

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



Twenty-first meeting of the Plants Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 2-8 May 2014

Regional Report

ASIA

1. This document has been prepared by the Alternate Regional Representatives of Asia (Kuwait) in consulted with parties in that region .
2. General information:
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 - c) Number of the Parties in the region: 37 (thirty seven).
 - d) Number of the Parties represented in the report (China, Indonesia, Kuwait, Philippines and Republic of Korea).
3. This report covered the activities on CITES implementation, especially plants conservation, taken by parties in Asia between the 20th and 21st meeting of the Plants Committee.
4. Activities within each party

4.1 China

Following a total of nearly 140 timber species were successfully included in CITES Appendix II at CoP 16 (Bangkok, 2013), China, as one of the major importing and consumer countries, has taken a series of measures to implement the new listings, including establishing permits verification mechanism with range States, tightening the regulation on the import of timber species, giving priority to the oversight and supervision of imported timber shipments, and stepping up efforts in outreach initiatives.

The CITES MA of China, in collaboration with the Institute of Medicinal Plant Development under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, compiled and published *Identification Manual on Endangered Medicinal Plant Common in Trade in China*, in which some 50 CITES-listed and national protected plant species were included. The publication and distribution of this manual aims to improve the conservation awareness and enforcement capacities of CITES law enforcement authorities, with the focus on customs, exit & entry quarantine and forestry etc.

China, together with the United States, South Africa, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, and the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network, co-organized the law enforcement operation to fight against transnational organized wildlife crimes in early 2014. The operation, codenamed Cobra II, focused on key species that are subject to illegal trade, and achieved excellent results by law enforcement officers from 28 countries. China led the first operation Cobra, involving 22 countries, in early 2013.

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

CITES presentations and three training courses available through the CITES Virtual College have been translated into Chinese at the end of 2013, in an effort to enrich capacity building training materials.

4.2 Indonesia

Participation in CITES Meeting:

Indonesia attend The 9th Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group (AEG) on CITES, 6-8 November 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Indonesia participate in The 16th Meeting of Conference of the Parties in Bangkok Thailand, 3-14 March 2013.

Indonesia participate The 63rd Standing Committee Meeting 2 March 2013 and The 64th Standing Committee Meeting on 14 March 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Indonesia participate on The 49th Session of International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-49) 25-30 November 2013 in Libreville, Gabon

Cooperation with the Parties and others.

Indonesia conducted the International Meeting on Sustainable Forest Management in CITES dated on 8 - 10 January 2013 in Bali, The meeting organized by Ministry of Forestry Indonesia collaboration with ITTO and CITES Secretariat. Indonesia proposed 3 proposals :

The assessment of ramin plantation requirement and the establishment of ramin genetic resources conservation gardens Capacity building on seedling propagation technique and awareness raising on CITES implementation and ramin roadmap

Promoting conservation of plant genetic resources of *Aquilaria* spp and *Gyrinops* spp in Indonesia.

Managing agarwood plantation in Indonesia.

Implementation of CITES including Legislation and Law enforcement activities.

Annual meeting on quota setting between SA, MA, NGO, Universities and other stakeholders as an implementation of CITES.

Training/Capacity Building and Public awareness activities.

CITES Implementation Training in Lampung Province, and West Sumatera Province.

Captive Breeding (Orchids) Training in East Java Province and Bali Province.

Protected and CITES Appendices Plants and Animals Identification Training in West Java Province.

Other CITES-related Activities.

Indonesia published the orchids, ferns and agarwood identification book.

Indonesia still process preparing the guideline managing agarwood plantation

Indonesia is developing registration of agarwood plantation mechanism

4.3 Kuwait

Kuwait Participate in the International Scientific Symposium on Agarwood took place in the period between 3 -5 September 2013 Malaysia, Kuwait present in this symposium a lecture related to the recent decisions and resolution on agarwood producing taxa adopted in CITES CoP16.

Kuwait organize with the cooperation of CITES Secretariat and UNEP-ROWA Workshop on Strengthening Regional Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime in West Asia 29-31 October 2013 Kuwait city.

Kuwait Organize and national training course on CITES listed species for the Customs and related authorities, with the cooperation of IFAW and CITES Management Authorities of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Kuwait celebrate the first World Wild life day with the cooperation of Kuwait Scientific centre and aquarium, the celebration was concentrating on public awareness on CITES convention.

4.4 Philippines

Recently completed a reassessment and update of its current *National List of Threatened Plants* and is awaiting publication.

Currently undertaking a review of *Hedychium philippinense*, a plant species currently listed in Appendix II of CITES. The species is endemic to the Philippines and is also listed as Endangered (EN) in the country's *National List of Threatened Plants*. A formal report on this is expected to be submitted to the CITES Secretariat within the year.

4.5 Republic of Korea

In the Republic of Korea, endangered vascular plant species are selected and categorized as I and II based on the data of its domestic distribution and population size.

Under the endangered species Category I, 9 taxa are selected as Critically Endangered, among which 6 CITES Appendix II-listed orchidaceae taxa are listed. Under the endangered species Category II, 68 taxa are chosen as Vulnerable for distribution and population protection, among which 13 CITES Appendix II-listed orchidaceae taxa are listed.

Monitoring on domestic distribution is carried out annually to protect and manage the Category I and II species, with strengthened domestic laws to prevent illegal harvesting and trading.

On the other hand, the Republic of Korea has undertaken a preparatory process to establish a permit system requiring all artificially propagated species to be certified in order to prevent illegal trade of artificially propagated CITES-listed species. In addition, the Republic of Korea plans to have capacity building programs to enhance understanding of CITES-related farmers, Chinese medicine industry, import companies and other stakeholders.

In accordance with the decision adopted in the previous Conference of the Parties, the Republic of Korea declares March 3rd this year as World Wildlife Day, while holding a commemorative event joined by the Environment Minister, related academics and civil groups. On the margins of the event, seminars were also held to promote the importance of protecting wildlife and the implementation of CITES.

As a host country of the twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which will be held in Pyeongchang in coming October, the Republic of Korea plans to organize seminars on the plants protection and research. The Republic of Korea invites all Parties and other CITES-related stakeholders present in the 21st meeting of Plants Committee to provide continuous attention to the CBD COP12, and encourages their active participation.

5. Difficulties within each party

5.1 China

The biggest challenge facing China in the process of regulation on the import of endangered timber species is identification at the species level. In this regard, China is expected to share the most updated identification techniques, and to obtain the authenticated samples of timber species involved, including DNA samples and physical materials from any potential partners.