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Results

The data reveal the export of just over 35 million CITES-listed animals from Southeast Asian countries in a ten-year period from 1998 to 2007. Almost 30 million of these represent wild-caught individuals and <4.5 million are derived from captive-breeding facilities.

Table 1 shows the most significant exporting countries for wild-caught individuals for the different species groups. It shows that for seahorses, butterflies and corals over 90% of all exports originate from single countries (Thailand for seahorses, Malaysia for butterflies and Indonesia for corals) and that invariable the largest exporter typically supplies over 60% of the trade. For all species groups four countries (Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and China) are the major exporters, and the European Union and Japan have been the most significant importers of wild-caught animals from Southeast Asia in the last decade. Similarly as for the exporters, albeit less marked, single countries dominate the markets (e.g. Hong Kong for the import of wild-caught seahorses and other fish and the European Union for wild-caught mammals and birds). China and Singapore, and to a lesser extent Malaysia, are the only Southeast Asian nations that features prominently as importers of wild-caught wildlife. It appears that China is the end destination for these imports, but Singapore (pangolin and reptile skins) and Malaysia (live birds) are less of consumer countries and—after processing—re-export the majority of their Southeast Asian imports.

Table 1 Exports and import of wild caught individuals from Southeast Asia listing for each major taxonomic group the three largest exporters in terms of volume (two if number three exports <1% of the total volume) and the three largest importers

Group	Total number	Exporters	Importers	Importers	Importers
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