

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 April 2011

Regional reports

ASIA

Note: This document has been submitted by the regional representative for Asia.\*

**1. General information**

- a. Representatives Tukirin Partomihardjo: [tukirin@indo.net.id](mailto:tukirin@indo.net.id) (Indonesia) and ZHOU Zhihua [zzh0@yahoo.com](mailto:zzh0@yahoo.com) (China).
- b. Alternates : Mr Mohd Yunus Zakaria [yunus@forestry.gov.my](mailto:yunus@forestry.gov.my) (Malaysia) Ms Shereefa Al-Salem: [sh.alsalem@epa.org.kw](mailto:sh.alsalem@epa.org.kw) (Kuwait)
- c. Number of the Parties in the region : 34 (thirty four).
- d. Number of the Parties responding to communication (Jan. 17th - Feb. 15th) : 7 (China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nepal and Singapore)

This report covered the activities on CITES implementation, especially plants conservation, taken by parties in Asia between the 18th and 19th meeting of the Plants Committee.

**2. Directory of MA and SA on CITES plant issues**

(Available in CITES website prepared by Secretariat)

**3. Participation in CITES meeting/activities carried out (international & regional).**

- 13–25 March 2010, Representatives of Asian countries participated the 15th Conference of the Parties of CITES in Doha, Qatar.
- 9-11 January 2011, East Asian countries participated the Non-detriment findings and Review of Significant Trade for plant species workshop in Katmandu. Nepal.
- January 2011, the Arabic speaking countries participated The International Environmental Conventions of Biodiversity and Desertification as part of the CITES Convention implementation.
- Some delegation from Asian Parties attended the 'Regional Capacity Building Workshop of CITES' held at Makati City, Philippines during 15-17 June 2010.
- On 06-07 May 2009 and 18-19 May 2010, ASEAN countries participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5th ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) meeting in Malaysia and Myanmar, respectively. The meetings comprised of CITES, Customs and Police officers from the 10 ASEAN member countries, together with donor agencies and representatives from other partner organizations such as FREELAND foundation and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia. During the 4th ASEAN-WEN Meeting, the meeting was informed on the progress of the formation of a Special Investigation Group tackling the illegal trade in pangolin and big cats, updates on capacity building activities related and the drafting of a sustainability and operational

---

\* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

plan for the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) and ASEAN-WEN. For the 5th ASEAN-WEN Meeting, the meeting discussed the ASEAN-WEN project concept, the ASEAN-WEN Awards and the formation of a forensics network within ASEAN-WEN. In addition to the country reports from the respective member countries, other presentations included those from China and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

- 2 – 4 December 2009, ASEAN participated in the 7th Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group for CITES (AEG-CITES), Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. The objectives of the AEG-CITES meeting were to allow ASEAN Member States (AMS) to consult one another on CITES matters and to discuss and adopt common ASEAN positions on the species listing proposals submitted by CITES Parties for consideration at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, 13-25 March 2010, Doha, Qatar.
- The Regional Workshop on the Work of the Tri-national Taskforce on Trade in Ramin on 11 January 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia participated by three involving countries Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. The meeting discussed the future of the Taskforce and made several recommendations on the Taskforce's Terms of Reference and Action Plans for members' consideration.
- ASEAN countries participated in the 8th Meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group for CITES from 8-10 Feb 2011, Brunei Darussalam. Apart from country reports from ASEAN Member States, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) also presented reports on the trade in wildlife species in the region and initiatives and progress in fisheries management matters respectively. The meeting was informed of a proposal to amend the annotation for certain plant species in the next COP (Thailand, 2013).

#### **4. Workshop and other activities (within each Party)**

##### **4.1. China**

- The CITES MA of China published posters about *Cistanche deserticola*, which told people about conservation needs and artificial propagation techniques. The posters were disseminated to distribution area of *Cistanche deserticola* before harvesting season, aiming at improving public awareness.
- CITES MA published the identification manual of Cycadaceae spp. The manual included the rudimentary identifying information and pictures of cycads that ranged in China or common found in trade. The manual provided a simple and quick reference for officials of customs and wildlife management bureaus.
- The CITES MA of China and ITTO jointly published a manual of timber species. This manual provided information of several tropical species (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*, *Gonystylus* spp., *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Pericopsis elata*, *Intsia* spp.), including the identification characteristics, distribution, main products and easily mixed species.
- The State Forestry Administration of China published the *Rescue and Conservation Plan for Wild Plant with Extremely Small Populations*, which provided guidance on conservation and management of rare and endangered wild plants.
- The CITES MA of China reviewed the status of population and trade in *Cistanche deserticola*. Now it has obtained preliminary information about natural distribution, artificial propagation, utilization and trade (both domestic and international) of this species.
- According to the review, industry of *Cistanche deserticola* has greatly contributed to ecosystem, economy and local community. Now the government and people in range areas have recognized the importance of this species, and have taken more efforts to conserve it. Both wild and domestic population of this species is increasing gradually.
- The reintroduction experiments of *Doritis pulcherrima* and *Paphiopedilum armeniacum* had been initiated in China.

