



Training Course on “CITES Policies and Identification of Reptile Species Commonly Found in Trade”

21 – 23 February 2011

Bason Guest House, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

REPORT SUMMARY

The Training Course on “CITES Policies and Identification of Reptile Species Commonly Found in Trade” was held from 21 till 23 February 2011 at the Ba Son Guest House, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. The two and a half day training course was organised by the Viet Nam CITES Management Authority (MA) in collaboration with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), and with support from the Ministry of the Environment – Japan.

Representatives from the Viet Nam Directorate of Forestry, the Ministry of the Environment – Japan, the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) Program Coordination Unit, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and TRAFFIC’s Greater Mekong Programme were present at the opening ceremony (*Press release attached as Appendix A*).

Present at this workshop were a total of 37 participants from Customs, Environment Police, Market Control, Animals Quarantine, Provincial Forest Protection Departments, relevant nature conservation organisations, express delivery companies in Ho Chi Minh City and six provinces namely Dong Nai, Tay Ninh, Binh Phuoc, Dong Thap, An Giang, Kien Giang, and staff of Viet Nam Biodiversity Conservation Agency. The training course’s objectives were to strengthen the capacity of relevant law enforcement staff in CITES implementation and the identification of reptile species commonly found in trade (*Agenda and List of Participants attached as Appendix B & C respectively*).

A pre-workshop evaluation indicated that 100% of the respondents had heard of CITES, but only 94% were able to accurately define it. More than 90% of the respondents had never received any CITES training before, and 73% had not attended any specific training of trainer course. Respondents’ selections in other questions indicated species identification as their top priority when it comes to improving the capacity of wildlife enforcement officers (*compilation of pre-workshop evaluation attached as Appendix D*).

1st day – 21 Feb 2011

‘Overview of the Wildlife Trade in the Region and in the World’ by Mr. Vuong Tien Manh

Mr. Vuong’s presentation focused on global and local examples of wildlife trade, including emphasis on wild meat as it is very popular in Viet Nam. In one example, he spoke about how illegal traders in wildlife also often trade in narcotics. In a case in 2003, a drug smuggler caught by the authorities also had 9 rhino horns packed together with drugs. At the end, he emphasised that although each enforcement agency has its own role and responsibility, the key point is that everyone works together to combat the illegal wildlife trade.

In 2010, 876 cases of wildlife law violation (data from Forestry Protection Department) and 13,000 heads of animals were seized. However, there was a decline in total number of animals traded, but the reason is not clear if this is a result of enforcement efforts or that there are less animals in the wild.

Cooperation between Viet Nam and South Africa began in 2010. On-going dialogue has focused on stopping the illegal trade of rhino horns between the two countries. He also outlined the trade of pangolins, Tigers, reptiles and bush meat commonly served in restaurants in Viet Nam.

The Viet Nam Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN) was launched in August 2010 in Ha Noi, under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Vice Minister of MARD is the Chairman of Viet Nam-WEN, and the Vice Director General of the Viet Nam Directorate of Forestry is the Vice-Chairman. He also spoke of the different local enforcement agencies that were part of the Viet Nam-WEN including forest rangers, customs, police, market control, border guard army, court, justice, fisheries, conservation NGOs and scientific authorities).

Q&A:

Customs: Some species are not listed as endangered under national legislation, but commonly traded. Are there any regulations that can help protect them?

- In Viet Nam, the CITES MA is developing a circular to manage wildlife species which are neither listed as endangered, precious, or rare species under Viet Nam legislation nor listed in the CITES Appendices.

Customs seize wildlife all the time, but have difficulty identifying the species, especially local species that are not listed on CITES. They do not have any person/organisation to contact to assist.

- The CITES MA will present later in the day, providing more details of their roles and responsibilities and how participants may be able to contact them for assistance and guidance in the future.

At the end of the morning session, Mr. Thai Truyen reminded the participants that this training also presents them the opportunity to get to know their fellow colleagues from other enforcement agencies so that they are able to share their experiences and form a network among themselves. The CITES MA is also working on a species identification guide for those listed in the circular mentioned above.

‘Impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade on Biodiversity, Illustrated by a Case study in trade in fresh water turtles in Southeast Asia’ by Mr. Mai Hong Quan

Wildlife trading has been going on for many years. High level of trade and destruction of natural habitat is a negative impact on the ecosystem which provides us with food. Wildlife is an important part of the food chain. Commercial trading is happening at a much larger scale than ever in the last 15 years. Endangered species commonly traded are all available in the market. Freshwater turtles are commonly traded for food, pets, decoration and medicine. In the region, 25 species that are found in trade are listed as Endangered. In Viet Nam, turtles are mostly used for food, according to practitioners of traditional medicine, it is very good for health. He also gave examples of seizures of Freshwater Turtles (imported from Malaysia, Lao and re-exported to China).

