional environmental organization in the world. The region also has a regional political association, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and a regional trade agreement like the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA). As such these countries have a culture of institutional cooperation with each other in the region.

c) All the eight countries in this region have similar cultural and social set up [unity amongst diversity] and have a long-standing tradition of protecting flora and fauna as well as wilderness and forests. However, the practice of hunting and trade in trophies during colonial days has now grown into a larger, full-blown high-value intra regional trade. The region also has remarkable ecological unity mainly as all the eight countries are dependent on the annual monsoon affected climate.

d) All the countries gave special importance to protection of wildlife and brought in country specific Wildlife Protection Acts [in addition to the existing Forest and Fisheries Acts] from early 1970 onwards. Well-established Forest and Fisheries Departments exist throughout the region, with special wildlife units or even independent

Wildlife Departments for implementing the provisions of various national Acts to prevent damage to habitat and biodiversity as well as for curtailing illegal trade in wildlife products. All the countries have also set up networks of wildlife protected areas such as Sanctuaries, National Parks and Marine Protected Areas, and have specific laws and designated authorities to control internal trade and exports of specific wildlife products and lists of banned items in both categories.

Keeping in view the emerging scenario and stated needs of countries in the region, it has become imperative to develop a regional initiative to facilitate networking amongst the concerned nodal bodies of all the countries in South Asia with the following objectives:

4. OBJECTIVES and GOALS OF SAWTI

a] Provide mutually assistance to ensure maintenance of sustainable wildlife [fauna & flora and related products] trade levels, and to combating and eventually eliminate illegal trade.

b] Support member countries to develop effective and complementary laws, regulations and policies which are helpful for the entire region in ensuring sustainable use and trade (especially those providing livelihoods to eco-dependent people) and in combating international networks of smugglers and illegal traders of wildlife operating in the region and beyond. (*This does not imply any kind of regional legislation. Countries shall have the sovereign right to amend their own national laws. This is just to encourage countries to ensure those laws complement and support any regional efforts.*)

c] Sharing knowledge on all aspects of wildlife conservation, legal and illegal trade and effective dissemination of information through direct communication with specified country authorities, holding of regional workshops and regular meetings amongst the trans-border countries.

d] Provide mutual help in species conservation, sustainable harvesting practices for livelihood security and trade through exchange of success stories, tested good practices, site visits and exchange of views on effective working of regulatory institutions which also involve customs, police and other relevant local authorities.

e] Risk assessment and developing inter-country early warning system on issues of trans boundary legal trade and illegal smuggling as well as of market trends for both traditional and emerging new products

f] Capacity building of governmental staff, local stakeholders and relevant NGOs by exchange of regional experts, exchange visits of officials and local stake holders, inviting international experts to help in training and research on wildlife conservation, sustainable use and prevention of illegal harvesting and trade

g] Ensure flow of technical support and funds from governmental aid agencies and other international donor organizations to assist with capacity building and provide additional resources for programme implementation to protect wildlife resources and prevent illegal trade from the region.

h] As a regional entity develop linkages with other similar regional organisations such as ASEAN and wildlife authorities of the neighbouring countries like China, Iran, Myanmar and other selected Central Asian countries for collaboration in preventing illegal trade of wildlife products from the region.

I] Develop and implement common strategies for combating illegal trade within and beyond the region through networking, information and intelligence exchange.

J] Develop overarching regional work programmes for human resource development, need based research, creation of data base on a common format, ensure periodical trade monitoring and exchange of views, expertise, etc through regular regional workshops, intra country meetings and exchange visits

5. OUTLINE OF PROGRAMME ELEMENTS

The proposed South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative [SAWTI] will work under the mandate of SACEP and develop a work programme within the context of the national priorities after detail consultations with all the eight countries in the region. Following are some broad suggestions of programme elements to be taken up in an integrated manner to cover the entire region, based on local fund availability and donor assistance and with full technical support of TRAFFIC.

The objective is to mainly assist the South Asian countries in achieving strategic goals as outlined in CITES Strategic Vision 2008 – 2013 for facilitating and managing efficiently the legal and sustainable trade and eventually eliminating illegal trade in wildlife.

- 1] To develop strong elements of regional cooperation and coordination amongst the wildlife management and enforcement authorities
- 2] Development of common and effective national laws and policies.
- 3] Establishment of a Forum for sharing of knowledge and its effective dissemination
- 4] Ensuring species conservation, sustainable harvest, trade and livelihoods security.
- 5] Develop capacity for risk assessment and establishment of an early warning system.
- 6] Capacity building of the sustainable resource management and enforcement agencies

Towards Establishing a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative [SAWTI]

DISCUSSION

Pakistan expressed appreciation for the development of this initiative. Pakistan noted that the issue of collaboration and co-operation has been highlighted in different forums and by various NGOs, but felt that more could be done with regard to capacity building programmes of local institutions. Pakistan urged that building the capacity of local institutions should be given a priority in the Initiative, citing as an example the need for Pakistan to have the capacity to identify turtles and tortoises in trade to enable it to get co-operation and assistance from other countries in managing this trade.

SACEP noted that this initiative was developed exactly in response to the need expressed by Pakistan. SACEP stressed that a regional initiative with the backing of all the governments of South Asia is required, as it is evident that there is no regional response to wildlife trade issues in other forums. SACEP is trying to strengthen the voice of the region so that it is heard at other international fora. SACEP noted that donor countries are more keen to provide financial support for the region as a whole, rather than individual organization or NGOs.

Nepal raised the issue of managing sustainable, legal wildlife trade and how it would affect the illegal wildlife trade, noting that the country does not permit trade in wild animals. TRAFFIC noted that these are two different issues. Illegal trade involves threatened and endangered species, where the emphasis would be on enforcement. It is hoped that SAWTI would be a much broader initiative than just working on enforcement issues. A large proportion of the population in South Asia depend upon sustainable harvesting as a significant part of their livelihood and the initiative should examine how sustainable use of wildlife could be managed. TRAFFIC stressed that wildlife does not refer exclusively to wild terrestrial animals but also to wild plants and fisheries. The CITES Secretariat noted that ASEAN-WEN also has a programme on managing legal wildlife trade that runs along with the programme on stopping illegal wildlife trade.

Bhutan noted that it does not permit any trade in wild animals but can consider managing sustainable wildlife trade in plant species. It expressed concern that encouraging communities to sustainably harvest animals may make the situation out of control. SACEP stressed that, as with other regional initiatives, the decisions of the State take precedence and that countries need only collaborate in those fields they are comfortable with.

TRAFFIC said that the documents being discussed in the meeting are not the final documents but only intended to provide participants with an initial framework for discussion during the meeting. Participants are therefore free to adapt the existing draft strategy and plan based upon agreed priorities, whether it is just to curb illegal wildlife trade or whether it can also look at sustainable trade in, say, medicinal plants, timber and fisheries. There are vivid examples of sustainable wildlife trade in the region of global importance, involving timber, medicinal and aromatic plants. Around the world, trade in these resources has already been demonstrated to benefit the communities and national economies, but what is needed is the scientific expertise and capacity to manage these resources sustainably.