##### **4.2 India**

On consideration of the outputs of the International Expert Workshop on DF (CoP15 Doc. 16.2.2) to enhance the capacity of CITES Scientific Authorities, India of the view that the methodologies, tools, information and other resources needed to formulate NDF are sound and highly applicable. Therefore India in agreement with the Doc 16.2.2 of CoP15.

Taking into account the need to prioritize capacity building by organizing workshops to enhance the capability of scientific institutions to better understand what DF are and ways to formulate them, a series of workshops on NDF have been attended at the International level and organized at national level.

- As a follow up action after CITES Capacity Building workshop held at Makati City, Philippines, a CITES Capacity building Workshop was organized by the CITES-MA at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on 20-21 December 2010 on 'Strengthening CITES implementation capacity to ensure sustainable wildlife management

- A regional workshop is being conducted by CITES-MA and two Scientific Authorities namely Wildlife institute of India and Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding in Titupati, Andhra Pradesh, India on 26th\_ 27'h February 2011 for NDF study of Red Sanders. Removal of ban imposed by CITES SC59 on the trade of *Pterocarpus santalinus* from India. In addition to the agenda items enlisted by the Plants Committee for which country position is given, an important issue of our country is to be addressed by the Plants Committee and resolved. The issue pertains to the trade ban imposed by the Standing Committee of CITES in its 59th meeting in 2010.

Contd ...I3 :3:

In 2008, the Plants Committee in its seventeenth meeting had made short term and long term recommendations. The short term recommendations were:

- i) The Management Authority should clarify the legislative status of export of specimens of *Pterocarpus santalinus*, the level of artificial propagation, the permit process, and perceived discrepancies between reported Customs data and CITES data; and
- ii) If exports of wild origin are to be continued, the Management Authority in consultation with the CITES Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, should establish a conservative quota of CITES listed specimens of this species. The Plants Committee had also made the following long-term recommendations:
  - i. carry out a preliminary inventory of standing stock, establish estimates of sustainable off take and establish a scientific monitoring system of the harvested and un-harvested populations;
  - ii. establish a revised conservative export quota based on the inventory of standing stock and the estimates of sustainable off take; and
  - iii. the Management Authority report to the Secretariat the result of its actions to implement the provisions of Article IV, and how the Scientific Authority currently determines that levels of export are not detrimental to the populations concerned. However, as we had inadvertently not responded on these issues to the CITES Secretariat, when this issue came up before the Standing Committee of CITES in 2010, a ban on export of *Pterocarpus santalinus* was imposed on India (decision dated 12th March 2010 contained in Doc.14.1 on Review of Significant trade in *Pterocarpus santalinus*).

However, we have now given our reply for the short term recommendations and furnished all the information required to CITES Secretariat. The correspondence in this regard are at ANNEXURES. The CITES Secretariat has accepted our response. Therefore the suspension of trade in *Pterocarpus santalinus* imposed on India should be lifted with immediate effect. Further, CITES MA has assigned a study on Non Detrimental Findings (NDF) of *Pterocarpus santalinus* as per the provisions of CITES to the Scientific Authority, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore, India. The study would *inter alia* result in fulfilling the long term recommendations of the 59th Standing Committee of CITES. The study would be completed in a time period of 1 year.

Contd ...I4 :4:

In view of the above, CITES MA of India requests that the ban on the trade of the *Pterocarpus santalinus* from India should be lifted by the Plants Committee immediately. Therefore, it is requested to kindly furnish the above information to the CITES Secretariat in the prescribed format as India's position on agenda items of the 19th Plants Committee meeting. It is also informed that revised information/ additional information if any, will be sent later.

#### **4.3. INDONESIA**

According to the CITES Notification no. 2010/127 parties are invited to submit documents for discussion at the meeting by 17 February 2011. The Indonesia's position on the identified subject matter is as follow

1 Orchids: Annotation for Species included in Appendix II: Indonesia has been prepared identification materials on exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp included Appendix II. The certification is attached here with.

