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## China, India and Nepal work together to address illegal trans-boundary wildlife trade

Illegal trade of wildlife species and products continues to flourish despite legislative deterrents and concerted efforts to address this trade that in terms of both size and profit are considered to be huge. To address growing concerns of illegal trans-boundary wildlife trade in Asia, TRAFFIC, WWF-UK and the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office brought together key government delegates from China, India and Nepal to work together and seek ways to increase their collaborative efforts in order to combat the illegal trade occurring in the key wildlife trade hotspot of China borders.

China, India and Nepal are all Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and all three have legal and institutional instruments in place to address wildlife trade issues. However, illegal wildlife trade has become more organized, demand has increased for wildlife and their products and smugglers have more sophisticated systems for transporting consignments. In order to combat this worrying trend driven by increased, international demand, it is now urgent for all three countries to step up efforts such as enforcement at cross-national borders, regional level advocacy, policy analysis as well as collaboration with non-conventional stakeholders such as transport companies.

During the one-day workshop, delegates from India, Nepal and China each gave an overview of wildlife trade related issues in their countries. In addition, NGOs working in China - including TRAFFIC, CI, IFAW and WCS - discussed their wildlife trade programmes in China. TRAFFIC introduced the Asian big cats initiative in the region with focus on strengthening enforcement capacity and trans-boundary collaborations. Continuing trade in Asian big cats and their parts, particularly trade in Tiger and Tiger parts, was noted being of a particular concern, feeding into the markets of traditional Chinese medicine and skin trade. Examples of other species of concern from the region noted included rhinos, elephants, and Tibetan Antelope.

### **Conserving Humphead Wrasse, world's largest reef fish**

A leap forward on effective control of the international trade in Humphead Wrasse, the world's largest coral reef fish, was taken last week when representatives from key countries involved in the trade met to discuss practical methods of making the trade both legal and sustainable.

'With proper implementation of CITES, trade of Humphead Wrasse can be managed for the long term,' said Dr Craig Kirkpatrick, Director of TRAFFIC in East Asia, "Through co-operation and action by a wide range of stakeholders in both export and import countries, together we can achieve a legal, international trade that will stop further decline of the species in the wild."

The three-day workshop took place in Hong Kong and included participants from all the major consumer and source countries of Humphead Wrasse (Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong SAR and Papua New Guinea), as well as representatives from FAO and Hong Kong's seafood trade. The workshop was co-organized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the Management Authority of HK SAR, IUCN - the World Conservation Union, TRAFFIC and WWF.

Participants agreed upon recommended actions including developing regional co-operations, science-based guidelines for sustainable resource use, and promoting increased awareness among the fisheries industry and consumers.

### **Second Mekong Sub-regional CITES Implementation and Enforcement Workshop held in Kunming**

CITES implementation and enforcement in Mekong River countries received a boost recently with the gathering of over 60 delegates for the 'Second Mekong Sub-regional CITES Implementation & Enforcement Workshop,' held in Kunming, China

from 4-7 July 2006.

The workshop, supported by CI, IFAW and TRAFFIC, aimed to explore ways forward to stop illegal wildlife trade throughout the region by combating illicit trans-border trade and improving the management of legal wildlife trade.

Participants included government delegations from Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, representatives of the CITES Secretariat, and conservation organizations.

At the workshop, participants cited recent achievements in the implementation and enforcement of CITES, such as new or revised legislation related to the management of wildlife trade in Cambodia, China and Hong Kong SAR.

They also identified and gave suggestions for areas in need of improvement, including insufficient communication among law enforcement agencies within each country; the disposal of seized specimens; and the need for awareness campaigns amongst the general public and traders.



WWF/TRAFFIC brochure asks tourists not to buy products made from tigers, Tibetan antelopes and other endangered species.

### **WWF and TRAFFIC call for green tourism in Tibet**

With the opening of a new railway line through the Tibetan Plateau, and the increased number of travellers who will visit the area as a result of it, WWF and TRAFFIC are calling for conservation measures to protect the world's largest and highest plateau. Billed as the highest railway in the world,

the Qinghai-Tibet line run over 1000km from central China to the Tibetan capital, Lhasa.