*The First Regional Workshop on
the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative*

*Section 3
Presentations*

*3.3 The way forward towards regional collaboration
on wildlife trade issues in South Asia*

ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)



Experiences from South East Asia Region

First Regional Workshop on
the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative
1 February 2008
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Experiences from South East Asia Region in Establishing and
Implementing the ASEAN Regional Action Plan and
ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)**

- **Background: needs and objective**
- **Step of moving forward**
- **Major Achievement and progress so far**
- **Significant factor for successful establishment**

Background

All 10 nations of ASEAN are parties to CITES

ASEAN countries are rich in biodiversity and home to many endangered species of wild fauna and flora. It is a **hotspot** in the global illegal wildlife trade

Concerted and coordinated joint actions are required to address the illegal exploitation and trade in CITES-listed species within the ASEAN region;

Efforts on a regional level may be most effective and appropriate in addressing a regional-level problem

Sharing information and technical expertise within ASEAN with a view to increasing the capacity of ASEAN as a whole is important

Involving of ASEAN Member Countries as well as all relevant governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organization in these efforts is important

Step of moving forward

**The 13th Meeting of the
Conference of the Parties
to CITES 2-14 Oct 2004**

**ASEAN Statement on
CITES (11 Oct 2004)**





ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, 2005-2010 (May 2005)

- *Objective 1* – Effective and enforceable legislation
- *Objective 2* – Law Enforcement Networking to stop illegal wildlife trade
- *Objective 3* – Information Exchange and Science-based Decision Making
- *Objective 4* – Engagement of Industry Groups, Traders and Local Communities
- *Objective 5* – Taskforces on Specific Issues
- *Objective 6* – Securing Technical and Financial Assistance

ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, 2005-2010 (May 2005)

- *Objective 2: To promote networking amongst relevant law enforcement authorities in ASEAN countries to curb illegal trade in wild fauna and flora*

Step of moving forward

International Workshop on ASEAN Regional Wildlife Law Enforcement Network

October 17-21, 2005, KhaoYai National Park, Thailand

Delegate from CITES MA in 10 countries attended
International Workshop to develop plans for SE
Asia regional network



Official Launching of the ASEAN-WEN 1 December 2005 Bangkok, Thailand



First Regional ASEAN-WEN Meeting Bangkok, 2006

- Terms of Reference agreed
- Identification of National Focal Points
- CITES, Customs, Police, Interpol, RILO engaged in ASEAN-WEN's implementation



What is ASEAN-WEN?

- **A regional INTER-GOVERNMENTAL law enforcement network**
- **A proactive response to Southeast Asia's alarming levels of wildlife trafficking**
- **Countries share information and learn from each other's best practices.**

ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network

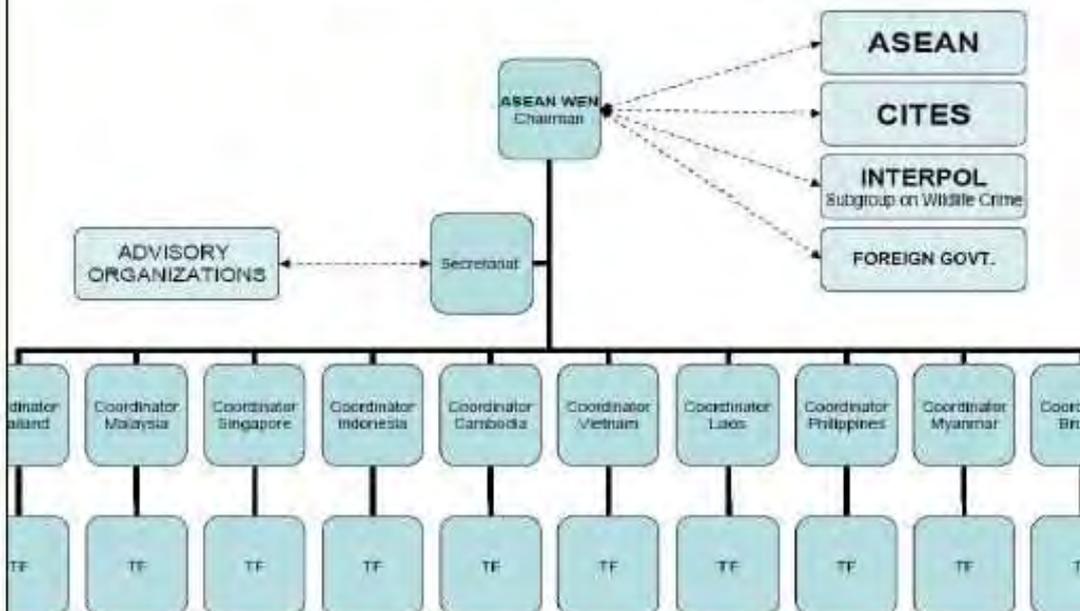
Main objective

To reduce the illegal wildlife trade by establishing a cooperative and cohesive wildlife law enforcement framework within and between countries in South East Asia.

Mechanism

- National wildlife crime task forces in each ASEAN member country
- National Focal Point
- Program Coordination Unit

ASEAN WEN Organization Concept



What Does ASEAN-WEN Want to Achieve

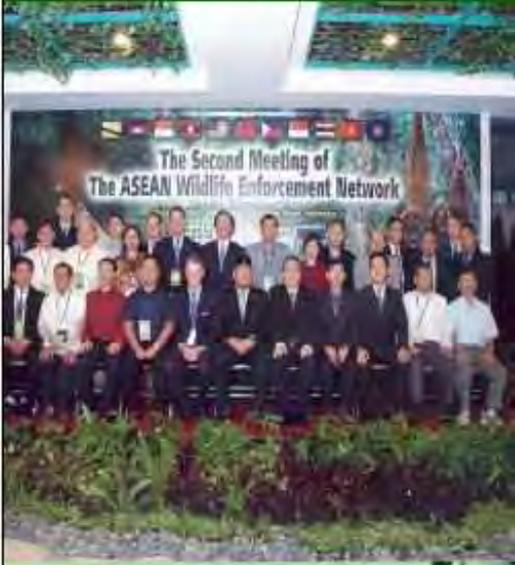
Increase efficiency of intelligence exchange;
Catalyze efficient inter-agency enforcement action;
Change from seizures through prosecutions and sentencing to increase deterrents.



Means to achieve

- Enabling members countries
 - Capacity Building Program
 - Information sharing
- Keeping network strengthen
 - Regular meeting
 - Closer and stronger collaboration among relevant agencies at national level
- Keeping network alive
 - Website development
 - communication
- Institutionalization
 - Establishment of ASEAN-WEN PCU
 - Sustainability of the network

Second Regional ASEAN-WEN Meeting Bogor, Indonesia, May 2007



- Action Plan 2007-2012
- 3 Specialized Working Groups established: Special Investigations, Fundraising and Capacity Building
- ASEAN-WEN's Rules of Procedures

Progress so far....

Program Coordination Unit (PCU) located in Thailand

Establishment of multi-agency national task forces in Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines.



Seizures and Prosecutions

Some examples:

- Singapore – Box turtles, hard corals, live birds, reptile skins;
- Thailand - Shahtoosh, Freshwater Turtles, Pangolins;
- Philippines – ivory, reptiles, exotic birds



Capacity Building Activities

Jointly implemented with ASEAN-WEN Support Program

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



Wildlife Alliance
Direct Protection for Wildlife in Danger

Wildlife Crime Investigation Training Course

Conducted in Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia, and Indonesia

Key partner: US Fish And Wildlife Service (USFWS)



Judicial Workshops on Wildlife Crime and Prosecution

1st workshop held in the Philippines, 2nd workshop held in Indonesia

Next workshops: Thailand

Key partners: US Department of Justice, Supreme Courts of ASEAN Countries, ASEAN Secretariat



3rd Meeting of the ASEAN-WEN

- Will be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in May 2008
- Main provisional agenda:
 - Follow up progress of national task force establishment
 - Review National Strategic Action Plan and Regional Action Plan
 - Discussion of how to sustain the network and ASEAN-WEN PCU

Lessons Learned so far....

Inter-agency efforts at national, regional and international levels are **essential**

Engage with the judiciary

Actively engage Non-ASEAN partners and NGOs

Promote inter-regional cooperation.



Challenges

Keeping momentum & motivation
Maintaining technical and financial assistance
Prosecuting to the full extent of the law
Sustaining political support and making wildlife crime a priority
Increase public awareness



Significant factors for successful establishment and implementation

- **Clear and defined objective**
- **Political support**
- **Technical assistance**
- **Financial support**
- **Personnel**

Learning from the ASEAN Wildlife Trade Initiative

DISCUSSION

Nepal sought clarification on what the role of national governments is in ASEAN-WEN's capacity building programmes and how the issue of sustainability of funding is addressed.

ASEAN-WEN noted that the first step was for ASEAN countries to agree on a need for collaboration and decided on an action plan. One of the key priorities ASEAN countries identified was capacity building, for which it was agreed to work with TRAFFIC and other partners. In the initial stages, each country had presented a strategic plan for their country which was agreed upon. An overall strategic plan was also prepared under which the role of each country was well defined.

