



Bookmarks

An overview of international wildlife trade from Southeast Asia

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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 Fauna and Flora (CITES) to which all Southeast Asian nations are a party. Data on international trade in CITES-listed animals in the period 1970–2006 show that >35 million animals (0.3 million butterflies; 16.0 million sea turtles; 17.4 million reptiles; 0.4 million mammals; 1.0 million birds) were traded, with 30 million (~300 species) of them being wild-caught. In addition, 2 million kg of live corals were exported. Malaysia, Vietnam, and Indonesia are the major exporters of wild-caught animals and the European Union is the most significant importer. Over this period exports in birds significantly increased, while for 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 international trade are scant but can be significantly larger than levels of official exports. It is concluded that there is an urgent need for better assessments of what levels of exploitation are sustainable (including exploring appropriate proxies for Non Detriment Findings), for instituting to make regulatory mechanisms more effective (including the introduction of

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Look up CITES trading regulations

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