With an average elevation of 4,000m, the Tibetan Plateau is the highest and largest plateau on earth. It shelters a wide array of unique species, including the Tibetan antelope, Tibetan gazelle, wild yak, blue sheep, snow leopard, brown bear, Bengal tiger and black-necked crane. The plateau is also the source of almost all of Asia's major rivers, including the Yellow, Yangtze, Mekong and Indus.

With the completion of the new line on 1 July, WWF, TRAFFIC and partners are distributing brochures to train passengers and visitors to the region, asking them to refrain from buying products made from such endangered species as tigers and Tibetan antelopes.

"The sale of souvenirs and other products made from endangered species is growing due to tourist consumption, and is increasing pressure on local biodiversity," said Dawa Tsering, Head of WWF China's Program Office in Lhasa.

"Tourists can make a difference simply by not purchasing these products."

20,000 copies of the brochure have been printed and are being distributed at train stations in Xining, Lhasa, Beijing, and Chengdu; the Lhasa airport; and Beijing tour operators.

WWF and TRAFFIC's call for green tourism in Tibet received wide media coverage in China, generating over 35 reports on major TV stations, newspapers, and web portals, as well as ongoing 'Tibet green tourism' columns on two of China's most popular web portals – 163.com and sohu.com .

The Tibetan Plateau remained fairly "untouched" by travellers from outside the region before the 1980s, when tourism first began. In 1980, visitors numbered 1059, of which 95 % came from abroad.

However, the past few years have seen a surging increase of tourists, numbering 140 000 in 2002 and 1.22 million in 2004. This represents an increase of over 1000 times the 1980 level. At present, 92 % are domestic tourists.

### **Workshop on protection of rare and endangered medicinal wildlife resources in the Shanghai medicinal industry**

TRAFFIC's China programme together with the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) recently held a workshop on conserving rare and endangered medicinal wildlife resources in Shanghai. Participants included experts and representatives of China's foremost TCM universities and associations, CITES management authorities and the Shanghai Hua Yu Chinese Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, one of China's biggest TCM raw material suppliers.

Participants focused on how the conservation of rare and endangered medicinal wildlife resources was the responsibility not only of those who use and manage medicinal materials, but also those who produce them. They discussed how the key points to decreasing the use of rare and endangered wildlife medicinal materials by manufacturers is to (1) strengthen substitute research and promote its use and (2) develop plantations and captive breeding practices under a certain set of specific criteria. Participants also discussed how the actual curative effects of medicinal wildlife should be researched in a scientific way.

At the workshop, Prof. Shiqi, a renowned herbalist doctor in Shanghai, vice president of China's TCM Association, and former head of the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, gave a presentation on how artificial musk successfully treated rickets disease - just one example of how substitutes can be an effective way to conserve rare and endangered wildlife.

Participants discussed how changing public

attitudes is key to conserving rare and endangered medicinal wildlife resources. One participant, a TCM doctor, cited an example of how patients request expensive herbal remedies that include endangered species because they believe such medicines have increased curative effects, then made a call for TCM practitioners to not fulfill such requests but seek alternatives for these instead. Another participant from the Medicinal College of the Second Military Medicine University gave an example of how they are building awareness among undergraduates around issues related to the use of wildlife in traditional medicines and the implications thereof.

Finally, the management sector of the TCM industry identified a need for training on the status and conservation of endangered wildlife and medicinal materials made from wild animals and plants, focusing on relevant laws and regulations.

\* TRAFFIC East Asia, China's CITES Scientific Authority, and experts throughout China's traditional medicine community, have formed the Traditional Medicines Advisory group (TMAG). The aim is to give all members of China's traditional medicine community the information they need to achieve the common goal of sustainable use. This recent workshop marks their 6th meeting.

### **TRAFFIC takes part in Shanghai CITES Enforcement Workshop**

On August 11, the Shanghai Forestry Bureau hosted the CITES Enforcement Workshop. Twenty-five participants took part, including representatives from the customs bureau, import and export quarantine departments, TCM companies, Zoological Park, commerce and industry administration, law and policy administration, and TRAFFIC.

The main topic of the meeting is to study the new "regulation of wildlife import/export," which will be effective on September 1, 2006 (see below, for more information).