On funding sustainability, ASEAN-WEN expressed appreciation for the financial support it has received thus far from the US government. The project is scheduled to end in September 2008 and ASEAN member countries are now discussing the way forward, including development of funding proposals for potential donor countries and international organizations.

The CITES Secretariat noted that countries currently doing work under ASEAN WEN and other such similar regional initiatives are using their existing funds for such work, but doing so in the more effective manner. The Secretariat stressed that such networks don't ask countries to do something new but to carry on what they are already doing in a collaborative and more effective manner, using already existing resources more efficiently. Initial funding may be required for specific activities such as capacity building workshops to give such networks a kick start and to get them running. However, in the long term, the networks should be able to sustain themselves.

*Consideration of
the Draft South Asia Action Plan on Wildlife Trade*

South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013)

The Context

South Asia region covers an area of approximately 42,916,000 km². Comprising of **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**, the region has over 15% of the world's flora and 12% of its fauna (UNEP, 2001)¹. It encompasses 16 of the 238 globally important eco-regions (WWF Global 2000), notably the Terai-Duar Savannah and Grassland eco-region across Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, the Sundarbans Mangroves of Bangladesh and India, Indus River Delta of India and Pakistan, the Andaman Sea and the Maldives and Lakshadweep Atolls. These eco-regions support exceptionally rich biodiversity and a huge array of unique, threatened and endangered species (e.g. the Asiatic lion, tiger, snow leopard, Asian elephant, one-horned rhinoceros, and eight of the world's 15 crane species). Within South Asia, India and Nepal together contribute nearly 10% of the global biodiversity while occupying merely 2.5% of the global land area.

Because of this richness in biodiversity, South Asia has been one of the prime targets of international organized wildlife crime networks taking advantage of poverty-related conflicts and instigating people to commit wildlife crimes for the ultimate benefit of rich international consumers. During the past two decades, there has been a sudden increase in the demand for wild animal and plants from South Asia. Seizures in many countries of the region, of parts and derivatives from wildlife - including **tiger, leopard, elephant, ornamental fish, birds, and rare medicinal plants** - are a pointer to the fact that rare and endangered fauna and flora of the region are in great demand locally as well as globally leading to unsustainable harvest and trade. The trade is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including **food, medicines, trophies, skin and hide, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber and tourist curios**.

While legal trade can be monitored and managed, illegal trade in wild animals and plants poses a major challenge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in South Asia. Although confirmed statistics are unavailable, yet analysts believe that the quantum of illegal trade in wildlife and their parts and products is second to narcotic trade. Investigations have also revealed that illegal hunting and trade is accomplished through a deep-rooted and well-established clandestine chain of operators who have developed strong nexus with international wildlife crime network. Despite concerns from the conservation community, enforcement agencies and civil society about the overexploitation and resultant decline in wildlife, it is unlikely that the ongoing trend will be stopped unless existing conservation measures and enforcement strategies are reinforced through regional cooperation.

¹ UNEP, 2001. South Asia: State of the Environment 2001.

Besides illegal trade, the legal harvesting and trade in wild species is an important and sustainable source of income to many rural communities in South Asia. Experience gained in the region indicates that adequate protection, sustainable harvest and wise use of wild animals and plants can play vital role in conservation of species and their habitats as well as in lifting people out of poverty and securing their future. It is, therefore, important that the use of natural biological resources is brought within sustainable limits to maintain biodiversity's *"potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations"*. The concept of sustainability can also lead to *"incentive-driven conservation"* where wise use of a resource can create positive incentives to conserve biological resources

Controlling the illegal trade and managing legal harvest at sustainable levels will not only help in ensuring livelihoods security to the ecosystem dependant communities but will also pave the way for biodiversity conservation. Most of the countries in South Asia are parties to international conventions concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These instruments echo joint commitment by international organizations, national governments, non governmental organizations and the civil society. Concerted efforts are now urgently needed by all South Asian countries to fulfil their international obligations through effective enforcement, greater political commitment, improved intelligence sharing, sustainable harvest and trade mechanism and strengthen capacity of the agencies engaged in managing wildlife.

Rationale

The wildlife trade and its impact is an important challenge to achieving CITES and CBD objectives particularly for those species which are on the verge of extinction due to overexploitation for human consumption. With rapid transformation in the consumption pattern and globalization of economy, it is physically impossible for any country to prevent wildlife exploitation irrespective of the quality of legislation, conservation management and enforcement. Such measures are unlikely to succeed unless supported by local communities, producer and consumer countries. Cooperation and coordination from local to global level is, therefore, essential to manage the ongoing wildlife exploitation level in South Asia.

Experience gained during the past forty years shows that the trade in wildlife has grown disproportionately high and is currently expected to be worth billions of dollars involving thousands of animal and plant species. A significant proportion of this trade is illegal and the quantum is growing as new laws and policies are made and old laws are amended to prevent or regulate it. The organized networks of wildlife criminals have developed innovative mechanisms to continue their clandestine operation. It is, therefore, necessary that suitable changes in the national and international legal framework are made from time to time to counter the evolving strategies of organized criminal network.

Growing poverty and deprivation in and around the natural ecosystems enhances the dependence of inhabitants on the forest resources and international instruments, national laws, policies or regulations matter little to them as they struggle everyday for survival. Their livelihood strategies are precarious and vary from region

to region but are mostly exploitative in nature with low opportunity costs and financial returns. Countries in South Asia generally recognize the need for sustainable livelihoods for forest dwellers and have initiated far reaching policy and institutional reforms adopting participatory approaches. At the same time there is an urgent need to support the ongoing poverty alleviation and sustainable development efforts with experiences and success stories in other parts of the world.

In April 2004, TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring and a joint programme of IUCN and WWF that works in close cooperation with CITES Secretariat, brought together 70 representatives from government departments, law enforcement and non-governmental organisations from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and key neighbouring countries of China and Myanmar. The participants appreciated each other's concerns, needs and constraints and agreed to find ways that the region can move forward through collaborative efforts towards a common set of goals. The key areas that emerged from the workshop were **co-ordination, co-operation and communication** between countries in South Asia and the region's neighbours. It was agreed that efforts were required for fostering broader awareness on the issues and implications of wildlife trade across countries, sharing information on common problems and developing response strategies. Explicit attention was needed for building capacity of enforcement staff, sharing information and experiences on mechanisms for setting in place enabling frameworks for conservation of species in trade in order to support sustainable development and poverty alleviation goals. In this context, it is important to highlight that member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted an ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (2005-2010) at the special meeting of the ASEAN experts group on CITES on May 3, 2005 in Jakarta. The plan aims to promote regional cooperation and networking amongst the enforcement authorities to curb illegal trade in wildlife. Subsequently, a special meeting of the ASEAN Ministers responsible for the implementation of CITES was held in Bangkok on 1 December 2005. The Ministers decided to launch the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) with the support and participation of CITES Authorities, Customs, Police, Prosecutors, Specialized Governmental Wildlife Law Enforcement Organizations and other relevant national law enforcement agencies. Considering the growing threat of poaching and illegal trade to wild species, it has now become imperative to formalize a South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) for South Asia.

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Government of India, during his inaugural address on 25th January, 2007 drew the attention of member countries on the need for strengthening the CITES regulations for combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products. He also highlighted the need for addressing common environmental concerns and problems through cooperative efforts. The Minister recommended that SACEP should incorporate specific work programme to achieve this objective in the region. It is in this context that a long term strategy is proposed for regional cooperation in regulating trans-boundary wildlife trade and for managing the legal trade effectively and efficiently.

The Strategy

The South Asian regional strategy is an attempt to respond to two major challenges facing illegal trade today. The **first** is to develop practical ways to support governments, non government organizations and individuals and civil society in ensuring the effective implementation of national laws, policies and programmes that leverage real and meaningful change in combating illegal trade. The **second** is to strengthen the relationship between conservation and poverty reduction in such a way that wildlife consumption is maintained at sustainable levels. These two challenges are inextricably linked and will be pursued through a leverage programme built upon extensive experience in some of the countries of the region.

