

CONVENCIÓN SOBRE EL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE ESPECIES
AMENAZADAS DE FAUNA Y FLORA SILVESTRES



Decimoséptima reunión del Comité de Flora
Ginebra (Suiza), 15-19 de abril de 2008

Informes regionales

ASIA

1. El informe adjunto ha sido presentado por los representantes regionales de Asia: Sr. Tukirin Partomihardjo (Indonesia) (Anexo 1) y Sr. Wichar Thitiprasert (Tailandia) (Anexo 2).
2. Habida cuenta de que se remitió a la Secretaría después de la fecha límite para la presentación de documentos, se distribuye únicamente en inglés (el idioma original en que fue recibido).

TO THE MANAGEMENT AND SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES OF THE REGION: Asia

INFORMATION TO THE REGIONAL REPORT AND DIRECTORY OF EXPERTS ON CITES PLANTS ISSUES

Period: July 2006 to December 2007

1. Directory of experts on CITES plants issues:

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2. Activities carried out regarding:**a) Significant trade**

- Review of significant trade in cycads had been finished and reported to the PC and Secretariat, and consequently was adopted at SC54.
- Workshop on Strategies for the sustainable use and management of timber trees species subject to international trade of South East Asia, organized by WCMC, UNEP, Universiteit Leiden, UNIMAS.

b) Review of the Appendices

- Review of implementation of Ramin's Appendix-II listing was reported at the workshop convened in Malaysia May 2006 and reported orally at SC54.

c) CITES-projects in the region

d) Nursery registration

e) Others

- Pilot projects on re-introduction of *Paphiopedilum armeniacum*, *Paphiopedilum malipoense* were carried out in 2006.
- Project on re-introduction of *Cycas debaoensis* were successfully carried out in 2007.
- Project on the prevention of further loss and the promotion of rehabilitation and plantation of *Gonystyllus* spp. (ramin) in Sumatra and Kalimantan carried out in 2007-2008 by Department of Forestry Indonesia with supporting grant from ITTO.

3. Capacity-building activities

- Since the implementation of CITES national legislation in October 2006, several training courses had been organized by the Management Authority with participants from the Management Authorities, wildlife management agencies, Customs, police agencies at all levels national-wide.
- Regional Ramin Identification Training Workshop in Singapore 2007 in which representative experts on timber from East Asian countries participated. National Workshop on Evaluation and the Promotion of CITES Implementation on Ramin in Indonesia was organized by the Forestry Department of the Indonesian Government, in Jakarta on 27 July 2007.
- A training course on wood identification of ramin species was organized by the Management Authority of Indonesia with participants from Management Authorities, wildlife management agencies, Customs as well as police agencies, followed up the CITES awareness programme on timber issues.
- The Management Authority and TRAFIC of Indonesia conducted a workshop on priority setting for species conservation in relation with CITES awareness programme on timber issues.
- Several seminars for CITES socialization were conducted in 2007 by the Management and Scientific Authorities, with participants from Management Authorities, wildlife management agencies, universities staff, Customs and police agencies.

Contact with specialists and/or NGOs

TRAFIC South East Asia prepared to develop a tool for sustainable management of agarwood-producing taxa within the range countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam) entitled: **Essential elements for the formulation of Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) on agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria/Gyrinops* spp.)**

4. Difficulties of implementation encountered in your country

a) Conservation issues

b) Technical issues

- Lack of timber identification skills and tools.
- Lack of communication among Parties in the region.

5. Other topics related to CITES (i.e. medicinal plants, timber, etc.)

6. Work to be done until next Plants Committee meeting (if not already mentioned above)

7. Other issues

General information

- a) Name of the representatives:
Regional representatives: Mr Wichar Thitiprasert (Thailand) and Mr Tukirin Partomihardjo (Indonesia)
Alternate members: Mr Mohd Yunus Zakaria (Malaysia) and Mr M. Sanjappa (India)
 - b) Number of Parties in the region: 32
 - c) Number of Parties responding to communications: 13 (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam)
 - d) Names of other institutions and NGOs contacted during the period: TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, WWF.
1. Activities carried out since the 16th meeting of the Plants Committee

Significant trade

Thailand: *Rauvolfia serpentina* CITES App II; during the year 2007 Thailand has carried out study on wild populations and review significant trade of this species. In addition, more strict control for the international traded, especially the specimens which collected the wild for commercial purpose.

