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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, 30 million (~300 species) of them being wild-caught. In addition 18 million pieces and 2 million kg of live corals were exported. Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and China are the major exporters of wild-caught animals and the European Union and Japan are the most significant importers. ~~Over this period exports in birds significantly decreased, trade in the other taxa either increased or remained stable. For all taxa but butterflies the vast majority of individuals represent wild-caught individuals.~~ Records of illegal or undeclared inter-national trade are scant but can be significantly larger

concluded that there is an urgent need for better assess

are sustainable (including exploring appropriate proxi

initiatives to make regulatory mechanisms more effe

minimum mandatory standards and monitoring selecte

licensing and registration. Funding for at least some of

imposing small levies on exports of CITES-listed wil

Kieran Reply

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Keywords Biodiversity · Conservation · CITES · Sustainable livelihoods · Trade regulations

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Kieran
Look up CITES trading regulations
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