The strategy will be based on **SIX** programme elements which will be addressed in an integrated manner and appropriate interventions as and when required to ensure that these are not treated as stand alone issues. For this purpose, full and unhindered support of the national governments, Inter-Governmental Organizations, NGO's and civil society will be crucial. The programme elements mentioned below are not in order of priority for the reason that these will operate within the context of national priorities and the harmonized approaches between and among the stakeholders in each country.

- 1. Cooperation and Coordination***
- 2. Effective laws and policies***
- 3. Sharing knowledge and effective dissemination***
- 4. Species Conservation, Sustainable trade and livelihoods security.***
- 5. Risk assessment and early warning***
- 6. Capacity building***

Purpose and scope

1. To assist South Asian countries in combating and eventually eliminating illegal trade in wildlife.
2. To support South Asian countries in managing the legal trade at sustainable levels.
3. To assist and support South Asian countries in achieving strategic goals as outlined in CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013.

Draft (07-07-07) as submitted to all SACEP Member Countries in July 2007

Programme Element 1: Cooperation and Coordination

Goal 1.1 - Broad scoping and analysis of the external environment in South Asia

Objective 1.1.1 – Situation analysis in which the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) will operate in the region.

Objective 1.1.2 – Support South Asian countries in achieving the relevant programme objectives of the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013 and the respective TRAFFIC programme.

Programme Element 2: Effective laws and policies

Goal 2.1 – Improved law enforcement and protection at local, national and regional level.

Objective 2.1.1 - Review national laws and policies and their impact on species harvest and trade

Objective 2.1.2 - Support harmonization of national laws and their consistency with CITES, CBD and other relevant multi-lateral environmental agreements

Objective 2.1.3 - Assess the feasibility of mutual legal and administrative assistance among SA countries

Objective 2.1.4 - Promote law enforcement and provide techno-legal support

Programme Element 3: Sharing knowledge and effective dissemination

Goal 3.1 – To increase information exchange, public education, participation, and awareness

Objective 3.1.1 - Improved information exchange, understanding and support for combating illegal trade and sustaining legal trade

Goal 3.2 – Improve active knowledge management within the region

Objective 3.2.1 – To implement the active knowledge management and action learning² concept between the parties and partners to this Strategy

² Amended after Checkland (1992) and Jackson & San (1999)

Programme Element 4: Species Conservation, Sustainable trade and livelihoods security

Goal 4.1 – Protect species affected by trade, now or in future

Objective 4.1.1 - Develop sustainable harvest models to enhance species conservation

Goal 4.2 – Improved understanding of species trade dynamics

Objective 4.2.1 - Develop and support focussed research programme to improve understanding of markets, trade mechanisms, routes, economics and motivation

Objective 4.2.2 - Enhance technical capacity at the national levels to accurately assess and monitor trade and species status

Objective 4.2.3 - Encourage approaches for management decisions to be based on sound knowledge and precaution

Goal 4.3 – Promote sustainable harvest and use of species in trade³

Objective 4.3.1 - Develop sustainable harvest models to enhance species conservation

Objective 4.3.2 Build capacity of local communities to develop and implement adaptive community management systems sustainable harvest and use of species in trade

Objective 4.3.3 Develop the “Lifecycle Approach⁴” for sustainable use

Goal 4.4 – Address livelihoods issue in a pragmatic manner.

Objective 4.4.1 - Support the development of country specific and realistic projects to address trade related livelihoods issues

Objective 4.4.2 - Facilitate funding support for implementation of rehabilitation programme

Objective 4.4.3 - Strengthen the linkage between livelihoods strategy and wildlife trade regulations

³ The term “trade” refers to both legal and illegal trade.

⁴ The “Life cycle Approach” takes into account the consequences of human actions on wildlife product i.e. from extraction to final disposal. It’s a practical tool for evaluating the opportunities, risks and trade offs associated with products. (Ref - State of the World- 2004)

Programme Element 5: Risk assessment and early warning

Goal 5.1– Streamline intelligence network and developing proactive approaches for advance warning

Objective 5.1.1 - Harmonize data collection and streamline reporting process

Objective 5.1.2 – Establish early-warning mechanisms to enable proactive approaches

Programme Element 6: Capacity building

Goal 6.1 – Enhance the capability of enforcement agencies

Objective 6.1.1 - Develop new tools to assist enforcement agencies

Goal 6.2 – Enhanced country capability to maintain trade at sustainable levels

Objective 6.2.1 – Strengthen the capacity for scientific authorities to conduct Non-detriment Findings and the capacity for management authorities to manage trade at sustainable levels, and improve coordination between and among them

Objective 6.2.2 – Strengthen the capacity of enforcement authorities and improve coordination between and among them

Consideration of A Draft Statement for adoption at Ministerial level For the 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP

Aware that the countries in the South Asia region are very rich in terrestrial and marine natural resources which are storehouse of unique biodiversity as well as many endangered species and that there is rapid growing demand both locally and globally for wildlife products,

Acknowledging that while legal trade can be monitored and managed, illegal trade in wild animals and plants poses a major challenge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in South Asia,

Recalling that all the countries in the region are presently having various laws and regulations to regulate wildlife trade and to prevent illegal trade but still are subject to large scale illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives by a well organized local and international illegal trade network,

Recognizing that besides illegal trade, the legal harvesting and trade in wild species is an important and sustainable source of livelihood and income to many rural communities and that adequate protection, sustainable harvest and wise use of wild animals and plants can play vital role in conservation of species and their habitats as well as in lifting people out of poverty and securing their future,

Realizing that despite concerns of overexploitation of wildlife by the civil society and efforts of the enforcement agencies it is unlikely that the on going trend of increased illegal trade by the strong international illegal wildlife crime nexus can be tackled without new enforcement strategies and through regional cooperation and networking,

Recognizing that seven of the countries in the region have committed for wildlife conservation and to regulate trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species [CITES] of flora and fauna through its various resolutions,

Recalling the South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic Workshop held in Kathmandu in April 2004, and the priorities identified for improved regional cooperation to address wildlife trade challenges in South Asia,

Recalling the decision taken in the tenth governing council meeting of SACEP on 25th January 2007 to incorporate a work programme [2007-2008] for combating illegal trade in wildlife products and to help strengthening of enforcement of CITES in the region,

Aware of CITES Resolution 11.3 'Compliance and Enforcement' revised at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in July 2007 urging Parties to consider formulating regional action plans, incorporating timetables, targets and provisions for funding, designed to enhance enforcement of CITES, achieve compliance with its provisions, and support wildlife-law enforcement agencies,

Acknowledging the memorandum of understanding signed by SACEP and TRAFFIC International in on 20/07/07 to jointly take the initiative of regional cooperation, for combating illegal trade and maintenance of sustainable level in legal trade, forward and joint efforts initiated by them,

Recalling the endorsement of the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013) by the senior officers of the member countries at the First regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative in Kathmandu from 31st January and 1ST February 2008,

Stressing the importance of mutual networking and technical support as well as financial and technical support from the international community for building expertise, resources, and capacity to address the needs of the region for combating the illegal wildlife trade,

Believing that regional cooperation can provide the best solution for regional problems, we the Ministers constituting the 11th Governing Council of SACEP, hereby support the South Asia Wildlife Trade initiative and regional action plan, and urge for:

- ***The establishment of a South Asia Experts Group on Wildlife Trade, consisting of relevant technical representatives from the eight member countries, which would meet periodically to provide a forum for***

the development of regional programmes through networking, sharing and effective dissemination of knowledge and information,

- *The Experts Group, with the assistance of the SACEP Secretariat, TRAFFIC and other relevant partners, to develop a detailed work programme for implementing the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade,*

- *Countries, donors and organizations to provide financial and technical support to assist in the implementation of this work programme.*

*The First Regional Workshop on
the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative*

*Section 4
Working Group Discussion*

Working Group Discussion

Draft South Asia Action Plan on Wildlife Trade

and

Draft Statement for adoption at Ministerial level for the 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP

India stressed that the vision and mission of this initiative must be made clear, so as to ensure that each country understand the expectations involved and common ground for action agreed upon. India noted that its understanding of the vision of this initiative was to combat illegal wildlife trade across the region and in the process strengthen CITES mechanisms, and the concept paper will need to be re-visited in this light. India also noted that the 10th Governing Council meeting of SACEP recommended formulating a network to combat illegal wildlife trade and was not clear if sustainable trade of species was on the mandate, particularly especially those not covered in the national legislation. India noted that it was its understanding that the Governing Council called for a special programme under SACEP, requested to address issues related to illegal trade, where the issue was illegal poaching and the need to address trans-border issues, of which India is fully supportive.

