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Biodivers Conserv (2010) 19:1101–1114  
DOI 10.1007/s10531-009-9758-4

ORIGINAL PAPER

## An overview of international wildlife trade from Southeast Asia

Vincent Nijman

IMPORTANT

Received: 3 September 2009 / Accepted: 1 December 2009 / Published online: 23 December 2009  
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**Abstract** Wildlife trade is the very heart of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development providing an income for some of the least economically affluent people and it generates considerable revenue nationally. In Asia the unsustainable trade in wildlife has been identified as one of the main conservation challenges. Internationally, wildlife trade is regulated through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) to which all Southeast Asian nations are signatory. I obtained data on international trade in CITES-listed animals in the period 1998–2007. In all >35 million animals (0.3 million butterflies; 16.0 million seahorses; 0.1 million other fish; 17.4 million reptiles; 0.4 million mammals; 1.0 million birds) were exported in this period

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