2. *Aniba rosaeodora* and *Bulnesia sarmentoi* : None of this species occur in Indonesia, therefore it does not have any implication to Indonesia.

3. *Cedrela odorata*, *dalbergia retusa*, *D.granadillo* and *D. stevensonii* : None of these species occur in Indonesia naturally, therefore it does not have any implication to Indonesia.

4. Non-detriment findings: Indonesia have conducted NDF workshop series of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp) during 2009 – 2010 under ITTO-CITES Project. The workshop involved management and scientific authorities and timber association and other related stakeholders.

## **ENFORCEMENT AND LEGISLATION**

- Review and inclusion of the wildlife crime into the draft of Forest Crime Act (Combating Illegal Logging)
- Review and amendment of existing Wild Animal and Plant Preservation Act No. 7/1999
- Review and amendment of existing Wild Animal and Plant Utilization Act No. 8/1999
- Review and amendment of existing Ministry of Forestry Decree on Wildlife Animal and Plant administration No. 447/2003

## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **TRAINING/WORKSHOP :**

- Demonstration Enforcement Ranger Training Course, 2009
- Regional Workshop on Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.)
- CITES Implementation Training in West Nusa Tenggara (2009), and South Sumatera and East Kalimantan (Borneo), 2010
- Protected and CITES Appendices Plants and Animals Identification Training in East Kalimantan, and Central Java, 2010;

## **INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON AGARWOOD MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION**

- Indonesia is going to be host of international workshop on Agarwood management and conservation
- The workshop will be conducted on July 2011 at Bangka Belitung Province, South Sumatera

## **REVIEW SIGNIFICANT TRADE**

- Workplan of Management and Conservation of *Cyathea contaminans*

## **ITTO CITES PROGRAM**

- Improving Inventory Design to Estimate Growing Stock of Ramin (*Gonystylus bancanus*) in Indonesia.
- Genetic Diversity Study of *Gonystylus bancanus* and Genetic Relationship between *Gonystylus* spp.
- Assessing Silvicultural System on Ramin : Review on the Current Practice and Re-vitalization of existing Permanent Sample Plots
- Survey and Inventory of *Gonystylus* spp. in East Kalimantan
- Conservation and The Establishment of Ramin (*Gonystylus bancanus*) Genepool
- Vegetative Propagation of Ramin (*Gonystylus bancanus*) using KOFFCO System
- Review on Ramin Harvest and Trade : CITES Compliance,
- Tri National Task force on Trade in Ramin, Trade Control and Monitoring

### **•PUBLICATIONS**

- CITES Handbook
- Scientific Authority and CITES implementation in Indonesia
- Manual identification of Agarwood producing taxa
- Identification Manual of Commonly Orchidaceae Traded
- Roadmap Towards The Sustainable Management and Conservation on Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp)
- Non Detriment Findings Assessment of Ramin
- Fragrant Wood Gaharu : When the wild no longer provide
- The Indonesia CITES Management Authority has submitted Annual report on CITES implementation in the country.
- Leaflet of Scientific Authority and CITES implementation in Indonesia

### **•CITES E-PERMIT**

- Develop National Single Window System for application and issuance of CITES permit

#### **4.4. Japan**

- In June 2010, in accordance with the revision of CITES Appendices 1 at COP15, Japan amended the species list of the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which regulates in-country transfers.

#### **4.5 Kuwait**

##### **Cooperation with the Parties and others (China)**

- 1) Each quarter, the CITES MA of Argentina communicates the information of export permits it issued for *Bulnesia sarmientoi* to the CITES MA of China. The information will improve resources conservation and trade control in two countries.

##### **2. Organizing the international workshop**

2.1 Kuwait with the cooperation of CITES Secretariat is in the process of organizing and hosting International workshop on Implementation of CITES for Agarwood – producing species in October 2011, in Kuwait.

2.2. Participate in the Regional workshop in “Advance Topics for CITES Scientific Authorities”, conducted by United States Fish and Wildlife Service and CITES Secretariat. October 2009 (Rabat, Morocco)

3. Implementation of CITES including Legislation and Law enforcement activities.

The Environment Public Authority revised the modified of the current CITES national legislation “Resolution No.93/2003 regarding Sale and Trading in Endangered Wild Species”, to fulfill the requirement for classification the current legislation to grade I.