Viet Nam functions as a transit point in a number of international wildlife trade routes. Measures are needed to prevent illegal wildlife trade including coordination and cooperation among neighboring countries such as with China and Lao, and also between different enforcement agencies nationally.

‘Introduction to CITES and roles of CITES MA and SA in Viet Nam’ by Mr. Thai Truyen

Before he began his presentation, Mr. Thai Truyen asked the participants if they had ever heard of CITES. Only about 50% said that they had. He then proceeded to give an introduction to CITES including its aims and structure. Partnerships with other organisations (for e.g. UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, World Customs Organisation and TRAFFIC) and conventions (for e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity) were also mentioned. Mr. Thai Truyen also reminded the participants that CITES only covers international trade. Any domestic wildlife trade issues are governed by national legislation.

Viet Nam signed on to be a member of CITES since 1994. As a member to CITES, a party must have wildlife national legislation that is at least as strong as CITES. Mr. Thai Truyen also pointed out that effective implementation of CITES is the responsibility of a few national enforcement agencies such as Police, Customs, Courts and Wildlife agencies.

In his presentation, Mr. Thai Truyen spoke briefly about the CITES Appendices and the main differences in criteria and levels of trade for species listed in Appendix I, II and III. He also briefly explained how the system of CITES permits and certificates help monitor trade in wildlife, especially those listed in Appendix I and II. He further emphasized that CITES MAs of both importing and exporting countries are constantly in contact with

each other to verify certificates of specimens in trade. At a national level, Customs authorities confirm exact numbers of specimens in trade to their CITES MAs.

Mr. Thai Truyen gave participants the structure of CITES MA and SA, including other relevant law enforcement agencies in Viet Nam. He pointed out one of the main challenges for the SA is that they are all situated in the northern region of Viet Nam. As such, investigations on samples can become costly and time consuming for enforcement officers in the south. One of the challenges faced by the CITES MA of Viet Nam is the lack of human resources, especially the lack of CITES officers at the border areas, to carry out their duties. At the end of his presentation, Mr. Thai Truyen encouraged participants to contact the CITES MA and SA if they have any enquiries. Contact details were provided in the training materials.

Mr. Thai Truyen ended his session by asking for volunteers to name the current national legislation for the protection of wildlife in the country. He reminded participants of the inclusion of aquatic species in the new Circular No. 01/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated 05/01/2011 of MARD on Amendment of list of endangered aquatic species in Viet Nam which need protection, reproduction and development. He then gave brief introduction to Decree 32/2006/ND-CP dated 30/3/2006 of the Government of Viet Nam on the Management of Endangered, Precious and Rare Forest Plants and Animals and Decree 82/2006/ND-CP dated 10/8/2006 of the Government of Viet Nam on the Management of Export, Import, Re-export, Introduction from the Sea, Transit, Breeding, Rearing and Artificial Propagation of Rare, Precious, Endangered Wild Animals and Plants.

Q&A

What are the roles of other agencies (other than the CITES MA) in terms of execution of CITES in Viet Nam?

- Besides CITES MA and CITES SAs, other agencies such as Forest Protection Departments (FPD), Customs, Police, Market Control, Border Army, and Justice also play a very important role in the efforts to manage illegal wildlife trade. Their roles are clarified in Decree 82/2006/QD-TTg and recently Decision 65/2010/QG-TTg dated 25/10/2010 of the Prime Minister on promulgating the regulation on activity-cooperation responsibilities and relations among state management agencies in the struggle against smuggling, fake goods and trade fraud.

What are the requirements to become a member of CITES?

- It is voluntary to become a member of CITES. A country would need to conform to CITES regulations such as having CITES MA and SA, appropriate national legislation and enforcement regimes.

'Role of Customs in Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade' by Mr. Nguyen Quoc Toan

Mr. Nguyen Quoc Toan started his presentation by explaining that customs activities are governed by decrees and circulars issued by the Vietnamese Government. He informed participants that the Customs Department manages all importing, exporting and transshipping activities.

He also said that trafficking techniques differ for those who smuggle by land, sea and air. He went on to provide some examples of seizures:

- 2010, Customs Department cooperated with Police and seized 552kg of wildlife, including snakes, turtles and lizards imported illegally from Cambodia.
- Pangolin trade is very popular now. Based on a TRAFFIC report, income from trading in pangolin is very high; USD160 per pangolin but can be resold at USD5700 per animal.
- Seizure of 55 birds by Customs at HCMC Airport.
- Seizure of 2 cases of rhino horns at HCMC Airport. The rhino horns were wrapped in newspapers and placed in plastic bags, but the smuggler was caught when their luggage was scanned. This seizure came from a cooperative effort involving the Environmental Police.
- Seizure of 12 bear paws, covered in plastic bag (airport).
- Seizure of 1 python (airport).
- Seizure of 2 tonnes ivory (Hai Phong port)

Mr. Nguyen also explained that there are many smuggling techniques and new techniques are constantly being developed. Smuggled animals are commonly drugged to avoid them making any noise, some are hidden in secret compartments, and some are carried on the body of the smuggler. Another common technique used by illegal traders is fraudulent permits (for example changing the number of specimens on the permit issued).