Indonesia: Review of significant trade in cycads was finished and reported to PC and Secretariat and consequently adopted SC54.

Review of the Appendices

Philippines: A joint meeting of the CITES Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and the National Wildlife Management Committee (NWMC) was held on 28 May 2007 at PAWB to review and draw Philippine positions to various proposals for upgrading/ delisting of certain plant species from the CITES Appendices.

CITES project in the region

- a) The Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)

ASEAN-WEN is the wildlife law enforcement network, comprising enforcement officers from 10 countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam). The United States and China are also cooperating with the ASEAN-WEN. The network has also developed links to the CITES Secretariat, Interpol, World Customs Organization and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Wildlife Alliance (formerly known as WildAid) and TRAFFIC, via a cooperative partnership with USAID. It has providing technical assistance to government agencies that are implementing ASEAN-WEN. ASEAN-WEN operates on two levels: national and regional. On the national level, each country is setting up an inter-agency task force comprised of police, custom and environmental officers. Once this step has been completed, task forces from the backbone of a regional network dedicated to battling trans-national wildlife crime. Focal points from each agency can share intelligence with each other across the region. Since, the Program Coordination Unit of ASEAN – WEN or PCU has been officially approved to be set up in Thailand. The function of PCU includes facilitating and coordinating technical support for ASEAN-WEN at the nation and regional levels e.g. organizing ASEAN-WEN meetings, seminars, workshops, exchanges and training program. In the year 2007 many activities were carried out as follow:

i) Cambodia Nature Crime Investigation Course, 15-25 January 2007

Following the NCIC in the Philippines, Wildlife Alliance and TRAFFIC utilized USAID funding to deliver a similar course in Cambodia. The California Department of Fish & Game provided both planning assistance and training personnel to the event.

Observers at the event included officials from Thailand and China. Police Major Gen. Boonmee Sumsuk, Lieutenant. Col. Thanayod Kengkasikij of Thailand's Environmental Crime Division and Dr. Schwan Tunhikom, advisor to the Thai National Parks Division attended. On the Chinese side, Dr. Li Zhang of the Life Science Academy, Beijing Normal University, Mr. Zhong Hai of the Division of Law Enforcement and Training, CITES Management Authority of China, State Forestry Administration, and Mr. Geng Yongping of the Division of Criminal Investigation, Forest Police Bureau, State Forestry Administration all attended. Mr. Geng Yongping also gave an overview of China Forestry Police activities in suppressing Wildlife Crime;

The interaction between Cambodian, Thai, and Chinese officials was a significant step toward increased transnational cooperation.

b) Regional Workshop on Task Force Networking and Cross-Border Cooperation, 5-9 February 2007, Cibu, Philippines

During the first ASEAN-WEN meeting in May 2006, the network laid out "Terms of Reference" and called on each country to designate focal points to coordinate the formation of National Committees, or "Task Forces" to combat wildlife crime. To follow-up on this, Wildlife Alliance and TRAFFIC utilized USAID funding to support a workshop on the development of national task forces. Because the illegal wildlife trade crosses boundaries within the region, the workshop was also structured as an opportunity to discuss strategies and mechanisms on cross-border cooperation.

The event had five key objectives:

1. To facilitate the sharing of information among ASEAN-WEN members on their progress and challenges in developing National Committees or Task Forces;
2. To provide a platform to announce and explain the capacity building opportunities for government agencies involved in combating wildlife crimes (*e.g. training program, cross-border exchange program*);
3. To familiarize one another with contacts in each country who are actively involved in suppressing wildlife crimes and to provide a venue where cooperation and complementation activities may be discussed;
4. To provide inputs to the government of Thailand and to the ASEAN Secretariat on the roles and responsibilities of the ASEAN-WEN Program Coordinating Unit; and
5. To provide inputs to the government of Indonesia for the 2nd Regional ASEAN-WEN meeting to be held in Jakarta in the middle of 2007.

c) The 2nd ASEAN-WEN Meeting in Indonesia, 21-23 May 2007

The 2nd Regional ASEAN-WEN Meeting was held in Bogor, Indonesia on 21-23 May 2007. All 10 ASEAN countries were represented, as well as observers from China, the US, Interpol, UNODC, ASEAN Secretariat, and US Department of Justice. Five years ASEAN-WEN Strategic Plan (2007-2012) was tabled and approved, with the member countries agreeing to implement the activities under the Plan to further develop ASEAN-WEN. Key components of the plan included a schedule for future meetings, and formal acknowledgement of the ASEAN-WEN Support Program's contributing role to the network. This acknowledgement gives both Wildlife Alliance and TRAFFIC an official mandate for work with ASEAN-WEN.