At the meeting, the Shanghai Customs Bureau

gave an overview of recent wildlife product seizures. They noted that most of the recent ivory seizures in Shanghai come from Africa through the Middle East. A total of 18 people involved in smuggling were caught and 7 of them have gone to trial from Jan - Jun 2006.

Shanghai port is the biggest port in China. This year, Shanghai customs checked 22% of the goods being imported/exported from China. They aim to strengthen inspection of goods to stop illegal trade.

The CITES Shanghai branch also introduced new discoveries in wildlife trade. New products such as clocks and watches, candleholders and toilet seat covers containing endangered species -- mainly conch -- have been seized.

Prof Xu Hongfa introduced TRAFFIC's work in China. The Shanghai Customs Bureau expressed interest in cooperating with TRAFFIC on training courses aimed at the CITES enforcement department on enhancing knowledge on CITES and wildlife identification.



CITES Shanghai has confiscated newly identified products such as this toilet seat cover containing conch.

### **TRAFFIC surveys markets in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, HK, Macau, and Tibet**

In support of the ongoing TRAFFIC project *Tiger Business in the Kingdom of the Dragon-Tiger Trade in China revisited after a ban of 12 years* (to be

published in 2007), supported by STF, TEAS-CN undertook two market surveys in southern China from June 4-12 and in Tibet from June 30-July 10.

Preliminary key findings of the June 4-12 survey of southern China include:

- No tiger or leopard bone was found in Shenzhen medicinal shops, while tiger bone colloid was found in 4 medicine shops in Hong Kong.
- Qingping, Fangcun, Chaitou, Lihua markets in Guangzhou were surveyed, where freshwater turtles and birds were on sale, including species listed in CITES Appendix II or first/second-class national protected animals.

Preliminary key findings of June 30-July 10 survey of Tibet include:

- In July, TRAFFIC TEAS –CN surveyed four cities in Tibet - Lhasa, Linzhi, Yelamu, Rikaze. Thirty-four medicine shops and 44 traditional Tibetan Costume shops were surveyed in all. Preliminary results found tiger bone in 4 shops (three in Linzhi, one in Rikaze). According to vendors, one is from NE China, one is from India, the other two are from Nepal
- Leopard bone was found in 4 shops (one in Linzhi, three in Rikaze), and according to the vendors, one is from Tibet, the other three are from India.
- Traditional Tibetan costumes adorned with leopard skins were found in two shops in public in Rikaze and six shops in Lhasa (only one of them sold in public).
- Costumes adorned with tiger skins were found to be on sale in 3 underground shops in Lhasa. Local sources are quoted as saying all the ABC skins (except one) came from India.

## In brief

### *Laying the groundwork for wildlife trade monitoring in South China*

To lay the groundwork for establishing a wildlife trade monitoring network for southern China, TRAFFIC, Kadoorie Farm Botanic Gardens, representatives of the British Consulate General in Guangzhou, and relevant government representatives met in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, on 9 June 2006.

Key topics discussed by participants included the area the network should monitor; on-going wildlife programmes in the region; a possible strategy for TRAFFIC and its partners to develop a programme to gather regular information about the trade; options for delivering research results to government officials and other decision-makers.

### *TRAFFIC develops guidelines for legal sources of forest products in China*

TRAFFIC China held a workshop in Beijing entitled 'Legal Sources of Timber and Trade of Forestry Products' on May 16. Fourteen representatives from local government from northeast China, forestry institutes, forest industries, international wood companies, WWF China and TRAFFIC attended the workshop. Participants discussed weaknesses of timber trade regulations in China and their solutions. The workshop laid the foundation for a TRAFFIC project aimed at developing criteria and guidelines for legal sources of forest products for the CFTN (China Forest and Trade Network).

The overall aim of this project is to aid enforcement action, policy development, and advocacy campaigns by providing information on the current state of trade in Tigers and other Asian big cats in

China, particularly of pharmaceutical products purported to be Tiger and skins traded to adorn clothing.



Leopard skin chuba in Rikaze, TAR. © Xu Ling

### Timber trade survey conducted in northeast China

In order to understand the impact of the reform of China's forest tenure system and timber harvest regulations on forest management, as well as to compare how the reforms benefit both GFTN members with non-GFTN members, TEAS-CN conducted a field survey in Northeast China Aug 15-18.