One of the efforts by Customs Department to have better control is to only allow 1 door/lane clearance at the HCMC airport.

Customs need the support of international agencies to develop better administrative methods (such as risk assessment). The Customs Department usually checks written documents and not the actual shipment. There hasn't been much development in the field of intelligence either as intelligence work is very risky.

Mr. Nguyen went on to state that since living standards are now higher in Viet Nam, the society is getting richer, more and more people are willing to spend money on wildlife and wildlife products. During festivals and holidays, wildlife meat is still openly sold. He mentioned that there should be awareness that wildlife trade is a crime and must be treated seriously. Public awareness, in his opinion, is the first priority. Second is to build capacity building of custom officers; to learn more about trafficking techniques used around the world, and to improve their identification skills. He also mentioned that it is a huge challenge for customs officers as they have to be more innovative and always be a step ahead of the wildlife criminals.

Strict enforcement and coordination among all enforcement agencies is also crucial.

'Role of Police in general and of Environmental Police in particular in Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade in Southern Provinces' by Mr. Lam Hieu Nghia

Mr. Lam Hieu Nghia spoke about the Environmental Police which was only just launched in 2007. He explained that the main function of the Environmental Police is to carry out measures to prevent, investigate and handle environmental violations. The government changed their name in 2010 to 'Anti-Environmental Crime Department'. By end of 2010, the Vietnamese Government decreed that the Environmental Police can also cooperate with other agencies to combat illegal trade of wildlife. Every year they have an annual plan, and the main objective is to prevent and fight against illegal wildlife trade and illegal forest activities such as logging.

One of the challenges, according to Mr. Lam, is the shortage of human resources. They have only 2 officers in charge of forest products. This means that the only way they can be successful is to work together with other agencies, such as the CITES MA and FPD and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and National Parks.

Mr. Lam suggested that enforcement officers should be given the chance to attend more workshops to share experiences and learning practices among enforcement agencies. Each agency has different skill sets. For example, FPD officers will be able to help other officers when it comes to species identification. He also recommended the Government and scientific community to provide scientific proof that consuming wildlife is not necessarily a healthy choice.

2nd day – 22 Feb 2011

'CITES Appendices and Exercise' by Mr. Thai Truyen

Mr. Thai Truyen's presentation included an introduction to the CITES Appendices, its structure, and a short lesson on how to read and use the Appendices. He also asked how many participants could read English and only a handful were able to.

Mr. Thai Truyen then asked the participants what they did if they were looking for the listing of a particular species that they are not familiar with. The participant responded that they would seek the assistance of a specialist/biologist. He also suggested that if they need more information, they could use websites such as Wikipedia. A quick exercise was conducted. Mr. Thai Truyen encouraged the participants to look for the listing for the species *Paphiopedilum glaucophyllum*. The presentation continued with Mr. Thai providing some tips as a guide to the participants on how to read the appendices.

He informed the participants that the CITES Appendices have been translated into Vietnamese and will be provided in a CD, together with the CITES checklist and Appendices in English as well as all the other training materials used at the workshop. Participants were also reminded to constantly check for any updates of the CITES documents on the CITES website www.cites.org.

After the presentation, the session continued with the CITES Appendices exercise where the participants had to complete a form with the listing and page numbers of selected species. Organisers and facilitators were at hand to assist the participants. During the exercise, Mr. Thai Truyen reminded the participants that the Appendices are only a

summary of all the species listed in CITES and that they should refer to the CITES checklist for the complete listing.

‘CITES Permits & Certificates’ by Mr. Thai Truyen

Mr. Thai Truyen started the presentation with the standardization of CITES permits and certificates. He also spoke about the different types of permits and exemptions where certain specimens require special procedures.

There was a discussion on the issue of CITES permit exemptions for ‘personal and household effects’. One of the customs officers shared that diplomats do not need to submit a declaration form and their luggage do not usually get checked by Customs. Mr. Thai Truyen advised all participants that everyone is subject to the CITES regulations and that Customs have the power to seize the specimens which do not meet the definition of exemption of ‘personal and household effects’.

The presentation included a section on Viet Nam’s CITES permits. Mr. Thai Truyen explained the conditions of a properly completed CITES permit and reminded participants that Viet Nam has two offices issuing CITES permits, one in the north (represented by the letter N in the permit number) and another in the south (represented by the number S in the permit number). He also pointed out some key points to look out for to ascertain whether the permit is valid or has been falsified. Mr. Thai Truyen also reminded participants that each transaction must be accompanied by a valid permit. Permits should never be used more than once.

At the end of his presentation, he reminded participants to be diligent and follow the procedures of checking shipments/cargo and permits and to contact the CITES MA whenever in doubt.

Q&A

Customs officers – Live specimens, what about derivatives and parts?