SACEP clarified that this would involve looking at two issues - establishing a regional enforcement network to address illegal trade and managing legal wildlife trade at sustainable levels, particularly bearing in mind the various species that are sustainably traded in different countries in the region. SACEP reminded participants that sustainable trade of wildlife does not only refer to trade in 'flagship' species such as the Tiger and Rhinoceros, but very much also refers to resources such as medicinal plants and fisheries. SACEP stressed SAWTI should be a forum that looks at wider issues, as all the countries in the region are developing economies and depletion of these resources will have a detrimental effect on these economies. SAWTI should therefore not only be looking at illegal trade in endangered species but also at natural resource management.

SACEP also clarified that the mandate from Environment Ministers at the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council was not only to combat illegal trade in wildlife but also to strengthen the enforcement of CITES, noting that strengthening the enforcement of CITES in the region would include working on combating illegal wildlife trade and managing sustainable legal wildlife trade. SACEP noted support has come from the region's Environment Ministers and urged the direction given to SACEP by the Governing Council must be taken forward.

TRAFFIC noted that it was important to report progress at this meeting to the next Governing Council meeting. TRAFFIC noted that all participants agree that there is a need for a collaborative effort and that this is just the first step. TRAFFIC stressed that this Initiative is not just one workshop but the beginning of an intra-regional network. The details and mechanism for operating this can be worked out later and the network can decide which issues it agrees to work on and which it does not. SACEP noted that any strategy agreed upon today is not a fixed document but a dynamic document that needs to be updated periodically.

Pakistan and Bhutan noted that it may be necessary to define the term 'wildlife', as some participants may consider 'wildlife' as only referring to animals and others may assume it also includes plants. Bhutan noted that such a definition is important especially when addressing the issue of sustainable trade, noting that Bhutan is comfortable with SAWTI addressing the sustainable trade in medicinal plants but not for other species. Bhutan stressed that this is an issue that affects national law and there can be no agenda that implies changing a country's national laws.

TRAFFIC clarified that a definition of 'wildlife' has already been defined in the 'Guidelines for Country Presentations' that was distributed for this meeting, namely: "'Wildlife trade' refers to the sale and exchange of animal and plant resources, including products derived from terrestrial, freshwater and marine species, as well as timber and fisheries products." The CITES Secretariat added that 'wildlife' in the CITES context refers to both animals and plants. SACEP noted that the definition of 'wildlife' in the CITES context is appropriate as most SACEP member countries are CITES Parties, and that there is no limitation on species in the national legislation of countries, as these Acts include both flora and fauna.

Pakistan stated that it fully supports this initiative and that it should strictly be based on CITES legislation. Pakistan noted that the document under discussion is in line with the CITES convention and its provisions, covering two main issues - controlling illegal trade and also having a sustainable mechanisms for managing legal

wildlife trade. Pakistan added that there should also be a mechanism to implement this plan, and recognition of the need for financial and technical assistance.

Pakistan highlighted that the voice of South Asia should come forward in unison in the forthcoming Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. As Chair of the session, he noted that there is a full agreement on the establishment of SAWTI but some reservations on its form which could be addressed in re-drafting of the strategy document.

It was clarified that endorsement and re-drafting was required for only two documents - the 'South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013)' and 'Draft Statement for adoption at Ministerial level for the 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP'. It was noted that endorsement was not sought for the earlier document presented 'Towards Establishing a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative [SAWTI]', as this document was meant only as a background document for the purposes of this meeting, which participants would note and use only as a framework for discussion.

At this point, delegates agreed by consensus upon the establishment of SAWTI and proceeded to provide comments on the draft 'South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013)', including:

Purpose and Scope

- Nepal and India recommended that the word 'eliminating' be replaced with the word reducing or combating, as completely eliminating illegal trade may be an unachievable purpose. However, it was noted that the word 'combating' is already in the text and that 'eliminating' the trade is still a worthy goal, even though it may be unachievable. It was agreed that wording of Purpose 1 be retained.
- The current Purpose 2 will be made into Purpose 3, and Purpose 3 will be Purpose 2.

Programme Element 1: Cooperation and Coordination

- India suggested adding the terms 'broad scoping' and 'enforcement network' in Objective 1.1.1, and 'implementation network' in 1.1.2.
- The objectives should be moved to goals and the resultant two goals will suffice. It should begin with the term 'network', whereas the second statement should follow as, '..... broad scoping and the other CITES strategic vision.....'.

Programme Element 2: Effective laws and policies

- It was suggested that objective 2.1.2 be deleted, as there is no possibility of harmonizing national laws across the different countries in the whole region. Pakistan noted that the laws indeed have to be harmonized to be in accordance with CITES provisions and recommended retaining the term in the statement. However, it was agreed that the statement should now read '.....support harmonization of laws at national level and'.

Programme Element 3: Sharing knowledge and effective dissemination

- IUCN noted the three 'pillars' identified in the Kathmandu workshop of 2004 and recommended that the word 'communication' be added into the header of this programme element.
- It was agreed that current goals should be removed and be replaced by the current objectives.
- Pakistan suggested that the traditional knowledge prevalent in each country should be given due priority along with scientific knowledge. The term 'active knowledge' should be replaced with 'traditional knowledge'.

Programme Element 4: Species Conservation, Sustainable trade and livelihoods security

- It was suggested that the footnotes and Objective 4.3.3 relating to 'life-cycle approach' be deleted.
- Objective 4.1.1 is to be deleted, as it has been repeated in Objective 4.3.1

- Goal 4.3 can be deleted and its only component, Objective 4.3.2, could be added to goal 4.4
- The CITES Secretariat suggested that Objective 4.3.2 is more appropriately incorporated into Programme Element 6.
- The term 'sustainable livelihood' should be added to 4.1. The livelihood issue should be incorporated and retained in the text somewhere since wildlife trade is different than other aspects. However, there was apprehension with the sustainability of wildlife trade in the long run.

Programme Element 6: Capacity building

- Objective 6.2.2 should be moved under goal 6.1. to become objective 6.1.2, with the phrase 'and improve coordination between and among them' removed

WWF suggested that one of the objectives in the action plan should be to include securing technical and financial assistance to the network and prepared draft text for inclusion as a new Programme Element 7 in the document and consideration by participants. However, participants agreed that there did not seem a necessity for the addition of this new element in the document and the draft text was rejected.

Climate change issues were raised during discussions on the strategy and delegates felt that there is need to address this. While it was agreed that climate change is an important issue, it was important that the strategy document does not lose focus by specifically considering too many issues at this point in time. It was also noted that Objective 2.1.2 on consistency with other multilateral environmental agreements can provide for addressing climate change issues.

Consensus was arrived at the suggested changes above. A second draft of the 'South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013)' reflecting these changes can be found in Appendix B of this report.

At this point, participants proceeded to provide comments on the 'Draft Statement for adoption at Ministerial level for the 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP', including:

- Page 1: In the second paragraph beginning "Acknowledging that.....", delete "while legal trade can be monitored and managed". In Paragraph 4 beginning "Recognizing that.....", delete "besides illegal trade"
- Page 3: Add after the endorsement of SAWTI and in the operative part of the Statement "the establishment of an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism comprising of administrative and management authorities in respective countries at national level and seeking increased interaction and coordination in sharing and disseminating information".
- Page 3: TRAFFIC to be moved to the end of the list of the organizations identified in the operative part of the text.

Consensus was arrived at the suggested changes above. A second draft of the 'Draft Statement for adoption at Ministerial level for the 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP' reflecting these changes can be found in Appendix C of this report.

It was noted by some participants that the desire to form an enforcement network is not mentioned specifically in either of the two documents re-drafted. The Chair and SACEP noted that a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network will be part of the work developed under SAWTI. Due to lack of time, this issue could not be pursued further in the drafts agreed. However, various country participants, as well as the CITES Secretariat and TRAFFIC, strongly urged that mention of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network be included in both the documents in further discussions leading up to and at the Governing Council meeting.

