

**PLAN OF ACTION (POA) FOR  
ASEAN COOPERATION ON CITES AND WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
(2021-2025)**

SECTOR : FORESTRY  
 SUB-SECTOR : CITES and Wildlife Enforcement  
 WORKING GROUP : ASEAN WORKING GROUP ON CITES AND WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

<b>STRATEGIC THRUST 1: ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT.</b>			
<b>Action Programme</b>			
1.1 Increase of Forest Resource Base and Conserving Existing Forest Resources, including Forest Biological Diversity.			
<b>Activity 1.1.1</b>			
AMS to develop national strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, or update existing plans, etc.			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
1) Sharing national strategies, plans and programmes at the annual meeting including sharing experience on promoting biodiversity population management (e.g. how to make good use of the IUCN Red List Data).	AWG CITES & WE	2021-2025	List of national strategies, plans and programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in AMS is documented.
2) Strengthen national regulations to tighten controls and enhance transparency for importing and transit countries of wildlife.	AWG CITES & WE		
3) Develop ASEAN Handbook on Legal Cooperation to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade	AWG CITES & WE	2021	ASEAN Handbook on Legal Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Crime is published

<b>Action Programme</b>			
1.2 Enhancement of Sustainable Forest Management and Use of Resources within Safe Ecological Limits.			
<b>Activity 1.2.1</b>			
Develop regional mechanism on preventing wildlife trafficking in the region			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
4) Develop ASEAN reporting protocol on wildlife trafficking, with an appropriate coordinating mechanism.	AWG-CITES and WE	2021-2025	ASEAN reporting protocol on wildlife trafficking is developed.
5) Explore collaboration with potential partners to support the implementation of POA CITES and Wildlife Enforcement			
<b>Activity 1.2.2</b>			
Facilitate the integration of forest ecosystem and biological diversity values into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies, and accounts.			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
6) Identify rules and regulations related to CITES in the effort to maintain biological diversity	AWG-CITES and WE	2021-2025	Documents of sustainable management practices on wildlife trade prepared and shared among AMS.
7) Conduct socio-economic study on the use of wildlife products and the impact of wildlife trade on local communities/people who rely on wildlife trade.			
8) Develop strategies for forestry and wildlife management that take into account the need to prevent the transmission of zoonotic diseases from wildlife to humans.			

<b>Activity 1.2.3</b> Promoting cooperation in the ASEAN region to reduce the trade in illegal wood products (demand reduction)			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
9) Conduct a joint campaign on illegal trade in endangered species (flora & fauna)	AWG-CITES and WE	2021-2025	National report on efforts in combatting illegal trade in endangered species documented
<b>Activity 1.2.4</b> Strengthen networking among relevant law enforcement authorities to curb illegal trade in wildlife fauna and flora			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
10) Channeling communication among the members of ASEAN Working Group on CITES and WE through utilizing existing tools (e.g. ASEAN WEN website)  11) Establish and sustain links and cooperation with other relevant networks and countries outside ASEAN in order to enhance efforts in combating the illicit trade of CITES wild fauna and flora  12) Conduct campaign in all AMS to reduce demand for illegally obtained wildlife products (e.g. elephant ivory, tiger, pangolin, hornbill); through media publications, awareness campaign, enhancement of transboundary enforcement activities, etc. Involve NGOs and private sector.  13) Collaborate with relevant agencies to investigate money-laundering and other financial crimes linked to wildlife trafficking.	Thailand	2021-2025	The AWG CITES and WE website is updated regularly.       Campaign materials developed and installed in key borders, markets (both physical and virtual), or air/seaports, and number of joint campaigns with inter-governmental organizations or NGOs