- CITES specimen covers all, does not matter if it’s a whole animal or parts or derivatives. The specimens must be accompanied by the original permit. CITES MA and Customs may make a copy and keep it for future reference.

Are CITES permits in Viet Nam printed by computer or provided by the CITES Secretariat?

- Mr. Thai Truyen explained that CITES MA Viet Nam prints their own forms, but their format, including the logo of the MARD, have been registered with the CITES Secretariat.

Can tourist souvenirs be sent by post?

- Mr. Thai Truyen explained that for ‘personal and household effects’ such as souvenirs, one of the criteria states that it must be worn or carried or included in

personal baggage or part of a household move at the time of import/export or re-export. It cannot be sent by post or courier.

In cases where specimens have arrived without their documents, how long do they have to wait?

- Customs officer – Time frame is not an issue. Specimens will not be released until the permits have been checked.
- Mr. Thai reminded customs to validate all permits and fill up the necessary columns at the bottom of the CITES permit. This is to ensure that the permits are not re-used for other transactions. There have also been cases where authorities from importing countries have sent the incomplete CITES forms back to Customs authorities in Viet Nam for validation.

Is the Security Stamp compulsory?

- Using a security stamp is optional for all CITES parties, but in the case of permits for CITES species issued in Viet Nam, they must have a security stamp, with either a signature or a seal on top of the security stamp.

Are traders allowed to apply for extension if the permit is outdated?

- Yes for some countries. In Viet Nam, you will need validation from Customs to prove that your shipment has not been exported. With this validation, the trader is allowed to approach CITES MA for an extension. CITES MA will then issue a new permit.

‘Fraudulent permit exercise’ by Participants

In this session, participants were given some time to look for mistakes on a ‘fake’ permit.

‘Smuggling Techniques’ by Mr. Vuong Tien Manh

A session of role-playing was conducted prior to the presentation on smuggling techniques. Mr. Sulma Warne took the role of a traveler attempting to smuggle wildlife and wildlife products. Two of the participants from Customs and Environment Police volunteered to conduct a search of Mr. Sulma Warne and his bags. The other participants on the floor assisted the volunteers by giving suggestions as to how and where Mr. Sulma Warne might be concealing additional contraband. This session helped participants to recognize and understand more on smuggling techniques presented by Mr. Vuong Tien Manh.

‘Group discussion’ by Participants

Participants were randomly divided into 3 groups. Each group was asked to identify 3 challenges in enforcing wildlife management in Viet Nam and propose appropriate solutions to deal with each challenge. Results of group discussion are presented as follows.

GROUP 1

Challenge 1: Management staff capacity in the identification of CITES species is limited, even if trained as training is often mainly theory.

- Regularly conducting training on identification using both theory and practice

Challenge 2: High demand of society for wildlife products

- Awareness raising on the importance of wildlife protection, especially for CITES listed species
- Cooperation of enforcement organisations to strictly handle violations in wildlife management

Challenge 3: Lack of equipment or out-dated equipment to examine wildlife concealment

- More investment on modern equipment to examine wildlife concealment and handle violation cases
- Training on using new equipment for relevant staff

GROUP 2

Challenge 1: Difficult to examine, identify and clarify between animal specimens from the wild and bred sources

- Commitment of breeding farms to the origin of specimens and examination of FPD
- FPD's confirmation on the origin of specimens for consideration to issue CITES permits

Challenge 2: Difficult to prevent and handle small scaled violations in wildlife management, especially when the violators are the poor

- Synchronous cooperation among relevant enforcement organisations
- Strengthened examination and strict handling on violations

Challenge 3: Limited public awareness on wildlife protection

- Conducting diverse forms/media to strengthen public awareness on values of wildlife protection
- Creating more jobs and social policies on economic development for local people

GROUP 3

Challenge 1: Limited capacity in identification of wildlife

- Developing more identification materials
- Conducting more training for relevant staff

Challenge 2: Cooperation among relevant organisations is not synchronous and close yet

- Regular evaluation on cooperation agreements between relevant organisations such as FPD, Environment Police, and Customs
- Other cooperation agreements among relevant organisations needed to be issued by the Government

Challenge 3: Limited fund for activities in the struggle against wildlife smuggling

- Increased allowances for front line staff
- Finding other funding from national and international sources

'Species ID Sheets and Identification of Reptile Species Commonly Found in Trade'

Mr. Thai Truyen gave brief introduction to the Species ID Sheets developed by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia. A colored, hard copy of Species ID Sheets in Vietnamese language and a CD were also delivered to each participant at the training course.

Before the end of the second day, participants were introduced to identification of reptile species including crocodiles, lizards, turtles and tortoises by Mr. Nguyen Thien Tao. Some dry skins of crocodiles, snakes, pythons and monitor lizards were shown to participants as supporting training materials.