Liu Xueyan, TEAS - CN program officer, visited three state-owned forest bureaus (Wu Ma He, Youhao, and Langxiang) including one GFTN member and held three seminars with leaders of local forest administrations. Key findings include:

- Rights to state-owned forests this year will be contracted to local farmers for increments of 70 years. This reforms address market pressure for timber and directly impact forest management, the forestry revenue system, workers rights and timber legal harvest.
- About half of the region's former loggers have lost their jobs due to exhausted timber resources and have moved to Russia to find work.
- Due to high market demand, 60% of timber in China now comes from Russia.
- The Chinese government wants to rent 1 million ha. of forest in Russia to support

China's forestry industries.

- The going rate migrant loggers from northeast China in Russia are paid is 3 USD per cubic meter of logs they fell. The major employers are the Instangreen Corporation Bhd. Malaysia and other logging companies from Korea and Japan.
- Currently only 3% of forests in China have obtained FSC certification and around 100 factories are CoC certified.

## Wildlife trade trends in China

### Seizures

#### Pangolin and bear paw seizures in Guangxi/Guangdong

Acting on a tip, at 1 am on July 30, 2006, police officers from the Qinglian Forestry Center stopped a vehicle en route from Beihai to Zhanjiang, in south China's Guangdong Province. They discovered 22 bear paws and 853 dead pangolins hidden within packs of seafood. The driver of the vehicle had no legal documentation allowing the transport of wildlife. The biggest pangolin was 5 kg while the smallest one weighed 0.25 kg.

The two suspects, Wu and Zhong, said they got the products from the Dongxing Sea Food Market and planned to carry them to Shantou, Guangdong Province. They said the pangolins and bear paws were smuggled from outside of China. The seizure has been handed over to the Wildlife Rescue Center in the Guangxi Forestry Bureau and the investigation is ongoing.

In a separate incident on July 22nd, 2006, 40 pangolins were confiscated on Heshan Expressway by Beihai custom officers in Guangxi province.

Acting on a tip from someone who notified customs staff, custom officials were checking vehicles at a toll station on Heshan Expressway. A suspicious Santana with three passengers were detained,

which led them to a jeep 4 km away from the toll station. The jeep's driver had left the vehicle, in which 40 live pangolins were discovered.

The three suspects are now being investigated and the confiscated pangolins have been handed over to Beihai Forestry Bureau of Guangxi Province.

(source: <http://www.nnwb.com/news/2006/0801/qxxw/100144.htm>,

China Daily on Aug 3, 2006, and

<http://news.cctv.com/law/20060723/100785.shtml>)

### Summary of ivory seizures by Shanghai customs in the first half of 2006

In this first half of 2006, Shanghai Customs uncovered 13 ivory products smuggling cases, involving 16 ivory tusks and 229 ivory products. A new trend in smuggling is that with the opening of airlines between Western Asia and Shanghai, travellers can now take flights from Africa to Shanghai via Dubai (United Arab Emirates) or Doha (Qatar), which turn out to be important routes for ivory smuggling. For example, in the first half of 2006, Shanghai Customs uncovered 7 ivory smuggling cases from inward passengers from Dubai to Shanghai and seized 12 ivory tusks.

According to Chinese Criminal Law and some other regulations, smugglers of rare animals and their products valued below 100,000 RMB (USD12,500; regarded as light crime) can be sentenced up to five years and imposed a fine. Smuggling rare animals and their products valued between 100,000 and 200,000 RMB can be sentenced to a minimum of five years and imposed a fine. Individuals who smuggle rare animals and their products worth more than 200,000 RMB (USD25,000; regarded as heavy crime) can be given life sentences or the death penalty, combined with confiscation of property in some cases.

(By Yu Wu and Xuan Guan, July 21, 2006, Xinhua Net)



Ivory products confiscated in Nanjing, Jiangsu, Aug 2006.

### Ivory products seized in Nanjing airport

China's Nanjing (Jiangsu Province) Customs Bureau confiscated 145 pieces of African ivory products on Aug 7, 2006. The weight of the ivory products seized totalled 2.730 kg. The suspect (who has the surname Liu) was smuggling the products into China on Flight KA810 from Hong Kong. The products included ivory chopsticks, bracelets and other items. The case has been transferred to the relevant department.