At the meeting, TRAFFIC also presented EU-TWIX (EU Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange), a system for enforcement database and a mailing list. The system currently connects 305 EU law enforcement officials across 27 EU Members States, which allows for the quick sharing of information on illegal wildlife trade between EU countries. The ASEAN-WEN members were enthusiastic about using TWIX model as its regional enforcement database and agreed to explore further on this possibility.

- d) Thailand Wildlife Crime Investigation Course Validation, Bangkok, Thailand, 30 June-12 July 2007

As a follow-up to training conducted in Fiscal Year 2006, members of the Thai ASEAN-WEN Task Force hosted two Special Agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for joint training and observation exercises relating to anti-wildlife crime operations. The Thai Task Force includes the Royal Thai Police, Customs, and Department of National Parks. The joint exercise followed a joint training course held between the same US and Thai agencies in Cha-am in August 2006. Officers from each agency exchanged information on wildlife crime and current strategies used to suppress it. Their dialog focused on smuggling situations occurring both within countries and across borders.

- e) ASEAN-WEN Bilateral Meeting: Cross Border Cooperation Meeting Between Malaysia and Thailand, Chonburi, Thailand, 17-19 July 2007

The Support Program utilized supplemental USAID funding to facilitate a bilateral exchange between Malaysia and Thailand. This event took place and organized in Chonburi, Thailand. Delegates from Thailand and Malaysia's Police, Customs and CITES departments discussed ways to further enhance collaboration between the two countries in wildlife-related law enforcement. The Support Program assisted in the facilitating discussions, and provided necessary information and assistance to the Malaysian delegates in their preparations for the meeting.

- f) ASEAN-WEN Multilateral Meeting: Cross Border Cooperation Meeting Between ASEAN and China Guangzhou, China, 10 - 14 September 2007

The Support Program utilized supplemental funding to support a multilateral exchange between ASEAN and China. During this event, law enforcement officials from Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore traveled and met with their counterparts in Guangzhou, China where the meeting discussed on ways and means for improving transborder cooperation on wildlife law enforcement issues.

ASEAN-WEN achievements

ASEAN-WEN press release (Bangkok, 19 March 2008) reported that five major seizures in recent weeks were on evidence of heightened wildlife law enforcement in Southeast Asia and has put wildlife smugglers on notice – illegal exploitation of ASEAN's natural resources and biodiversity will not be tolerated. The ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) recognized and supported these important actions.

The increasing number of major seizures in Southeast Asia reflects heightened enforcement capacity and vigilance. ASEAN-WEN has been organizing trainings and seminars to increase the knowledge and capacity of customs and police throughout the region.

Illegal wildlife trade is one of the most lucrative criminal activities in Southeast Asia, robbing nations of their precious natural resources and biodiversity. ASEAN-WEN is addressing this problem by helping member countries establish national wildlife crime taskforces, increase enforcement capacity against wildlife crime, and boost inter-agency and international cooperation to stop the illegal cross-border trade.

- a) CITES Project in Philippines

The Philippines participated in the CITES Secretariat's Capacity Building Project through the organization of the CITES Implementation Training-Workshop in the Philippines held at Clark,

Pampanga last 16-18 May 2007. The said activity was participated in by technical personnel from the 16 regions of the country. The CITES Secretariat sponsored the said activity.

The Philippines, through this Bureau, has signified its interest to participate in the CITES E-permitting System Project. Towards this end, this Bureau is already sourcing funds for the development of the e-permitting system in the Philippines; has sought the assistance of the CITES Secretariat in building our technical capacity on this concern; and, signified its interest to participate in the work and activities of the CITES Secretariat and the Working Group of the Standing Committee on Information Technology and Electronics System.

b) CITES project in Indonesia

Project of the prevention of further loss and the promotion of rehabilitation and plantation of Ramin in Sumatra and Kalimantan, 2007-2008.

c) CITES project in Viet Nam

Review of national wildlife trade policies in collaboration with Centre for Natural Resources and Environment.

d) CITES project in United Arab Emirates

UAE has a reservation on *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* species. UAE is continuously monitoring trade of these species in the country.

e) CITES regional meeting

Experts Group Meeting on Agarwood: Capacity-building Workshop for Improving Implementation and Enforcement of the CITES listing of *Aquilaria malaccensis* and other Agarwood-producing species, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 14-17 November 2006.