Morning of the 3rd day - 23 Feb 2011

'Site visit to Sai Gon Zoo'

Participants were brought to the Sai Gon Zoo for a half day session on the identification of reptile species commonly traded in the region.

Following a brief introduction to the Sai Gon Zoo by Ms. Huynh Thi Tuyet Mai, Mr. Nguyen Thien Tao introduced participants to the specific characters used to identify reptile species with assistance of Mr. Lam Quoc Cuong and other staff of Sai Gon Zoo in handling live specimens.

'Post-workshop Evaluation'

The post-workshop evaluation was largely positive and indicated that participants agreed or strongly agreed to the objectives, content, trainers, training materials, facilities and the overall training course (*Compilation of post-workshop evaluation attached as Appendix E*). All respondents learnt useful knowledge and skills related to their work. Participants were also encouraged to provide additional comments or suggestions about the training course. These are presented as follows.

- + It is needed to conduct more training courses like this for other relevant law enforcement staff.

- + More time is needed for identification of other wildlife, especially CITES-listed species.

- + More time is needed for discussion and sharing experiences among staff from different departments and provinces. New information can be shared with participants via emails.

'Closing ceremony'

Mr. Thai Truyen gave closing remarks. On behalf of Viet Nam CITES MA, he thanked the Ministry of Environment – Japan for financial support via ESABII, and the ASEAN-WEN and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and Greater Mekong Programme for collaborative support in organising the training course. He also thanked the Saigon Zoo for support in conducting practical identification of reptile species at the Zoo. He further thanked participants for their attention and engagement in all activities of the training course, and the trainers and relevant staff for their hard works to prepare and conduct the training course.

Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi and Mr. Sulma Warne expressed the impression of the donor and the observers with this excellent, well-organised training course and believed that basic

knowledge and training materials provided are helpful not only for participants but also for their colleagues who had no chance to attend this training course.

At the end of the training course, a certificate of participation along with CD of training materials was presented to each participant by Dr. Noriaki Sakaguchi, Ms. Claire Beastall and Mr. Thai Truyen.



News Release

Wildlife law enforcers build skills to combat illegal wildlife trade

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 21-23 February 2011 - Law enforcers are being trained this week on how to identify threatened reptile species and familiarize themselves with international wildlife protection policies in an effort to combat illegal wildlife trade in the ASEAN region.

The training course will be led by Vietnamese trainers who attended a “Training of Trainers” for members of the ten ASEAN nations last month in Malaysia, as part of a project funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund and Ministry of the Environment, Japan under the East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII). The project seeks to involve and enhance the capabilities of ASEAN and neighbouring countries in the understanding and application of taxonomic knowledge and wildlife trade regulations.

Vietnam is the first country in the region to be selected to organize its own CITES and species identification course, conducted completely by national trainers.

The course will equip key staff working in land and air ports in southern Vietnam with basic knowledge of the wildlife trade in Southeast Asia, international regulations governing the trade, such as CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), and relevant national laws. Participants will also be trained to identify threatened reptile species that are commonly traded in the region during an interactive session at the Saigon Zoo.

Illegal wildlife trade has been identified as one of the greatest threats to the region’s biodiversity. In his opening speech, Dr Ha Cong Tuan, Deputy Director General of Vietnam’s Directorate of Forestry – Director of Vietnam’s CITES Management Authority, affirmed: “This training will help equip law enforcers who are working to control international wildlife trade with the skills to more effectively protect and sustainably use our precious natural resources.”

Dr. Manop Lauprasert, Senior Officer of the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) Program Coordination Unit, which is supporting the training, added “Criminal networks are taking advantage of limited enforcement capacity at land, sea and airports across the region. Training initiatives such as this will help to close these gaps, and strengthen the prevention of wildlife from being smuggled across international borders. The ASEAN-WEN PCU is encouraged to see countries take such important steps to end the illegal wildlife trade”.

There is increasing recognition that wildlife trade, both legal and illegal, is becoming more common at international ports, therefore capacity building for airport and land port staff plays an important role in stopping wildlife trafficking.

Regional Director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Dr. William Schaedla said, “This course is not only helping to impart the necessary knowledge and skills to front line enforcement officers and other key stakeholders, but also supporting Vietnamese officials to continue to lead such capacity building initiatives.”

The training course will be conducted in District 1, Ho Chi Minh City by the Vietnam CITES Management Authority in collaboration with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and The ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN).

Notes to Editors

- Vietnam’s CITES Management Authority, which belongs to Vietnam’s Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, is the representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered

Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and is the ASEAN-WEN focal point within the country.