(source: China Broadcast Net, Aug.8, [http://www.cnr.cn/2004news/internal/200608/t20060808\\_504265682.html](http://www.cnr.cn/2004news/internal/200608/t20060808_504265682.html))

### Ivory products seized in Hangzhou airport

On Aug.7, the Hangzhou Customs Bureau (Zhejiang Province) seized 122 ivory products from a passenger's luggage in the Hangzhou airport. (The article does not say where the passenger was coming from.) Products seized include bracelets, chopsticks, seals and more. Officials suspect the items were purchased in Africa.

This marks the 30th ivory seizure by Hangzhou Customs this year. This is double the number of ivory seizures from last year over the same period of time. This year, a total of 524 ivory products and tusks have been confiscated.

(source: <http://news.cctv.com/law/20060812/100771.shtml> (in Chinese only))

## Timber trade

### **'Sanctioned' Illegal Logging Encroaches on China's Remaining Natural Forests**

Thousands of hectares of natural forests are being eliminated to make room for fast-growing tree plantations in Liu Shun County in southwestern Yunnan province, according to a recent exposé by China's Central Television (CCTV). The logging operations, which have turned lush hillsides into barren wastelands, have enjoyed the green light from village and county officials as well as local forestry authorities. This collusion between government officials and business interests endangers one of the few remaining intact forest landscapes in China.

Workers at one logging site told CCTV that the more than 60-hectare section of natural forest they were felling had been bought by a private businessman. Here and elsewhere, high-quality timbers will be transported out of the region and sold, while the remaining wood will be stockpiled to feed plywood or pulp and paper factories. Dozens of plywood factories dot the area around the site, with the smallest facility having an annual processing capacity of more than 1 million cubic meters of wood.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, according to Qing Wenqiang, a local villager who told CCTV that "there are at least 100 such sites" in Liu Shun County alone. Residents estimate that thousands of hectares of natural forests are being cut down in the region.

County officials contend that the villagers themselves sold the forests off to businessmen, since the forests at issue were collectively owned by various villages under the county's jurisdiction. Two contracts obtained by CCTV indicate a deal in which one villager group sells a timber company more than 530 hectares of natural forests, home to more than 13,000 cubic meters of timber, at the

astoundingly low price of less than 1,500 RMB (US \$270 dollars) per hectare, a price below that of even ten trees. "Basically the contracts are determined by villager groups themselves through meetings," explained county official Li Jiankang.

The local forestry authority issued certificates to business interests for clearing natural forests to "improve low-yielding forests," and the area earmarked for logging greatly exceeds the area legally permitted under a national forestry regulation for cutting at a single time: five hectares.

"The area will be replanted," said one logger at the 60-hectare site. But the trees to be planted are fast-growing, high-yielding trees that have high economic value, such as Simao pine and eucalyptus—ideal feedstock for paper and plywood factories but lacking in the diversity needed for a healthy ecosystem.

(By Yingling Liu, Jul 6 2006, <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/4221>)

## Hunting licenses

### **China to solicit public opinion for hunting auction**

China's State Forestry Administration (SFA) is to solicit suggestions from the public before deciding whether to continue the auction of hunting quotas and licenses.

SFA spokesman Cao Qingyao said on Tuesday that the SFA would further research the issue and information would be released as soon as possible.

But he could not give details about how the public could make submissions.

Angry Chinese Internet users criticized the auction for the right to hunt 289 animals of 14 species under national protection when the news was released last week.

Internet users claimed the auction was purely profit-driven.

The SFA, China's wildlife protection agency, said the animals were not endangered species and restricted hunting would help manage their stocks.

The SFA postponed the auction as a result of the response from the public, which it described as "beyond expectations" last Friday, just two days before the planned auction on August 13.

The auction was scheduled to take place in Chengdu, capital of southwestern Sichuan Province.

Both Chinese and foreigners would have been allowed bid on the right to hunt animals, said Cao.

However, as Chinese are prohibited from owning firearms, they face restrictions when it comes to hunting.

It was to have been the first such auction in China. Foreigners were previously allowed to hunt in China only after completing a complicated application process. By the end of last year, China had earned 36.39 million U.S. dollars by allowing 1,101 foreigners to hunt 1,347 animals since 1985.

