

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:

19-30 May 2008

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

21-23 May 2008

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

25 May 2008

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

26-27 May 2008

3rd Regional ASEAN-WEN Meeting, Vientiane, Laos

28-30 May 2008

Conference on Biodiversity and National Development, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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31 May 2008

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

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

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

22-25 June 2008

Asian Wetland Symposium, Hanoi, Vietnam

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

7-11 July 2008

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

14-18 July 2008

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

5-14 October 2008

The IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain

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

11-15 November 2008

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Valencia, Spain

CITES Notifications and News:

31 January 2008

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

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

CITES Directory

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

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

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

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

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

through the diplomatic channel.

CITES Registers

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

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

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

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

31 January 2008

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

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

4 February 2008

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

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

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

– Mustelidae:

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

– Viverridae:

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

– Peramelidae:

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

– Unionidae:

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

– Orchidaceae:

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

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

5 February 2008

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

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

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

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

7 March 2008

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

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

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

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

2 April 2008

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

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

F A U N A

ANTHOZOA

GORGONACEAE

Corallidae

Corallium elatius

Corallium japonicum

Corallium konjoi

Corallium secundum

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

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

2 April 2008

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

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

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

7 April 2008

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

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

16 April 2008

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

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

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

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

18 April 2008

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

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

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

28 April 2008

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

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

28 April 2008

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

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

+44 (122) 327 71 36.

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

New party to CITES - OMAN

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

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

Other Updates on Wildlife Trade and Wildlife:

12 December 2007

Guide to Kalimantan's protected species launched (Source:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 January 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

28 January 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 February 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Portugal, is slated to leave end February 2008.

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

13 February 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

14 February 2008

Indonesia tightens tortoise trade regulations (Source:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 March 2008

Judiciary workshop on wildlife crime a Thai first (Source:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 March 2008

Police on course to tackle wildlife crime (Source:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 April 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The report can be downloaded from the website above.

29 April 2008

Brunei Darussalam hosts wildlife trade workshop (Source:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recent Notable Seizures:

For Aug – Dec 2007:

Chinese police seize more smuggled crocodiles from Vietnam (Source

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

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

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

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

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

Customs seize live star tortoises from air passenger (Source

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

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

ACA seizes 2,000 more logs in probe (Source

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Five held for having pangolins (Source

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vietnamese Police Confiscate Monkeys Bound For China (Source

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

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

Star tortoises seized at Chennai airport (Source

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

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

Sting in tail as wife sends scorpions in mail (Source

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

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

Two arrested in pangolin bust (Source

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

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

3 men held over poaching (Source

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

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

Smuggler flees, dead panther recovered (Source

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

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

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

Chinese Police seized 64 bear paws (Source

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

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

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

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

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

Monkeys, snakes seized (Source

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

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

300 illegal rosewood logs seized in Thailand (Source

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

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

Exotic wildlife seized in northeastern province of Vietnam (Source

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

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

50 living monitor lizard seized in China (Source

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

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

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

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

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

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

Star tortoises seized in Chennai, India (Source

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

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

600 star tortoises seized at airport (Source

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

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

Traveller arrested at Chennai airport (Source

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

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

Protected reptiles rescued in raids (Source

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

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

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

Trader's 115 cobras seized (Source

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

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

Boa products seized in China (Source

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

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

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

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

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

Python skins seized in Malaysia (Source

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

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

Wildlife seizure at Jerantut, Pahang, Malaysia (Source

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

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

Thailand saves pangolins bound for China restaurants (Source

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

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

Nabbed at 'kancil' barbecue (Source

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

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

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

Illegally-harvested coral seized (Source

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

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

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

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

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

Guangzhou Customs seized smuggled ivory (Source

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

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

Men held for possessing Star Tortoises (Source

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

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

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

Pangolins rescued from mango orchard (Source

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

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

Snakes on a plane land in Vietnam (Source

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

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

Pangolin trader sentenced to ten years in prison (Source

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

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

Forest Policemen seized pangolin scales and Asian elephant skins (Source

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

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

Reptile smuggler stopped in Guangzhou (Source

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

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

More Star-Tortoises Seized At Airport (Source

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

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

Man held over 35 monitor lizards (Source

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

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

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

For Jan – March 2008:

4 held, pangolins and meat seized (Source

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

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

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

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

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

No way home for 71 turtles (Source

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

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

Ton of live snakes found on plane in Vietnam (Source

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

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

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

Tiger parts seized in Singapore (Source

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

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

Man accused of smuggling tigers surrenders in Thailand (Source

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

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

Airport officials foil smuggling of insects, spiders (Source

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

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

More than 140 kilos of coral confiscated (Source

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

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

Vietnam seizes thousands of smuggled pangolins (Source

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

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

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

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

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

Vietnam seizes 17 more tons of smuggled pangolins (Source

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

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

Thai Police seize endangered species in market raid (Source

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

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

113 pangolins rescued (Source

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

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

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

Hotline tip leads to bust by Wildlife Crime Unit (Source

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

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

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

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