<b>STRATEGIC THRUST 2: ENHANCING TRADE FACILITATION, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND MARKET ACCESS</b>			
<b>Promote Sustainable wildlife trade</b>			
<b>Action Programme</b>			
2.1 Enhancement of Co-operation in Trade of endangered species.			
<b>Activity 2.1.1</b>			
Develop regional mechanism on trade of endangered species			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
14) Exchange dialogue on a single e-permitting system for trade in CITES species in all AMS.  15) Enhance collaboration and explore establishment of a single CITES Scientific Authority.  16) Conduct study/review on the risks of zoonotic diseases being spread through the legal and illegal international trade in wildlife and establish a policy and mechanisms to minimize this risk.  17) Feasibility study for a traceability system for trade in wild fauna and flora, and establish a regional system to the extent practicable.	AWG-CITES and WE	2021-2025	Mechanism to facilitate regulated trade in endangered species established
<b>Activity 2.1.2</b>			
Encourage industry groups, trade associations/traders and local communities to comply with legality and sustainability requirements of CITES and national regulations on trade in wild fauna and flora, and to support research and capacity building on sustainable management of trade in wild fauna and flora			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
18) Develop code of conduct for the private sector to comply with the rules and regulations on wildlife trade; in collaboration with private sector  19) Explore ways to provide training related to sustainable management of trade in wild flora and fauna to traders, SMEs & local communities & initiate training programme.  20) Documenting Best Practices for traders and local communities trading in wild fauna	AWG-CITES and WE	2021-2025	code of conduct for the private sectors to comply with the rules and regulations of wildlife trade established

and flora.			
21) Establish regular stakeholders engagement and awareness programme for industry groups, trade association and local communities on wildlife laws and wildlife trade.			
22) Explore participation of industry and trade groups in regional actions on demand reduction and encourage their involvement in the environmental events. (Explore partnership approach or reward system for those who are cooperating.) (Task force)			
23) Find ways to Involve trade associations in monitoring the legal wildlife trade and in reporting violation of the laws and regulations.	Indonesia		

<b>STRATEGIC THRUST 3: STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND CAPACITY BUILDING</b>			
<b>Action Programme</b>			
3.1. Promotion and Implementation of Training Programmes in Forestry.			
<b>Activity 3.1.1</b>			
Identify existing training facilities and available training programmes on CITES and wildlife enforcement in the region and develop mechanisms for sharing of such training facilities and programmes.		One of top 5 priorities of MY & TH	
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
24) Each country to inform other AMS on their plan to conduct relevant training	Thailand and AWG CITES and WE	2021-2025	List of existing training facilities and available training programmes, including mechanisms for sharing them, compiled.
25) Identify capacity building needs of AMS. (e.g.: Species Identification – including distinguishing wild specimens from captive-bred/artificially propagated; Law and regulations related to CITES and WE; Wildlife Forensics; Wildlife investigation; Wildlife prosecution; Intelligence analysis; use of free database software; use of e-permitting toolkit (cf. activity on e-permitting); cybercrime; use of latest technology to optimize intelligence and digital forensics; handling (?); husbandry (?), release (of seized wildlife?); sampling and evidence handling guidelines for court trial.)			

<b>Activity 3.1.2</b> Undertake professional training programmes for judges in forest legislation, particularly those at the level of courts that deal with CITES and wildlife enforcement issues as well as for customs and border guards			
Sub Activities	Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Timeline	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
26) Conduct collaborative training sessions on CITES and wildlife law enforcement at national, bilateral and multilateral levels for Customs, police, quarantine and veterinary inspectors, Forestry Department, Wildlife Department, Fisheries Department, and other law enforcement officers, prosecutor and judges, port/airport authorities, private sectors, CITES authorities, etc on specific skills e.g. species identification, handling of information and sharing of intelligence, developing and sharing advanced forensic, identification and marking systems, exchanging technical expertise such as lab analyses, tissue samples and genetic materials to build up DNA database for forensic analyses of CITES wildlife specimens; including controlled delivery for enforcement officers. (Also see above under 3.1.1.)	AWG CITES and WE	2021-2025  2021-2025	List of conducted professional trainings in forest legislation for judges, customs and border guards in AMS compiled and disseminated
<b>Activity 3.1.3</b> Promote greater awareness and legal literacy among local communities whose livelihoods are dependent on the goods and services provided by forests (wildlife fauna and flora).			
Sub Activities	Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Timeline	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
27) training for captive breeding or artificial propagation of wild animals and plants, especially among local communities instead of harvesting wild specimens. Also support sustainable use of overpopulated wildlife which become pests such as long-tailed macaques, wild pig, monitor lizards.  28) Explore possible alternatives to wildlife trade as a source of income for the communities including tourism or community-based activities.	AWG CITES and WE	2021-2025  2021-2025	Strategic measures to further enhance livelihood of local communities in AMS documented.