4. Training/Capacity Building and Public awareness activities.

Kuwait Organized National Training course on CITES Law enforcement December 2010. .

5. The CITES Management Authority of Kuwait produce the following publications in Arabic for the Public Awareness:

- Booklet on CITES plants.
- Poster on major plant groups in CITES
- Poster on Agarwood use and CITES.

6. Other CITES-related Activities.

- Attend and participate as the coordinator of CITES Convention for the Arabic speaking countries, in the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of Arab Team for The International Environmental Conventions of Biodiversity and Desertification, The Arab League – Cairo – Egypt January 2011. Kuwait Submitted a report regarding the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties CITES CoP15 Doha, Qatar March 2010, and the outcomes of the CITES CoP15 including the Resolutions and Decisions.

7. Cooperation with the Parties and others.

- Kuwait with the cooperation of CITES Secretariat is in the process of organizing and hosting International workshop on Implementation of CITES for Agarwood – producing species in October 2011, in Kuwait.

8. Implementation of CITES including Legislation and Law enforcement activities.

- The Environment Public Authority revised the modified of the current CITES national legislation “Resolution No.93/2003 regarding Sale and Trading in Endangered Wild Species”, to fulfill the requirement for classification the current legislation to grade I.

9. Training/Capacity Building and Public awareness activities.

- Kuwait Organized National Training course on CITES Law enforcement December 2010.

10. The CITES Management Authority of Kuwait produce the following publications in Arabic for the Public Awareness:

Booklet on CITES plants.

Poster on major plant groups in CITES

Poster on Agarwood use and CITES.

#### **4.6. Nepal**

As a range state of significant trade of *Taxus wallichiana*, Nepal has organized the regional workshop on NDF from 9 – 13 January 2011. On this even Nepal presented the NDF implementation of *Taxus wallichiana*.

##### **Biological character of *Taxus wallichiana***

It has been reported that this species distributed throughout 39 districts of Nepal. Found in association with Silver fir, Kharsu Oak and sometimes with Spruce as an understorey in Fir Forest. *Taxus wallichiana* is a strongly shade-tolerant, evergreen tree usually 6 to 20m in height with a trunk up 2m. The bark reddish brown, thin scaly, leaves distichious, linear with recurved margin, shining above, pale yellowish brown below. Dioecious, male strobili stalked, globose arising from the axils of the leaves on the under side of the branchlets and female strobili solitary, axillary. Growth rate slow, woody is hard and durable. Conservation status is little known and vulnerable due to over exploitation.

##### **Management system**

- Main elements of scheme include yield estimation of leafy biomass, fixation of lopping cycle and method of harvest, monitoring, seedling production and plantation, biodiversity conservation.
- Restoration measures includes protection of natural regeneration and promotion of artificial plantation. Officially negligible work done so far. Dabur Nepal has been producing seedlings and distributing farmers for cultivation in private lands since 1995.
- Field staff like forest guards and rangers responsible for monitoring but weak due to difficult terrain and paucity of staff in many districts as a result irregularities reported in harvesting leading to the death or heavy damage to trees in many places.

##### **Law enforcement**

- Forest management, harvesting and sale of forest products are governed by the forest law.
- Illegal cutting of trees or harvesting leaves is a forest crime and punishable by the Forest Act, 1993.
- Trees are not allowed to cut on account of its medicinal value but needles can be harvested with permission of DFO.
- Export of *Taxus* leaves in unprocessed form is banned by the law and is punishable involving seizure of material with fine according to the value of product or 5 years imprisonment or both.
- *Taxus baccata* has been included in CITES, Appendix II and can be exported with CITES certificate. CITES implementation law is in pipeline.

##### **Harvest Regime**

- Trees above 20cm diameter are selected for harvest. The main parts harvested are leaves and twigs below 1.5 cm
- Harvest takes place from March-June and Oct-December .
- Harvesting is done from secondary branches up to 2/3 portion of crown leaving upper 1/3 untouched.
- The yield of leaf clippings varies from 15-25 kg per tree (green weight).
- A three-year rotation has been fixed for harvesting.

- Clippings are gathered, bundled and taken to depots. Dried in shade for 4-5 days ensuring moisture level at 10%. Dried leaves are packed in jute sacks and sent to the factory.

#### 4.7. Singapore

Singapore joined CITES on 30 November 1986 and implemented the

Convention on 9 February 1987. The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) is the designated Management and Scientific Authority responsible for CITES in Singapore.