The fifth meeting of the ASEAN experts Group on the CITES (5th EAG-CITES), Singapore, 9-11 May 2007.

2. Capacity building activities

China

- CITES implementation and enforcement seminar in China, India and Nepal.
- CITES implementation and enforcement seminar in Northeast Asia, Harbin, China, 2007.
- Pan-Southwest China CITES implementation and enforcement experience exchanging and update of sensitive species seminar in Kunming, China.

Philippines

CITES implementation training workshop in the Philippines, 16-18 May 2007 with support from CITES Secretariat. The training included topics on plant identification, among others.

Singapore

On 30 October - 2 November 2007, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), co-hosted a regional Ramin Identification workshop with TRAFFIC. The workshop was initiated by the US Forest Service and supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The workshop, conducted by a botanist from the US Department of Agriculture, and two co-trainers from the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and comprising of participants from the Customs, CITES Managements Authorities and forestry officers of China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, aimed to equip them with basic skills on differentiating Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), a CITES protected wood species, from other look-alikes, using a hand lens and a utility knife. A quiz and a practical exam

were conducted during the workshop whereby participants were shown 52 samples of wood and asked to ascertain if these were ramin or non-ramin wood.

Malaysia

Workshop on strategies for the sustainable and management of timber tree species subject to international trade of Southeast Asia, organized by CITES Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC, UNIVERSITY LEIDEN and ANAFQ, DEFRA, UNIMAS, Expert on timber trees from ASEAN member countries were attended.

Thailand

CITES Implementation Training Course in Thailand, the training course was conduct for the CITES plants inspector at the checking point as following:

27-28 March 2007	CITES Training for plants inspector at Chiang Mai International Airport Plant Quarantine station.
29-30 March 2007	CITES Training for plants inspector at Chiang Rai International Airport Plant Quarantine station, Chiang Saen Plant Quarantine Station, Chiang Khong Plant Quarantine Station and Mae Sai Plant Quarantine station.
7- 11 January 2008	CITES Training for Management Authority.
11-12 March 2008	CITES Training for plants inspector at Suvarnabhumi International Airport (Cargo), Bangkok Thailand.
19 - 20 March 2008	CITES Training for plants inspector checking point at Thailand – Malaysia border and Thailand – Myanmar border.

CITES activities in Thailand

On 21 October 2007; Thailand Annual Seminar on CITES Implementation for Flora 2007, the seminar was discussed on the national laws enforcement problems and CITES implementation for flora, also technical exchange among the CITES management authority and relevant authorities who is involved the CITES implementation. More than 100 persons participated was in this meeting.

On 3-4 March 2008; Thailand Seminar on Wildlife Enforcement Network (Thailand-WEN) Workshop: The CITES Management Authority of Thailand was conducted the workshop on the national wildlife enforcement network at Nakha Buri Resorts in Udon Thani (Northeastern Thailand). The workshop was discussion on the illegal trade trafficking along border between Thai – Laos, located from Chiang Rai to Ubon Ratchathani, laws enforcement, technical and information exchange etc. Seventy five participants were participated this interest workshop namely Police, Custom, Plants-Animal-Fish Quarantine Officer, Conservationist, Military, Local Volunteer, Administration officer and CITES Management Authorities of Thailand.

Nursery registration

Philippines

The proposed policy re: *Guidelines on Self-Regulation of the Floriculture Industry for the Sustainable Management of Philippine Wild Flora* that includes accreditation and registration of plant nurseries, orchidaria and similar facilities has been formulated in collaboration with key stakeholders. The draft policy though is still for approval by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Thailand

According to the laws those who artificially propagated plants listed in CITES Appendices for commercial purposes shall be registered with DOA. In addition two hundred and fourteen nurseries

have been registered with the total number of ten families, 2,827 species in the recent year e.g. Aquilaria, Agave, Aloes, Cacti, Cycads, Euphorbias, Nepenthes and Orchids.

Contact with specialists and NGOs

Philippines

Aside from the CITES Scientific Authorities, this Bureau taps the assistance of various scientists/experts in the review of applications covering wildlife use, including trade as well as in policy formulation and resolving wildlife-related issues. The involvement of local scientists/experts is formalized through their official membership in the Philippine Plant Conservation Committee created by the DENR under Special Order No. 2003-32 dated 20 January 2003 and the National Wildlife Management Committee created by the DENR under Special Order No. 2006-967 dated 16 November 2006.