China's hunting quota rose from just three individual animals in 1985 to 123 in 2005. The country has opened 25 hunting ranges to foreigners.

(Xinhua,

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-08/15/content\\_665447.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-08/15/content_665447.htm))

### **Row over commercial deer cull in China**

Proposals to establish a commercial hunting ground for the formerly endangered Eld's deer in China's Hainan province have stirred up a public controversy across the country.

The latest debate comes just two weeks after the central government was forced to postpone a

planned auction of hunting quotas and licences in

## **New publications**

***Preventing and Stopping the Smuggling of Wildlife from the Russian Far East*** (June, 2006). 72 pp. TRAFFIC East Asia, China programme. In Chinese, 200 copies. (First published by WWF Russia in Russian, 2003). For use in Customs training course in the future.

***Timber Identification Guide for Exports from the Russian Far East (June, 2006).***

58 pp. TRAFFIC East Asia, China programme. In Chinese, 200 copies. (First published by WWF Russia in Russian, 2003). For use in Customs training course in the future.

***TRAFFIC East Asia - China Program Bulletin***, 2nd edition, H.F. Xu, L. Xu, and S.S. Wang (ed.). Issue #2 (2006, June) focused on China's labeling system - an effective means for improving the management of wildlife trade, especially those involving rare wildlife. 47 pages, [1000] copies. In Chinese. Distributed to partners in China.

***TRAFFIC posters for CITES enforcement at border crossings between China and Russia and China and Viet Nam.***

In Chinese/Russian/English and Chinese/Vietnamese/English. June. Informing the public and traders relevant rules of import and export of wildlife listed on CITES appendices. 5000 copies each. Distributed to CITES MA and WWF field offices.

***Introduction to TRAFFIC East Asia - China Program*** (2006, August).

General introduction to TRAFFIC East Asia, China programme for the general public and partners. In Chinese/English. 5000 copies.

### **Upcoming reports**

- Report on wildlife farming in China, scheduled for publication Oct 2006
- Report in current status of taxus in China, scheduled for publication Jan 2007

the face of a public outcry.

In a media interview, Wang Chundong, head of Hainan Provincial Wildlife and Plants Conservation Centre, said the preliminary preparation for the hunting ground has started, and it was planned to go into operation in 8 to 10 years.

On the verge of extinction in late 1970s, the Eld's deer, a sub-species of swamp deer, today roams in large herds across the hills of the southwestern coast of the island province.

The species has recovered healthy stock numbers after a comprehensive protection programme that began 30 years ago. In May, the population in Hainan stood at 1,600.

Wang said many of the deer had been artificially bred and were losing their propagating capabilities, necessitating a cull.

"In an international hunting ground, the price tag on the head of an Eld's deer is \$100,000, 25 times more than the benefit from conventional processing," said Wang.

Proceeds from hunting would increase funds for protection of fauna and flora on the island.

Provincial forestry officials supported the idea of an international hunting ground, predicting it would usher in new conservation methods and bring economic benefits.

Some local residents also endorsed the plan and believed a hunting ground would attract more investors and consumers.

However, opponents say once the hunting ground becomes a tourist draw, hunting with a quota limit could easily go awry and turn into a profit-driven killing spree.

Inadequate supervision of the hunting quota has also raised concerns.

Yuan Xicai, a specialist in animal research,

especially of Eld's deer, cautioned against a hunting ground in Hainan.

"The Eld's deer, with its present population, is still at risk and much is still needed for its conservation," said Yuan.

"Currently, the Eld's deer live inside nature reserves or shelters with fencing, and it will take five to ten more years to prepare them for release into the wild. Otherwise, our previous conservation efforts will end in vain."

China's State Forestry Administration (SFA) postponed the country's first auction of hunting quotas scheduled for Aug 13 after rousing public anger. The auction would have seen the sale of quotas for hunting 289 animals of 14 species under national protection.

Angry Internet users accused the SFA of being purely profit-driven.

---IANS (source:

<http://www.newkerala.com/news4.php?action=fullnews&id=13202>)

### [Interpol annual conference](#)

#### **Illegal trade in wild animals and plants must be halted: spokesman**

Speakers at an international conference on wildlife trade crimes held here in July claimed that illegal trade in wild animals and plants has topped 10 billion U.S. dollars, and is the world third largest source of illegal trade after drugs and guns.