*The First Regional Workshop on
the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative*

*Section 5
Closing Session*

Closing remarks by Dr Arvind Boaz, Director General, SACEP

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome our Hon' Minister to this closing of such a fruitful workshop. I am grateful to all delegates of my member countries for endorsing both the Regional strategy for Wildlife trade in South Asia and the declaration to be adopted by the Hon' Ministers at the 11th GC of SACEP. I must congratulate the Hon' Minister that this extremely important initiative has been launched here in Kathmandu during his tenure as the Chairman of the SACEP Governing Council. It is also pertinent to say that the important decision to include this initiative in the Work Plan of SACEP was taken by the Hon' Ministers of the eight member countries of SACEP at the 10th GC held in this very city in January 2007.

I am extremely happy today that all the delegates from my member countries unanimously endorsed this vital initiative of SACEP. The decision taken today will serve as a watershed in the management of wildlife trade in South Asia and will be a landmark in the fight against illegal wildlife trade in the South Asian region. I am confident that regional co-operation can provide the best solution for regional problems and the agreement reached on SAWTI puts in place the foundations for a co-operative effort to crack down on illegal trade and to improve the management of wild species that can be legally traded under national laws in the region.

SAWTI is the first wildlife trade initiative of its kind in South Asia and SACEP is confident it will lead to further commitment in the region, and closer engagement among neighbours to effectively address wildlife trade problems.

I am thankful to Mr Roland Melisch and Mr Sabri Zain from TRAFFIC for their tireless efforts in supporting this initiative. My heartfelt gratitude also extends to Mr John Sellar from the CITES Secretariat for his presence and vital inputs for the success of this workshop. I am particularly indebted to Mr A. K. Mukerji and all my friends from WWF, Nepal especially Mr Ghana Gurung and Mr Santosh Nepal for their continuous support to make this workshop a reality.

I extend my thanks to the local host, the Government of Nepal and especially the Secretary, Mr Narayan Silwal, the Joint Secretary, Ms Meena Khanal and the Under Secretary Mr Arjun Thapa for without their kind support and efforts this workshop would have been just a dream.

I would also like to thank the donor community particularly the US government and WWF for wholeheartedly supporting this initiative and for sending their representatives to this workshop.

I would also like to thank the Media and Press for giving us their valuable time for this closing ceremony. I would also like to thank all the people who have been associated with this workshop especially my staff at SACEP who have burnt their midnight oil to make this workshop a success

In the end I extend full commitment and support on behalf of SACEP to take forward this initiative and am confident that this will emerge as an exemplary regional response to all wildlife issues for the South Asian region.

Closing remarks by Nazir Ahmad Farhang, Secretary of the Director General, National Environmental Protection Agency, Afghanistan

On behalf of the Government of Afghanistan I hope you accept the warmest and deepest appreciation from all the Afghan people and delegates of Afghanistan, especially H.E. Prince Mostapha Zaher the Director General of National Environmental Protection Agency, to the people of Nepal, the Government of Nepal and all delegates that participated in this important workshop, as well as all the organizations that organized and arranged this workshop, especially SACEP, CITES, TRAFFIC and WWF Nepal.

We have spent good days in Nepal, and we experienced and learned more things from this workshop. I thank you so much for your kind attention and preparing the facilities for us to participate in this workshop.

As you know very well, Afghanistan has experienced more than two decades in a war situation. Now it needs repairing and rehabilitating, especially in the environmental, educational and cultural fields. In this regard, we need the help of the international community.

Finally I want to present a small gift to H.E. Mr. Farmullah Mansoor, the Minister of Environment, Science and Technology of Nepal. This is a hand-made geographical map of our country Afghanistan.

Closing remarks by Mr. Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmad, Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Bangladesh

This is indeed a great pleasure to be here in the Himalayan city of Nepal on the occasion of the First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative.

I think this will be a milestone workshop which will lead us to the endorsement in the next Governing Council meeting of SACEP scheduled this year.

We have enjoyed and enhanced our knowledge from the valuable presentation of the distinguished delegates. Apart from the participation in the workshop we have enjoyed the company of the delegates outside this room by sharing their country experience and exchanging views.

We are indeed grateful and amazed by the hospitality extended to us by the organizers. On behalf of the distinguished participants I am extending my sincere gratitude and thanks to the officials of SACEP, CITES, TRAFFIC and WWF. Thanks to the organizers for selecting an elegant and cosy venue for the workshop.

We are indeed grateful to the Government of Nepal for hosting such an event which help develop a regional initiative for providing cooperation, coordination and communication for conservation, sustainable use and regulated wildlife trade. Honourable Minister with your able leadership we will go far to achieve our targeted goal.

This is not the end rather the beginning of our journey. We have our pledge bound commitment for an effective and fruitful journey from Nepal.

Closing remarks by Dr. Bashir Ahmed Wani, Inspector General Forests, Pakistan

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan and on behalf of delegates I would express deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Government of Nepal for hosting this important workshop on Wildlife Trade issues in this beautiful capital city of Kathmandu. The host country in collaboration with many agencies like TRAFFIC, CITES, SACEP, USA & WWF has made excellent arrangements for conducting this meeting in an atmosphere of very cordial and conducive environment. Although South Asian Countries including Pakistan are very rich in natural resources which are reservoirs of unique biodiversity, however, threat of extinction of some flora and fauna species due to growing demand for products consumed locally and globally is prevalent in all the countries of the region.

During two days of meeting, the delegates and resource persons and experts had very comprehensive discussions on issues related to Wildlife Trade and, indeed, this meeting provided an excellent forum to share information on various aspects of Wildlife Trade in the region. There were very intense discussions on the proposal prepared by SACEP and TRAFFIC towards establishing a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI). Following very cordial and in-depth discussion on all aspects of the initiative there emerged a unanimous consensus among all the countries of the region to go for adoption of SAWTI. The initiative will lead to the development of common strategies and work programme through a regional network that will be facilitated by SACEP, TRAFFIC and other International Agencies. This network would be useful to exchange information, facilitate consultations, promote human resource development among countries of the region, capacity building and on exchange of expertise to facilitate sustainable conservation of the wildlife resources in the region. While delegates expressed their concern regarding over exploitation of wildlife, it was felt that livelihoods of the custodian communities have to be ensured by providing some community based programmes that will facilitate the conservation of species and their habitats.

All the delegates were unanimous that SAWTI will promote and strengthen networking, technical support as well as financial support from the International Community for building expertise, resources and strengthen institutions to enforce regulations for combating illegal trade in the region.

Honourable Minister, your very presence in this concluding session of the workshop indicates the political commitment which your Government attaches to promote the goals and objectives of the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative. Since the proposal of establishing South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative will be presented to the next Governing Council of SACEP which is presently been chaired by the Nepal, your presence in the next Council meeting will help to further promote the cause of this initiative at the regional level. Notwithstanding the fact all the countries in this region share a common cultural and social environment having historical tradition of protecting flora and fauna, the establishment of SAWTI will go a long way in further cementing our cooperation that will lead to sustainable conservation of wildlife resources in the region with the involvement of the local custodian communities.

Let us hope that this workshop which has endorsed South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative will go a long way in promoting sustainable trade in wildlife products and enhance the level of cooperation among countries of the region. Once again I thank the host country, SACEP, International Agencies like TRAFFIC, CITES, WWF and the United States for facilitating this regional consultation that has successfully endorsed to recommend the proposal of SAWTI for adoption in the next Governing Council meeting of SACEP.

Closing Address by Mr. Farmullah Mansoor, the Minister of Environment, Science and Technology of Nepal

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to present in the closing session of this important meeting.

First of all, I regret not being able to present during the inaugural session because of a busy schedule outside Kathmandu. Nevertheless, my colleagues in the Ministry have briefed me that the discussions during these two days went extremely well.

It has been very important for all of us to understand the regional perspective of the trade of wild flora, fauna and the livelihood of the local communities dependent on it. I believe that this meeting has provided ample opportunity to share and exchange ideas regarding the trade status and policies on wild fauna and flora in the region.