The Philippines through this Office, made collaborative partnership with both local and international institutions/NGOs (e.g. Field Museum of Natural History, United States of America, Conservation International Philippines, HARIBON Foundation, etc.) for research/studies on Philippine flora and fauna species.

Certain NGOs provide advice and recommendations to the CITES MA/SA regarding applications for the collection or use of wildlife for trade, bioprospecting, conservation breeding or propagation of threatened species, scientific researches, special uses or other purposes.

Singapore

US Forest Service, Malaysian Timber Industry Board and TRAFFIC.

Viet Nam

TRAFFIC Greater Mekong Programme.

Other topics related to CITES

Philippines

Difficulties of implementation encountered:

- a) Conservation issues: Monitoring of wild flora collection due to limited resources.
- b) Technical issues: Lack of expertise to identify wild-collected from the nursery- propagated plant specimens:
 - Difficulty of plant identification in general.
 - Labelling of plant specimens specially those intended for export.
 - Country priorities to strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of CITES (e.g. priority species and taxa; research projects being carried out, new developments in identification methods, research needs; population management priorities; emerging issues; species listing needs);
 - New policies were formulated to strengthen the protection of Philippine wildlife species, these policies are as follows: 1) DENR Administrative Order No. 2007-01, establishing the national list of threatened Philippine plants and their categories, and the list of other wildlife species; and 2) DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2007-2, establishing the guidelines on the establishment and management of critical habitats; One (1) proposed policy entitled *DENR Administrative Order (DAO) establishing the list of economically important plant species for collection and direct trade purposes*, in support to the implementation and enforcement of Republic Act 9147 (the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of the Philippines) for plants is being finalized;

- This Bureau had developed the Philippine Plant Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (PPCSAP). The PPCSAP provides a framework to enhance existing initiatives aimed at plant conservation, identify gaps where new initiatives are required, and promote mobilization of the necessary resources. It also provides for mechanisms to enhance species and ecosystem approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of plant diversity; This Bureau had also produced posters on “Endemic Wild Flowers of the Philippines” as part of the Information Education and Communication campaign;
- A research project on plant valuation entitled *Policy Paper on the Economic Value and Pricing of Commercially Important Plant Species* was prepared and submitted for funding assistance to the UNDP through ENR CORE PROGRAMME. The request was approved and the project commenced on September 1, 2007 till December 31, 2007;
- The study conducted a desk review of the on-going researches on ENR valuation to determine the total economic value of conserving important plant species, the direct and indirect uses/values of economically- important plant species and policy recommendations for payment systems and regulations for efficient extraction to ensure their conservation and sustainable use.

Work to be done until the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee:

- Finalization of the proposed DENR Administrative Order establishing the list of economically-important plant species; and
- Continuing implementation of the Philippine Plant Conservation Strategy and Action Plan.

Singapore

Currently the annotation #1 to *Aquilaria* spp. does not cover an exemption for “finished products packaged and ready for retail trade”. The Plants Committee may wish to look into the feasibility of extending the exemption clause to cover agarwood finished products such as soap, incense sticks, perfume, tea etc.

3. General Problems

Communication among the member parties within the region is the most problematic issue. Parties are not responding to the enquiry from the regional representatives.

Difficulties of implementation encountered in the ASIA regional reported by members as follow:

Singapore

Since 2004-2007, Singapore has intercepted 7 shipments of a total of 116 metric tonnes red sander wood from India. These were usually falsely declared as other goods e.g. coconut husks, rice, pumps etc, and transhipped through Singapore, to China. The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) has been working closely with the Indian authorities including Customs and the Indian High Commission in Singapore to combat the illegal trade. To date, we have repatriated 6 shipments to India. We would like to raise the awareness of this illegal trade and for members of the Plants Committee to discuss and suggest possible solutions e.g. stepping up of surveillance and enforcement at source country.

Viet Nam

Difficulties of implementation encountered as following:

- Conservation issues
- Conservation and livelihoods
- Technical issues
- Significant trade
- Review of the Appendices
- Non-detrimental findings

4. Suggestions

None.

5. Updated member Directory

Philippines

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Other Experts for plant issues:

Other members of the Philippine Plant Conservation Committee (PPCC); namely:

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Other members Directory (please see CITES website)