Cao Qingyao, a spokesman for the State Forestry Administration, said Tuesday that China is stepping

up protection of endangered wildlife resources.

He told a press conference that a new regulation concerning the import and export of endangered wildlife would come into effect Sept. 1.

The regulation bans the import and export of endangered wild animals and plants and related products for commercial purposes. It also forbids exports of unnamed and newly discovered wild animals and plants.

The spokesman said since signing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 1981, China has worked out a series of laws and regulations and set up a "sound" management system to ensure the healthy development of the sector.

He said China's departments of public security, customs, forestry and agriculture had launched a series of campaigns in cooperation with Interpol and other international organizations to combat wildlife crime.

In 2005, public security departments handled 455 cases involving wild animals and confiscated 40,492 wild animals. A total of 736 suspects were detained, he said.

China is still rich in biodiversity. At present, he said, there are 250 bases for saving and breeding wildlife and over 400 centers for conserving and cultivating wild plant species or preserving wild plant genes.

China is also encouraging the artificial breeding of endangered species, he added.

(Source: *Xinhua*  
([http://english.people.com.cn/200608/15/eng20060815\\_293326.html](http://english.people.com.cn/200608/15/eng20060815_293326.html))

### Tigers

- *In Brief*: The New York Times op-ed *Sell the Tiger to Save It* by BARUN MITRA was translated and published in China's Reference News, one of China's most famous newspapers.

### **National ban cannot stop tiger bone sales**

As early as 1993, the State Council issued a notice banning trade in tiger bone. On September 1st 2006, the new Regulation on the import and export of endangered species will be enacted. However, an investigation in Pingnan County, Guangxi Province found that tiger bone wine sales are booming.

The State Forestry Administration claims that encouraging and supporting the trade of wildlife species from captive breeding facilities reduces and lessens the pressure on the same species in the wild. However, experts point out that lifting the tiger trade ban would seriously threaten the survival of wild tigers.

"This is a whole tiger carcass", lifting the skeletons from a huge vat in the underground wine brewery, a manager of Xiong Sen Wine Industries Limited Company showed the reporter on August 9th, 2006.

Xiong Sen Wine Industries Limited Company is based in Pingnan County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China. It is a production company within the famous Guilin Xiong Sen Tiger and Bear Farm. According to the factory promotional literature, the main ingredients for its products are from wildlife species that have died at Xiong Sen Tiger and Bear Farm. It claims that the products have received special permission from the State Forestry Administration, the National Technical Inspection Bureau (formerly the Quality Control Bureau-editor), and district Health bureau. The products include Xiong Sen brand bear bile wine, gecko wine and protect bone wine.

For full report contact [caroline@wwfchina.org](mailto:caroline@wwfchina.org)

(by Zhang Kejia, China Youth Daily, Aug 25,  
[http://zqb.cvol.com/content/2006-08/25/content\\_1490521.htm](http://zqb.cvol.com/content/2006-08/25/content_1490521.htm))

## Wildlife database

### **China develops 1st wildlife conservation**

**database** China has developed its first wildlife database featuring a "fuzzy search" function, a computer technology that will help people identify wild animals more easily and quickly.

The new database, designed for both laymen and experts, allows users to search with words that describe their visual impression of a wild animal instead of having to use professional jargon, said an expert with China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA).

"This will help conservators quickly identify wild animals when patrolling natural reserves and forests," said the expert, who helped assess the database.

The database covers more than 3,000 endangered species in national or global wildlife protection lists, according to a notice posted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

It incorporates up-to-date information about wildlife conservation departments and natural reserves as well as relevant laws and regulations.

"The database can be upgraded at any moment and information can be shared. It will help promote and standardize the country's wildlife conservation work," said the notice.

The database was co-initiated by CWCA, the State Forestry Administration (SFA) and China's Endangered Species Import and Export Administration Office, and was developed by Beijing Green Great Wall Science and Technology Company.