- The ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) aims to address illegal exploitation and trade in CITES-listed species within the ASEAN region. It is an integrated network among law enforcement agencies in the 10 ASEAN Member States (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam), involving CITES authorities, customs, police, prosecutors, specialized governmental wildlife-law enforcement organizations and other relevant national law enforcement agencies. This ten member network also aims at facilitating cross border collaboration to fight against illegal wildlife trade in the region. For more information, visit www.asean-wen.org
- TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. TRAFFIC is a joint programme of IUCN and WWF. TRAFFIC works to support government agencies in law enforcement networking across Asia and globally to combat illegal wildlife trade. Technical assistance across the enforcement continuum, including facilitation of inter-governmental dialogues, engaging the judicial sector, and working with WWF to improve linkages from national level agencies to field-based rangers, is provided on demand to member countries of the ASEAN and South Asia Wildlife Enforcement networks, as well as to China and its immediate neighbours. For more information, visit www.traffic.org

For more information, please contact:

Sarah Morgan, Communications Officer, TRAFFIC Greater Mekong Programme, Tel. +84 4 3726 1575 Ext 204, E-mail: smorgan@traffic.netnam.vn

CITES Management Authority of Vietnam

A3, 2 Ngoc Ha Street, Ba Dinh District - Ha Noi, Vietnam

Tel. +84 4 3733 5676; Fax: +84 4 3734 6742, Email: cites_vn.kl@mard.gov.vn; fpdvn@hn.vnn.vn

Agenda

CITES policies and Identification of Reptiles Commonly Found in Trade in Viet Nam

Ho Chi Minh City, 21-23 Feb 2011

Day 0: Sunday 20/02/2011

Time	Description	By whom
Morning	Checking all preparations	Thai Truyen, Le Huy Hiep
1400 – 2000	Receive participants, check in hotel	Le Huy Hiep, Phan Thi Nguyet and Hotel Receptionists

Day 1: Monday 21/02/2011

Time	Description	By whom
08:00 – 08:30	Registration and material distribution	Le Huy Hiep and Phan Thi Nguyet
08:30 – 08:35	Introduction	Thai Truyen
08:35 – 08:50	Opening remark	Dr Ha Cong Tuan, Deputy Director General of Forestry Directorate, Director of Vietnam CITES M.A.
08:50 – 09:10	Opening speech and Overview on ESABII Project	Dr Noriaki Sakaguchi, Deputy Director of Japanese Biodiversity Center, Division of Nature Conservation, Ministry of Environment
09:10 – 09:30	Opening speech and Overview on ASEAN-WEN	Dr Manop Lauprasert, PCU of ASEAN-WEN Support Programme
09:30 – 09:45	General introduction of the training course and agenda adoption	Mr. Thai Truyen
09:45 – 10:00	Self introduction and Pre – training assessment	Vuong Tien Manh and Mai Hong Quan
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Tea break and photo</i>	<i>Vuong Tien Manh, Mai Hong Quan and Nguyen Thien Tao</i>
1000 – 1115	Overview of wildlife trade in the region and in the world – Questions and answers	Vuong Tien Manh
1115 – 1130	Wildlife trade in Vietnam and Introduction of Viet-WEN – Q and A	Vuong Tien Manh
1130 – 1330	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Phan Thi Nguyet, Le Huy Hiep</i>
1330 – 1415	Impacts of illegal wildlife trade on biodiversity, illustrated by case study on trade in fresh water turtles in Southeast Asia – Q and A	Mai Hong Quan
1415 – 15h00	Introduction to CITES and roles of CITES MA, SA in Viet Nam – Q and A	Thai Truyen
1500 – 1515	<i>Tea break</i>	<i>Phan Thi Nguyet, Le Huy Hiep</i>
1515 – 1545	Viet Nam legislation for CITES implementation: Decree 82/2006 and Decree 32/2006. Q and A	Thai Truyen

1545 – 1615	Roles of Customs in combating illegal wildlife trade, some recent cases. Q and A	Nguyen Quoc Toan Customs Department of HCMC
1615 - 1645	Roles of Police in general and of Environmental Police in particular in combating illegal wildlife trade in southern provinces – Q and A	Lam Hieu Nghia Environmental Police of HCMC
1645 – 1700	Day – end Q and A	Trainers

Day 2: Tuesday 22/02/2011

Time	Description	By whom
0800 – 0815	Recap and adopt Day 2 agenda	Thai Truyen
0815 –0930	CITES Appendices and exercises	Thai Truyen
0930 – 0945	Tea break	
09:45 – 10:30	CITES Permits and Certificates	Thai Truyen
1030 – 1115	CITES permits exercises	Thai Truyen and Vuong Tien Manh
1115 – 1130	Q and A on CITES appendices and permits	Thai Truyen and Vuong Tien Manh
1130 – 1330	Lunch	Phan Thi Nguyet and Le Huy Hiep
1330 – 1415	Fraudulences	Vuong Tien Manh
1415 – 1500	Group discussion	Trainers, observers
1500 – 1515	Tea break	
15:15 – 15:45	Reports on Group Discussion	All participants
15:45 – 16:45	Introduction of Species ID Sheet and identification of some reptiles found in trade	Nguyen Thien Tao
16:45 – 17:00	Q and A	Thai Truyen

