

Dear Reader,

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

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

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

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

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

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Calendar of events:

9-13 July 2007

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

31 July – 2 August 2007

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

7-10 August 2007

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

5-7 September 2007

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

6-7 September 2007

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

Organized by: UNEP/CMS Convention on Migratory Species.

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

13 September 2007

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

23-28 September 2007

TROPICAL NTFPs, Hangzhou/Beijing, China

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

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

13 October 2007

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

CITES Notifications and News:

12 April 2007

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

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

- 005600;
- 005649; and
- 005650.

The number of the security stamp is 0064180.

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

Director of Forestry

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

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

Fax: +60 (82) 44 13 77

Chief Executive Officer

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

13 April 2007

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

The Secretariat has published on its website details of export quotas

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

The export quotas are of four types:

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

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

22 May 2007

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

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

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

23 May 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 June 2007

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

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

F L O R A

LEGUMINOSAE *Dipteryx panamensis*.

(Fabaceae)

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

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

26 July 2007

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

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

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

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

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

F L O R A

AGAVACEAE *Agave arizonica*

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

F L O R A

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

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

F A U N A

CHORDATA

REPTILIA

CROCODYLIA

Alligatoridae

Melanosuchus niger (Population of Brazil)

F L O R A

AGAVACEAE

Nolina interrata (Including all parts and derivatives)

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

F A U N A

CHORDATA

MAMMALIA

PRIMATES

Loridae *Nycticebus* spp.

REPTILIA

SAURIA

Helodermatidae

Heloderma horridum charlesbogerti

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

F A U N A

CHORDATA

MAMMALIA

ARTIODACTYLA

Bovidae

Gazella cuvieri

Gazella leptoceros

ELASMOBRANCHII

RAJIFORMES

Pristidae

Pristidae spp. (Except *Pristis microdon*)

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

F A U N A

CHORDATA

ELASMOBRANCHII

RAJIFORMES

Pristidae

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

ACTINOPTERYGII

ANGUILLIFORMES

Anguillidae

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

F L O R A

LEGUMINOSAE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Designates all parts and derivatives except:

a) seeds and pollen; and

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

– For *Hydrastis canadensis*:

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

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

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

– For *Pterocarpus santalinus*:

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

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

"Designates all parts and derivatives, except:

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

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

c) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants; and

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

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

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

Cymbidium, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda*.

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

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

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

7 August 2007

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

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

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

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

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

2 June 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 June 2007

CITES: Tropical tree left stranded (Source:

<http://www.traffic.org/RenderPage.action?CategoryId=1905>)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 June 2007

CITES fails to list sharks (source:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 June 2007

Conservation bite for Sawfish at CITES (Source:

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 June 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 June 2007

CITES backs red, pink and other corals (Source:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 June 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 June 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 June 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 June 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 June 2007

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

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

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

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

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

Compromise on African elephants

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

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

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

Strong decision against tiger farms

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

Recommendations for rhinos

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

Mixed fortunes for sharks

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

Most timber proposals withdrawn

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

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

Better protection for the European eel

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

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

Trade in pink, red and other corals remain unprotected

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

Strategic vision

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

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

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

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

Kyrgyzstan is situated in Central Asia.

Other Updates on Wildlife Trade and Wildlife:

21 May 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The conference is being held in Bogor outside Jakarta.

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

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

22 May 2007

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

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

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

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

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

Building stronger links

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

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

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

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

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

A hub of animal trafficking

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

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

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

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

6 June 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 June 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 June 2007

Malaysia to return nearly 400 smuggled rare tortoises to India (Source:

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/06/25/asia/AS-GEN-Malaysia-Smuggled-Tortoises.php>)

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

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

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

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

28 June 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 July 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 July 2007

Nearly 300 smuggled birds from Indonesia burned (source:

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

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

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

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

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

22 July 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 July 2007

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recent Notable Seizures:

404 Indian Star tortoises seized in Kuala Lumpur (Source:

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

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

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

76 Leopard tortoises seized in Malaysia (Source:

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

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

First ever seizure of live sturgeons in Malaysia (Source:

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

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

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

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

July 3, Pranburi Province, Southern, Thailand

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

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

Live turtles seized in Philippines (source: Inquirer)

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

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

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

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

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

Malaysia seizes 900 macaques from poachers (source:

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

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

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

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