<b>Action Programme</b>			
3.2 Enhancement of Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned.			
<b>Activity 3.2.1</b>			
Conduct workshops and seminars, and webinars including focused group discussions, on topics of wildlife enforcement and CITES in the region.			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
29) Annual Meeting of the AWG CITES and WE; and more frequent meetings by internet as required for updates and discussions on CITES implementation and wildlife/forest crime.	AWG CITES and WE	2021-2025	List of conducted workshops, seminars and focused group discussions compiled and disseminated.
30) conduct workshops, seminars or webinars on subjects requiring further discussion. (e.g. National Ivory Action Plan; National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP); Wildlife Task Forces/ Operation Team; Development of Laws and Regulations; Regional policy support (Ministerial level); Forecasting wildlife issues; modus operandi of wildlife smuggling; financial investigations, including money laundering; inspection and management of wildlife farms.		2021-2025	
<b>Activity 3.2.2</b>			
Promote research, monitoring and information exchange on CITES and wildlife enforcement related issues			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
31) Share experiences by developing documentation on best practices on: i) review and issuance of CITES permits and certificates; ii) legislation to implement CITES; iii) making of CITES non-detriment findings by national Scientific Authorities; iv) making of seizures by enforcement authorities; v) placement of seized live animals and plants; vi) management of stocks of confiscated specimens; vii) introduction from the sea; viii) participation in intergovernmental meetings.	AWG CITES and WE	2021-2025	Page for AWG-CITES and WE on ASEAN Forest website regularly updated.
32) Conduct non-detriment findings (NDF) on CITES-listed species and potential species for sustainable commercial trade	Malaysia		
33) conduct feasibility study to establish mechanism in identifying illegal wildlife trade online and to report illegality to enforcement authorities (Potential to involve conservation NGOs).			

<b>THRUST 4: STRENGTHENING ASEAN'S JOINT APPROACHES ON REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE FORESTRY SECTOR.</b>			
<b>Action Programme</b>			
4.1. Strengthened ASEAN Co-ordinated Actions at Regional and International Fora.			
<b>Activity 4.1.1</b>			
Strengthen regional and sub-regional collaboration in the implementation of agreed outcomes of forest and forest-related international agreements and fora (UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CITES, etc). - Joint trans-border operation			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
34) Develop ASEAN approaches and joint position on CITES species proposals and on other documents for CITES meetings.	AWG CITES and WE	2021-2025	Annual report/ documentation of forum activities and extent of integration of issues discussed in the agenda of relevant ASEAN Bodies  Common positions are developed on draft resolutions, draft decisions and species proposals for CITES CoP19.
<b>Activity 4.1.2</b>			
Adopting effective and enforceable legislation for CITES implementation			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
35) Promote adoption of Category 1 CITES-enabling legislation throughout ASEAN, in line with existing deadlines already specified by the CITES Secretariat's National Legislation Project	Philippines, Lao PDR, AWG CITES and WE (in collaboration with CITES Secretariat) Partner: CITES Secretariat	2021-2025	Annual report on activities in promoting adoption of CITES documented.  AWG CITES WE to provide assistance for all AMS to be promoted under category 1
36) Promote awareness programmes for the judiciary and other law enforcement agencies on the social and economic implications of conservation threats posed by illegal trade in CITES Wild Fauna and Flora			



<b>Action Programme</b>			
4.2. Strengthen cooperation with dialogue partners Enhancement of ASEAN Joint Approaches in Addressing Regional and International CITES and wildlife enforcement Issues.			
<b>Activity 4.2.1</b> Adopt and articulate ASEAN common positions and influence the outcomes of the deliberations at international and regional fora (UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CITES, etc.)			
<b>Sub Activities</b>	<b>Responsible ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>
37) Establish a programme and mechanism for strengthening and improving cooperation with dialogue partners and potential partners, including donor agencies and conservation organizations; including annual meeting (e.g. back to back with AWG CITES and WE) and project based activities.	AWG CITES and WE	2021-2025	Creation of a "Support Program" platform composed of various partners, IOs and NGOs supporting national and regional agencies on counter wildlife trafficking efforts.
38) Update, where appropriate, social and economic incentives into national wild fauna and flora trade policy and legislation, complementing the policies of neighbouring States where possible, to promote compliance with CITES.			