Day 3: Wednesday 23/02/2011

Time	Description	By whom
0800 – 0845	Introduction of Sai Gon Zoo and reptile species at the zoo	Huynh Thi Tuyet Mai, Lam Quoc Cuong and Nguyen Thien Tao
0845 – 1115	Identification of reptile species found in trade by groups	Nguyen Thien Tao and Lam Quoc Cuong
1130 – 1230	Recap, Q and A Course assessment Certificate handling	Dr Noriaki Sakaguchi, Thai Truyen, Claire Beastall and Sulma Warne (at Bason)
1300 - 1400	Farewell lunch	

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Training Course on “CITES Policies and Identification of Reptile Species Commonly Found in Trade”

From 21-23 February 2011 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

No.	Name	Organization	Position
1	Nguyen Thanh Toan	Thuong Phuoc Sub-Department of Customs –Dong Thap Department of Customs (DoC)	Director
2	Pham Van Lanh	Section of Environment Police – Dong Thap Police	Staff
3	Nguyen Phu Cuong	egislation Section – Dong Thap Forest Protection Department (FPD)	Vice Head
4	Nguyen Van Thao	Dinh Ba Sub-Department of Customs – Dong Thap Department of Customs (DoC)	Staff
5	Tran Van Sinh	Unit of Goods Document, Sub-Department of Customs of Saigon Port, DoC of Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC)	Head
6	Vu Trieu Duong	Tan Son Nhat Sub-Department of Customs, DoC of HCMC	Staff
7	Pham Van Thoi	Post Office Sub-Department of Customs, DoC of HCMC	Staff
8	Nguyen Thanh Binh	Section of Environment Police – Police of HCMC	Staff
9	Lam Tung Que	Wildlife Rescue Center – FPD of HCMC	
10	Le Van Hung	Mobile Team – FPD of Tay Ninh	Staff
11	Tran Duy Hung	Section of Environment Police – Police of Tay Ninh	Staff
12	Chau Hoang Long	Moc Bai Sub-Department of Customs - Tay Ninh DoC	Staff
13	Vu Tien Tung	Xa Mat Sub-Department of Customs - Tay Ninh DoC	Staff
14	Nguyen Hoang Dung	Mobile Team – FPD of An Giang	Head
15	Nguyen Quoc Viet	Section of Environment Police of An Giang	Staff
16	Nguyen Van Cung	Tinh Bien Sub-Department of Customs - DoC of An Giang	Staff
17	Doan Nhut Tan	Vinh Xuong Sub-Department of Customs - DoC of An Giang	Staff
18	Le Quang Nhuan	Section of Environment Police – Police of Kien Giang	Staff
19	Le Khanh Hung	Market Management Department of Kien Giang	Vice Director
20	Ho Ru By	Giang Thanh Sub-FPD – Kien Giang FPD	Vice Head
21	Phung My Trung	DoC of Dong Nai	Staff
22	Dang Van Thang	Section of Environment Police – Police of Dong Nai	Staff
23	Nguyen Ngoc Phuong	Nature Conservation Section – FPD of Dong Nai	Staff
24	Tran Van Vinh	Mobile Team – Sub-FPD of Cat Tien National Park	Staff
25	Trinh Huu Thanh	Mobile Team – Third Regional Office for Forest Protection	Staff
26	Phan Dinh Hanh	Section of Environment Police – Police of Binh Phuoc	Staff
27	Phan Tien Cuong	Legislation Section – Market Management Department of Binh Phuoc	Staff
28	Phan Trung Vinh	Mobile Team – FPD of Binh Phuoc	Vice Head
29	Nguyen Thi Van Anh	Vietnam Biodiversity Conservation Agency	
30	Nguyen Tai Danh	Tan Son Nhat Animals Quarantine Section –Veterinary Department of Region VI, HCMC	Vice Head
31	Truong Ngoc Linh	Tan Son Nhat Animals Quarantine Section –Veterinary Department of Region VI, HCMC	Staff
32	Diep Quoc Truong	Veterinary Department of Region VII - Can Tho	Staff
33	To Tan Van Thang	Veterinary Department of Region VII - Can Tho	Staff
34	Le Thanh Liem	Mobile Team - Wildlife at Risk	Head
35	Le Dai Ve	Mobile Team - Wildlife at Risk	Staff
36	Vo Huynh Quoc Thai	Alpha Express CO., LTD	Vice Director General
37	Dinh Huu Tinh	Section 3 – Southern Office of Environment Police	Staff



Training Course
On CITES Policies and Identification of Reptile Species Commonly Found in Trade
Ho Chi Minh City, 21 – 23 February 2011

RESULTS OF PRE-TRAINING EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Date: 21 February 2011

Participants were asked to give ONE answer per question. Results of participants' answers were compiled and presented in percentages as follows.