AVA administers and enforces the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act [ESA], which was enacted in March 1989 to give effect to CITES in Singapore. The Schedule to the ESA list CITES Appendices I-III species. The ESA was reviewed and the new Act came into operation on 1 March 2006. The maximum penalty for unauthorized import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea, of CITES species is \$50,000 per scheduled species (not exceeding an aggregate of \$500,000) and/or 2 years' imprisonment. The Singapore's ESA is categorised under

Category I under the CITES National Legislation Project.

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

- Following the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the CITES (COP15) in Doha (Qatar) in March 2010, the Schedule of the ESA were amended to reflect the changes of the CITES Appendices adopted at COP15. The Endangered Species (Import and Export) (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2010 came into operation on 22 June 2010.

- In June 2010, AVA implemented CITES regulations for the trade in products of the Brazilian rosewood (*Aniba rosaeodora*) and verawood (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*) following their listing on CITES Appendix II. For the Brazilian rosewood, the annotation had excluded finished products such as small bottles of essential oils that are packaged and ready for retail. However, it was unclear whether the annotation for the verawood which included "extracts" would also apply to finished products.

- Following a meeting with the fragrance industry in Singapore, clarifications were sought from the CITES Secretariat regarding the interpretation of these 2 annotations. The discussion eventually led to the publication of Notification to the Parties, no: 2010/036, in which the Secretariat clarified that fragrance compounds that are mixtures of odoriferous or aromatic substances or contain traces of the extracts, whether packaged and ready for retail trade, are excluded from CITES controls. 10 The Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act (Amendment of Schedule) (No.2) Notification 2010 came into effect on 14 Oct 2010. The amendments were made to align with the changes to CITES Appendix III, in which a few CITES Parties listed certain animal and plant species (eg. butterflies, sea coconut).

- In 2009-2010, Singapore investigated a total of 138 CITES enforcement cases, of which 03 cases involved illegal import of CITES protected plants. Details of the cases are as follows:

- i. 25 April 2009 - Singapore investigated a case of an importation of 562 orchids, most of which are wild in origin from Thailand. The consignment was imported by parcel post and without CITES documentation. The importer was fined S\$2500 and the orchids forfeited to the Authority.
- ii. 21 June 2010 - Singapore investigated a case of an importation of agarwood from Indonesia without CITES permits. The parcel contained 3 packets of agarwood powder, 3 packets of agarwood chips and 3 pieces of agarwood incense cone. The importer was served with a warning letter.
- iii. 14 August 2010 - Singapore investigated into a case of an importation of 06 orchid plants from Thailand. The plants were imported via parcel post and misdeclared as silk by the exporter. The importer was served with a warning letter and details of the exporter were sent to the Thailand CITES Management Authority for their follow-up investigations.

### IV. Training/capacity building and public awareness activities

- From 05 – 07 July 2010, Singapore participated in the ASEAN-WEN Project Proposal Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand. The purpose of the workshop is to finalized the project proposal drafted by the ASEAN-WEN Programme Coordination Unit (PCU), which sought to obtain funding to sustain the activities of ASEAN-WEN. The workshop also discussed on the contents of a Letter of Cooperation between ASEAN-WEN and other civil society organisations.

- From 17-20 January 2011, Singapore participated in the Training of Trainers (ToT) on CITES Policies and Species Identification in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The training workshop was conducted by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia with support from Japan's Ministry of Environment and the ASEAN-WEN. The workshop was attended by representatives from the CITES Management Authorities, CITES Scientific Authorities and wildlife enforcement agencies from the ASEAN Member States as well as China, Korea and Japan, with the aim of enhancing the skills and knowledge of

participants in CITES policies and identification of commonly traded species so as to effectively conduct similar training courses in their respective home countries. During the workshop, participants were

trained how to identify threatened reptile species eg. turtles and tortoises, to be familiar with the CITES regulations, including wildlife trade in the region, case studies and seizures of illegal wildlife, smuggling techniques, using the CITES Appendices, uncovering fraudulent permits and certificates etc. The participants were also taught practical and logistic issues in organizing a training course, presentation skills, arranging a site visit etc. and how to deliver the Wildlife Trade Regulation Course (WTRC).

#### **V. Other CITES-related activities**

- On 01 October 2009 and 09 April 2010, AVA conducted briefings on CITES to officers from the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA). The briefing, which would be conducted to ICA at least once yearly, served to inform and educate the officers on the overview of CITES, the implementation and enforcement of CITES in Singapore including case studies and techniques which wildlife smugglers would use to conceal wildlife shipments.