(Source:  
[news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-08/11/content\\_4950807.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-08/11/content_4950807.htm))

## New wildlife regulation in China goes into effect Sept 1

Following is a translation of the first 10 regulations (of a total of 28) of the *Import and Export Regulations of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora of the P.R.C.*, which were passed on April 12, 2006 by China's State Council and will go into effect September 1, 2006.

Two noted changes as a result of the new wildlife law are:

- 1) wildlife seizures must henceforth be sent to China's 'wildlife mgnt dept' (an not kept by whomever seizes it as it was prior)
- 2) seizures will be returned to the country of origin when necessary

Other immediate changes as a result of the new law are yet to be analyzed by TEAS-CN & its partners.

### ***Import and Export Regulations of P.R.C. Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora***

#### First Regulation

In order to strengthen the treatment of endangered wild flora and fauna and the import and exports of its by products, protection and reasonable use of endangered wild flora and fauna resources, and to fulfill the <<Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora>> (hereinafter referred to as the Convention), formulates this rule.

#### Second Regulation

Regarding import or export, the Convention limits the import and export of endangered wild flora and fauna and its by-products, and we must respect this rule.

The key protection of endangered plants and animals of exporting nations, according to the Convention, is related

to the handling of the export of endangered flora and fauna and its by-products.

#### Third Regulation

The State Council of Forestry, Agriculture (Fishery) Department (hereinafter referred to as the State Council Department of Plants and Animals), according to the Department of Labor Division, will fulfill the Convention through its work in the regulation of import and export of the entire nation's endangered wild plants and animals.

The State Council and other related departments will comply with related laws, the stipulations of administrative rules and regulations, and within the scope of each one's responsibility will do related good works.

#### Fourth Regulation

The organization of a State Council Department of Import and Export of National Endangered Wild Flora and Fauna represents the fulfillment of the Convention by the Chinese government, according to the regulation, the passing of stipulations by the State Council Department of Wild Fauna and Flora authorizes the key protection of wild plants and animals and by-products of exporting nations, and authorizes the limiting of import or export of endangered wild plants and animals or their by-products, which require a certificate authorizing import or export after due investigation.

#### Fifth Regulation

The Convention establishes an organization of experts in import and export of national endangered species of wild land animals, wild marine animals, and wild plants, who will be engaged in related endangered wild fauna and flora and by-product import and export science consultation work.

#### Sixth Regulation

All prohibited import or export and, prohibited commercial trade for the purpose of importing and exporting endangered wild fauna and flora and their by-products, or scientific research, reproduction, manual cultivation, cultural exchange, etc., which require import or export,

need to pass through the State Council Department of Wild Fauna and Flora for authorization; according to related stipulations those which require authorization by the State Council Department must report to the State Council's authority.

If the export prohibitions have not been named yet, or if new discoveries are made of wild fauna and flora and their byproducts of important value, or if the State Council Department of Wild Fauna and Flora prohibits the export of endangered wild plants and animals and their by-products.

#### Seventh Regulation

The Trade Convention limits the endangered wild flora and fauna and by-products that can be traded, the State Council of Export or the State Council Department of Wild Animals and Plants limit the export of wild animals and plants and their by-products, must pass through the authority of the State Council Department of Wild Animals and Plants.

#### Eighth Regulation

Importing endangered plants and animals and their by-products, requires adherence to the following regulations:

- (1) Related stipulations of nation when dealing with the use of endangered wild fauna and flora and their by-products;
- (2) Control measures which must conform to safe ecological requirements;
- (3) The materials that the applicant provides are genuinely effective;
- (4) Other regulations proclaimed by the State Council Department of Wild Fauna and Flora.

#### Ninth Regulation

Exporting endangered wild animals and plants and their by-products, requires adherence to the following regulations:

- (1) Conforms to ecological safety requirements and public interest;
- (2) Originates legally/legitimately;
- (3) The materials that the applicant provides are genuinely effective;
- (4) Is not a part of the State Council or State Council Department of Wild Fauna and Flora prohibited exports;
- (5) Other regulations proclaimed by the State Council Department of Wild Fauna and Flora.

#### Tenth Regulation

Import or export of endangered wild fauna and flora and their related by-products, applicant must apply to its originating province, autonomous region, etc.

(For a full translation of all 28 regulations, contact [caroline@wwfchina.org](mailto:caroline@wwfchina.org).)

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