Nepal is rich in diverse wild flora and fauna. In order to protect these flora and fauna from illegal trade and poaching, Nepal has a very strong legislative framework and institutional mechanism. The Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and its department networks are spread up to the village levels through which regulated trade of flora is conducted. Moreover, conservation institutions and organizations are now seriously taking into account the indispensable participation of local communities for sustainable management of wild flora and fauna.

In order to achieve conservation results, Nepal is also supported by various national, international and inter-governmental organizations. I would like to thank TRAFFIC and WWF for their support in conserving wild flora and fauna in this region.

Nepal is located between two giant economies: India and China. The challenge with enforcement authorities is how to maintain the legal trade, particularly of flora, and to stop the illegal trade of any kinds of flora and fauna within its territory. For this, the Government of Nepal is fully committed to develop a regional initiative to control illegal wildlife crime through mutual cooperation and coordination. The existing knowledge in the region and support of regional institutions such as SACEP to carry forward the initiative is highly commendable.

Today, Nepal is at the crossroads of political and social restructuring. The Government body formed after the approaching Constitution Assembly election will shape the future of the country. I am fully confident that the new Nepal will have a high degree of devolution at local level for the protection and sustainable management plants and animals. Nepal is fully committed to the enforcement of stern actions against wildlife trade in the country.

I am hopeful that the outcomes of this workshop will be endorsed by the forthcoming 11th Governing Council meeting of SACEP.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to SACEP member countries for sending their delegates to this very important workshop.

I hope your short stay in Nepal has been very fruitful and productive. The exchange of ideas and understanding of regional issues will be useful for shaping regional strategies in the future.

I thank you for your participation in this very important workshop.

I wish you a safe journey back home.

I now declare the First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative concluded.

*The First Regional Workshop on
the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative*

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Second Draft of South Asia Action Plan on Wildlife Trade

South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013)

The Context

South Asia region covers an area of approximately 42,916,000 km². Comprising of **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**, the region has over 15% of the world's flora and 12% of its fauna (UNEP, 2001). It encompasses 16 of the 238 globally important eco-regions (WWF Global 2000), notably the Terai-Duar Savannah and Grassland eco-region across Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, the Sundarbans Mangroves of Bangladesh and India, Indus River Delta of India and Pakistan, the Andaman Sea and the Maldives and Lakshadweep Atolls. These eco-regions support exceptionally rich biodiversity and a huge array of unique, threatened and endangered species (e.g. the Asiatic lion, tiger, snow leopard, Asian elephant, one-horned rhinoceros, and eight of the world's 15 crane species). Within South Asia, India and Nepal together contribute nearly 10% of the global biodiversity while occupying merely 2.5% of the global land area.

Because of this richness in biodiversity, South Asia has been one of the prime targets of international organized wildlife crime networks taking advantage of poverty-related conflicts and instigating people to commit wildlife crimes for the ultimate benefit of rich international consumers. During the past two decades, there has been a sudden increase in the demand for wild animal and plants from South Asia. Seizures in many countries of the region, of parts and derivatives from wildlife - including **tiger, leopard, elephant, ornamental fish, birds**, and rare **medicinal plants** - are a pointer to the fact that rare and endangered fauna and flora of the region are in great demand locally as well as globally leading to unsustainable harvest and trade. The trade is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including *food, medicines, trophies, skin and hide, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber and tourist curios*.

While legal trade can be monitored and managed, illegal trade in wild animals and plants poses a major challenge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in South Asia. Although confirmed statistics are unavailable, yet analysts believe that the quantum of illegal trade in wildlife and their parts and products is second to narcotic trade. Investigations have also revealed that illegal hunting and trade is accomplished through a deep-rooted and well-established clandestine chain of operators who have developed strong nexus with international wildlife crime network. Despite concerns from the conservation community, enforcement agencies and civil society about the overexploitation and resultant decline in wildlife, it is unlikely that the ongoing trend will be stopped unless existing conservation measures and enforcement strategies are reinforced through regional cooperation.

Besides illegal trade, the legal harvesting and trade in wild species is an important and sustainable source of income to many rural communities in South Asia. Experience gained in the region indicates that adequate protection, sustainable harvest and wise use of wild animals and plants can play vital role in conservation of species and their habitats as well as in lifting people out of poverty and securing their

future. It is, therefore, important that the use of natural biological resources is brought within sustainable limits to maintain biodiversity's *"potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations"*. The concept of sustainability can also lead to *"incentive-driven conservation"* where wise use of a resource can create positive incentives to conserve biological resources

Controlling the illegal trade and managing legal harvest at sustainable levels will not only help in ensuring livelihoods security to the ecosystem dependant communities but will also pave the way for biodiversity conservation. Most of the countries in South Asia are parties to international conventions concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These instruments echo joint commitment by international organizations, national governments, non governmental organizations and the civil society. Concerted efforts are now urgently needed by all South Asian countries to fulfil their international obligations through effective enforcement, greater political commitment, improved intelligence sharing, sustainable harvest and trade mechanism and strengthen capacity of the agencies engaged in managing wildlife.

Rationale

The wildlife trade and its impact is an important challenge to achieving CITES and CBD objectives particularly for those species which are on the verge of extinction due to overexploitation for human consumption. With rapid transformation in the consumption pattern and globalization of economy, it is physically impossible for any country to prevent wildlife exploitation irrespective of the quality of legislation, conservation management and enforcement. Such measures are unlikely to succeed unless supported by local communities, producer and consumer countries. Cooperation and coordination from local to global level is, therefore, essential to manage the ongoing wildlife trade in South Asia.

Experience gained during the past forty years shows that the trade in wildlife has grown disproportionately high and is currently expected to be worth billions of dollars involving thousands of animal and plant species. A significant proportion of this trade is illegal and the quantum is growing as new laws and policies are made and old laws are amended to prevent or regulate it. The organized networks of wildlife criminals have developed innovative mechanisms to continue their clandestine operation. It is, therefore, necessary that suitable changes in the national and international legal framework are made from time to time to counter the evolving strategies of organized criminal network.

Growing poverty and deprivation in and around the natural ecosystems enhances the dependence of inhabitants on the forest resources and international instruments, national laws, policies or regulations matter little to them as they struggle everyday for survival. Their livelihood strategies are precarious and vary from region to region but are mostly exploitative in nature with low opportunity costs and financial returns. Countries in South Asia generally recognize the need for sustainable livelihoods for forest dwellers and have initiated far reaching policy and institutional reforms adopting participatory approaches. At the same time there is an urgent need to support the ongoing poverty alleviation and sustainable development efforts with experiences and success stories in other parts of the world.

In April 2004, TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring and a joint programme of IUCN and WWF that works in close cooperation with CITES Secretariat, brought together 70 representatives from government departments, law enforcement and non-governmental organisations from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and key neighbouring countries of China and Myanmar. The participants appreciated each other's concerns, needs and constraints and agreed to find ways that the region can move forward through collaborative efforts towards a common set of goals. The key areas that emerged from the workshop were **co-ordination, co-operation and communication** between countries in South Asia and the region's neighbours. It was agreed that efforts were required for fostering broader awareness on the issues and implications of wildlife trade across countries, sharing information on common problems and developing response strategies. Explicit attention was needed for building capacity of enforcement staff, sharing information and experiences on mechanisms for setting in place enabling frameworks for conservation of species in trade in order to support sustainable development and poverty alleviation goals. In this context, it is important to highlight that member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted an ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (2005-2010) at the special meeting of the ASEAN experts group on CITES on May 3, 2005 in Jakarta. The plan aims to promote regional cooperation and networking amongst the enforcement authorities to curb illegal trade in wildlife. Subsequently, a special meeting of the ASEAN Ministers responsible for the implementation of CITES was held in Bangkok on 1 December 2005. The Ministers decided to launch the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) with the support and participation of CITES Authorities, Customs, Police, Prosecutors, Specialized Governmental Wildlife Law Enforcement Organizations and other relevant national law enforcement agencies. Considering the growing threat of poaching and illegal trade to wild species, and the ever growing demand for wildlife products, both flora and fauna, for medicinal and cosmetic use. It has now become imperative to formalize a South Asian Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) for South Asia.