1. What is the main national law used for wildlife protection?

Percentages (%)	Answers containing the following legal documents
100.00	Decree 32/2006/ND-CP dated 30/3/2006 of Government of Vietnam on management of endangered, precious and rare forest plants and animals.
85.30	Decree 82/2006/ND-CP dated 10/8/2006 of Government of Vietnam on management of export, import, re-export, introduction from the sea, transit, breeding, rearing and artificial propagation of rare, precious, endangered wild animals and plants.
17.60	Circular 59/2010/TT-BNN dated 19/10/2010 of MARD on announcing the 2010 CITES Appendices

Additionally, other legal documents mentioned by some participants are the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Law on Forest Protection and Development (2004), Biodiversity Law (2008), Penal Code (1999 and amended 2009, Article 190), Decision 65/2010/QG-TTg dated 25/10/2010 of Prime Minister on promulgating the regulation on activity-cooperation responsibilities and relations among state management agencies in the struggle against smuggling, fake goods and trade fraud, and Circular 90/2008/TT-BNN dated 28/8/2008 of MARD on guidelines for the settlement of wildlife specimens confiscated as a result of administrative violations.

2. Have you heard of CITES?

100.00 YES NO

3. What do you think CITES is?

02.94	An international organisation which gives money for conservation projects
	An NGO
	An international convention which regulates national trade in endangered species of animals and plants
	An international convention which regulates international trade in endangered species of animals
94.12	An international convention which regulates international trade in endangered species of animals and plants

	Don't know
02.94	No answer

4. Have you ever received CITES training?

08.82	YES	91.18	NO
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5. Have you ever received species identification training?

26.47	YES	73.53	NO
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6. Have you ever been involved in any wildlife smuggling cases?

50.00	YES	50.00	NO
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7. How long have you worked for this department?

17.65	Less than 1 year
50.00	1 – 5 years
05.88	6 – 10 years
26.47	More than 10 years

8. What kind of training do you think is the most important? Choose ONLY one answer.

44.12	Species identification
02.94	How to use the CITES Appendices
02.94	Checking the validation of CITES permits
17.65	General knowledge about CITES
08.82	Roles of responsibilities of different agencies involved in the implementation of CITES
05.88	Case studies of some commonly smuggled species in your country
17.65	Detection of smuggling and smuggling methods

9. CITES applies to which of the following?

02.94	Live animals and plants
	Dead animals and plants
	Parts and derivatives of animals and plants
97.06	All of the above
	Don't know

10. A shipment of turtles is accompanied by a CITES permit which states that there are 150 turtles in the shipment. When you check the shipment some animals are dead. There are 150 live turtles and 50 dead turtles. What should you do?

	Nothing - the number of living animals matches the permit
100.00	Stop the shipment - the total number of animals does not match the permit



Training Course
On CITES Policies and Identification of Reptile Species Commonly Found in Trade
Ho Chi Minh City, 21 – 23 February 2011

RESULTS OF POST-TRAINING EVALUATION

Date: 23 February 2011

Participants were asked to circle one appropriate number per question of the four numbers which respectively denote **SD** (Strongly Disagree), **D** (Disagree), **A** (Agree) and **SA** (Strongly Agree). Results of participants' answers were compiled and presented in percentages as follows.

		SD	D	A	SA
A	Objectives				
1.	The objectives of the training course were achieved			38.70	61.30
B	Content				
2.	The content was relevant and interesting			54.80	45.20
3.	I have gained an understanding of the subjects covered in the training course			48.40	51.60
4.	I have learnt useful knowledge and skills relating to my work			58.10	41.90
5.	I can apply the knowledge and skills learnt to my work		3.22	54.84	41.94
C	Trainers				
6.	The trainers presented and communicated ideas, concepts and information clearly		3.22	41.94	54.84
7.	Questions raised during the training course were adequately answered		3.22	41.94	54.84
8.	The trainers encouraged questions and participation		3.22	25.81	70.97
9.	There was a good balance of activities			45.20	54.80
10.	The trainers has adequate knowledge and experience on the subjects			38.70	61.30
11.	There was good interaction between trainers and participants		3.22	35.49	61.29
D	Training Materials				
12.	The training materials were relevant and useful			19.40	80.60
13.	Practical illustrations and examples were given		3.22	38.71	58.07
14.	The quality of the handouts in terms of readability and clarity was good			45.20	54.80
15.	As a working aid, the course materials were very useful			32.30	67.70
E	Facilities				
16.	The room and equipment was properly set up and in working order			38.70	61.30
F	Overall				
17.	Pace of the training course was right			67.70	32.30
18.	Duration of the training course was right		3.22	61.29	35.49
19.	My capacity/ability to deal with illegal wildlife			58.10	41.90

	trade/traders has increased as a result of what I learnt during the course				
20.	I would recommend this training course to others			35.50	64.50

2. Other comments / suggestions

+ It is needed to conduct more training courses like this for other relevant law enforcement staff.

+ More time is needed for identification of other wildlife, especially CITES-listed species.

+ More time is need for discussion and sharing experiences among staff from different departments and provinces. New information can be shared with participants via emails.