China Approach to Combat the Wildlife Trafficking

Wan Ziming
Coordinator
China’s National Inter-agency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICECG)
LEGISLATION

- China’s Criminal Law (2000) has treated the wildlife crime as a serious crime, and the maximum penalization is life imprisonment and concurrently with a confiscation of his/her property.
ENFORCEMENT ORGANS

- Police (forest, Customs & border control police) for criminal investigation
- Forestry & agriculture (wildlife authorities), and Customs, market and quarantine services for administrative investigation
Measures Addressing Wildlife Crime

• Launch Inter-agency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group at national and provincial levels

• Use risk assessment, x-ray, container scanner, detective dog, undercover investigation and controlled delivery to combat the wildlife crime on a daily basis by the forest, Customs and border control police

• Organize joint meetings to address wildlife crime
Measures Addressing Wildlife Crime

• Enact or revise the laws, regulations and judicial interpretations
• Organize national and provincial operations
• Establish the forensic labs to support wildlife enforcement
• Provide trainings to enforcement agencies and traders
Measures Addressing Wildlife Crime

- Compile enforcement manuals and ID sheets
- Collect, analyse and share wildlife seizure data, and develop national strategy to address wildlife crime
- Carry out public education by media, on internet or at markets, ports, embassies and companies
Measures Addressing Wildlife Crime

- Keep close links with IGOs, shared intelligence and seizure information with IGOs and Parties, and undertook follow-up investigations and controlled delivery with foreign partners
- Participate in operations organized by IGOs and worked with our partners to organize transnational operation such as Operation Cobra
- Organize, host or participate in the international and regional seminars, meetings and workshops
- Provided trainings to the wildlife officers from African and Asian countries in China
Measures Addressing Wildlife Crime

- Provide financial supports to other countries, IGOs and NGOs for elephant conservation
- Develop and implement MoUs with other countries, IGOs and NGOs
- Provided CITES knowledge to the overseas Chinese nationals, particular those in Africa
China's efforts to build links with Africa and raise the awareness of Chinese citizens

- To assist the African countries to develop their national economy and improve the livelihood of the rural people
- To provide trainings to the African wildlife officers in China
- To provide anti-poaching and anti-smuggling equipments to the specific African countries
- To develop and implement MoUs with the specific African countries
- To enhance the cooperations between China and LATF by
  - Sponsoring LATF
  - Organizing the Operation Cobra
  - Sharing seizure information and intelligence
  - Carring out follow-up investigations, arrests and prosecutions
  - Deploying the Chinese wildlife enforcement officers at LATF
  - Conducting exchange visits
- To remind the Chinese nationals arriving at other countries not to buy and bring home endangered species and their products by cellphone message
Operation Cobra

- Organized by China, USA, South Africa as well as LATF, ASEAN-WEN and SAWEN
- Supported by the CITES, WCO and Interpol
- Participated by CITES, Customs and police officers from tens of countries in African and Asian countries
- An intelligence led operation resulted in many best practices and recognized by the international community
• The Chinese Customs has handled 930 criminal wildlife cases in the past decade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASES</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Up to 10,000 administrative cases have also been handled by the Chinese Customs
RECOMMENDATIONS TO EU IN COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING
• **The enforcement of existing rules in the EU**
  - To assess the wildlife trafficking in EU-python skin, pet, ivory, etc
  - To take a leading role in using the Forest & Wildlife Crime Toolkit compiled by UNODC
  - To encourage the private sectors to monitor EU’s wildlife trafficking and work with them to address them
  - To strengthen the anti-smuggling in some of the EU MS
  - To include the common species significantly used in EU into the CITES Appendix
  - To revise EU’s legislation to regulate the hunting trophy and pre-convention specimens
  - To regard the wildlife crime as serious crime in all EU MS
  - To carry out supply and demand reduction campaign
• The fight against organized wildlife crime
  - To undertake the follow-up investigations and prosecutions by sharing the seizure information with range, transit and destination countries, providing the evidences beneficial to locate, arrest and prosecute wildlife offenders to other countries and jointly investigating and prosecuting the members of the wildlife syndicates, in an effort to destruct the whole illegal trade chain, including the illegal suppliers, exporters, importers and users.
• **The EU’s development cooperation and diplomatic action**

  - To provide financial supports to the range countries in combating the wildlife trafficking from the annual savings of millions of Euros in implementing and enforcing the CITES in the EU

  - To support the range countries in implementing the African Elephant Action Plan by regulating its trade in thousands tons ivory obtained from pre-convention and hunting trophy

  - To support and participate in the international wildlife enforcement operation such as Operation Cobra