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Government of India, during his inaugural address at the 10th Governing Council of SACEP on 25th January, 2007 drew the attention of member countries on the need for strengthening the CITES regulations for combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products. He also highlighted the need for addressing common environmental concerns and problems through cooperative efforts. The Ministers of the eight member countries agreed that SACEP should incorporate specific work programme to achieve this objective in the region. It is in this context that a long term strategy is proposed for regional cooperation in regulating trans-boundary wildlife trade and for managing the legal trade effectively and efficiently.

The Strategy

The South Asian regional strategy is an attempt to respond to two major challenges facing trade in wild species today. The **first** is to develop practical ways to support governments, non government organizations and individuals and civil society in ensuring the effective implementation of national laws, policies and programmes

that leverage real and meaningful change in combating illegal trade. The **second** is to strengthen the relationship between conservation and poverty reduction in such a way that wildlife consumption is maintained at sustainable levels. These two challenges are inextricably linked and will be pursued through a leverage programme built upon extensive experience in some of the countries of the region.

The strategy will be based on **SIX** programme elements which will be addressed in an integrated manner and appropriate interventions as and when required to ensure that these are not treated as stand alone issues. For this purpose, full and unhindered support of the national governments, Inter-Governmental Organizations, NGO's and civil society will be crucial. The programme elements mentioned below are not in order of priority for the reason that these will operate within the context of national priorities and the harmonized approaches between and among the stakeholders in each country.

- 1. Cooperation and Coordination***
- 2. Effective laws and policies***
- 3. Sharing knowledge and effective dissemination***
- 4. Species Conservation, Sustainable trade and livelihoods security.***
- 5. Risk assessment and early warning***
- 6. Capacity building***

Purpose and scope

1. To assist South Asian countries in combating and eventually eliminating illegal trade in wildlife.
2. To assist and support South Asian countries in achieving strategic goals as outlined in CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013.
3. To support South Asian countries in managing the legal trade at sustainable levels.

Programme Element 1: Cooperation and Coordination

Goal 1.1 – Situation analysis in which the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) will operate in the region.

Objective 1.1.1 - Support South Asian countries in achieving the relevant programme objectives of the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013

Objective 1.1.2 – Under this the countries discussed the establishment of a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network supported by the CITES Secretariat.

Programme Element 2: Effective laws policies, and enforcement

Goal 2.1 – Improved law enforcement and protection at local, national and regional level.

Objective 2.1.1 - Review national laws and policies and their impact on species harvest and trade

Objective 2.1.2 - Support harmonization of laws at national level and their consistency with CITES, CBD and other relevant multi-lateral environmental agreements

Objective 2.1.3 - Assess the feasibility of mutual legal and administrative assistance among SA countries

Objective 2.1.4 - Promote law enforcement and provide techno-legal support

Programme Element 3: Sharing knowledge and effective dissemination

Goal 3.1 – To increase information exchange, communication, public education, participation, and awareness

Objective 3.1.1 - Improved information exchange, understanding and support for combating illegal trade and sustaining legal trade

Goal 3.1.2 – To implement the active knowledge management and trade action learning concept between the parties and partners to this Strategy

Programme Element 4: Species Conservation, Sustainable trade and livelihoods security

Goal 4.1 – Protect species affected by trade, now or in future and promote sustainable harvest

Objective 4.1.1 - Develop sustainable harvest models to enhance species conservation

Goal 4.2 – Improved understanding of species trade dynamics

Objective 4.2.1 - Develop and support focussed research programme to improve understanding of markets, trade mechanisms, routes, economics and motivation

Objective 4.2.2 - Enhance technical capacity at the national levels to accurately assess and monitor trade and species status

Objective 4.2.3 - Encourage approaches for management decisions to be based on sound knowledge and precaution

Goal 4.3 – Address livelihoods issue in a pragmatic manner.

Objective 4.3.1 Build capacity of local communities to develop and implement adaptive community management systems sustainable harvest and use of species in trade

Objective 4.3.2 - Support the development of country specific and realistic projects to address trade related livelihoods issues

Objective 4.3.3 - Facilitate funding support for implementation of rehabilitation programme

Objective 4.3.4 - Strengthen the linkage between livelihoods strategy and wildlife trade regulations

Programme Element 5: Risk assessment and early warning

Goal 5.1– Streamline intelligence network and developing proactive approaches for advance warning

Objective 5.1.1 - Harmonize data collection and streamline reporting process

Objective 5.1.2 – Establish early-warning mechanisms to enable proactive approaches

Programme Element 6: Capacity building

Goal 6.1 – Enhance the capability of enforcement agencies

Objective 6.1.1 - Develop new tools to assist enforcement agencies

Objective 6.1.2 – Strengthen the capacity of enforcement authorities

Goal 6.2 – Enhanced country capability to maintain trade at sustainable levels

Objective 6.2.1 – Strengthen the capacity for scientific authorities to conduct Non-detriment Findings and the capacity for management authorities to manage trade at sustainable levels, and improve coordination between and among them

APPENDIX B

***Second Draft of Statement for adoption at Ministerial level
for the 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP***

SAWTI Statement of Ministers (Draft)

Aware that the countries in the South Asia region are very rich in terrestrial and marine natural resources which are storehouse of unique biodiversity as well as many endangered species and that there is rapid growing demand both locally and globally for wildlife products.

Acknowledging that while legal trade can be monitored and managed, illegal trade in wild animals and plants poses a major challenge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in South Asia.

Recalling that all the countries in the region are presently having various laws and regulations to regulate wildlife trade and to prevent illegal trade but still are subject to large scale illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives by a well organized local and international illegal trade network.

As recognized by the Sovereign states, the legal harvesting and trade in wild species is an important and sustainable source of livelihood and income to many rural communities and that adequate protection, sustainable harvest and wise use of wild animals and plants can play vital role in conservation of species and their habitats as well as in lifting people out of poverty and securing their future.

Realizing that despite concerns of overexploitation of wildlife by the civil society and efforts of the enforcement agencies it is unlikely that the on going trend of increased illegal trade by the strong international illegal wildlife crime nexus can be tackled without new enforcement strategies and through regional cooperation and networking.

Recognizing that seven of the countries in the region have committed for wildlife conservation and to regulate trade under the convention on International Trade in Endanger Species (CITES) of flora and fauna through its various resolutions.

Recalling the South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic Workshop held in Kathmandu in April 2004, and the priorities identified for improved regional cooperation to address wildlife trade challenges in South Asia.

Recalling the decision taken in the tenth governing council meeting of SACEP on 25th January 2007 to incorporate a work programme (2007-2008) for combating illegal trade in wildlife products and to help strengthening of enforcement of CITES in the region.

Aware of CITES Resolution 11.3 'Compliance and Enforcement' revised at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in July 2007 urging parties to consider formulating regional action plans, incorporating timetables, targets and provisions for funding, designed to enhance enforcement of CITES, achieve compliance with its provisions, and support wildlife-law enforcement agencies;

Acknowledging the memorandum of understanding signed by SACEP and TRAFFIC International on 20/07/07 to jointly take the initiative of regional cooperation, for combating illegal trade and maintenance of sustainable level in legal trade, forward and joint efforts initiated by them.

Recalling the endorsement of the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013) by the senior officers of the member countries at the first regional workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative in Kathmandu from 31st January and 1st February 2008.

Stressing the importance of mutual networking and technical support as well as financial and technical support from the international community for building expertise, resources, and capacity to address the needs of the region for combating the illegal wildlife trade.

Believing that regional cooperation can provide the best solution for regional problems, we the Ministers constituting the 12th Governing Council of SACEP, hereby support the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative and regional action plan, and urge for;

- The establishment of an South Asia Experts Group on Wildlife Trade, consisting of relevant technical representatives from the eight member countries, which would meet periodically to provide a forum for the development of regional programmes through networking, sharing and effective dissemination of knowledge and information.
- The experts group, with the assistance of the SACEP Secretariat, TRAFFIC and other relevant partners, to develop a detailed work programme for implementing the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade.
- Countries, donors and organizations to provide financial and technical support to assist in the implementation of this work programme.