



South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI)
An Inter-Government Initiative by Eight Countries and SACEP

Dr. A.A. Boaz,
Director General
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)




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THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION

- ◆ South Asia Region covers Eight Countries- Afganistan Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with an area of approximately 42, 916,000 km²
- ◆ Region has over 15% of World Flora and 12% of its Fauna.
- ◆ It encompasses 16 of the 238 globally important eco-regions.
- ◆ Region is the home land for the many endangered and threaten species like Asiatic Lion, Tiger, Snow Leopard, Asian Elephant and One-horned rhinoceros, and several plant sps
- ◆ 7 countries are members of CITES (Except Maldives)

WHY SAWTI :

- ◆ Considering the growing threat of poaching and illegal trading to wild species and the great global demand for Herbal Products from south Asia and consequent unsustainable harvesting and progress threat to Biodiversity of the region, it became imperative to formalize a SOUTH ASIAN WILD LIFE TRADE INITIATIVE (SAWTI) in South Asia.
- ◆ Efforts for regional cooperation started with the South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic workshop held in Kathmandu, Nepal in April 2004
- ◆ Recommendations from 2004 workshop
 - ◆ REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
 - ◆ CITES IMPLEMENTATION
 - ◆ LAW ENFORCEMENT
- ◆ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) decided to establish the ASEAN – Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) in December 2005 to combat illegal trade in wildlife both flora and fauna in the Southeast Asian region.

Background to SAWTI

The 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal decided to incorporate a Special work programme for combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products with a view to strengthening enforcement of CITES in the region and in controlling illegal domestic and international trading in wild fauna and flora which is seriously impeding biodiversity conservation efforts by all countries.



MOU BETWEEN SACEP AND TRAFFIC :

" In order to take this decision forward, SACEP entered into a MoU with TRAFFIC International to develop a South Asian Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI)" on July 20th 2007

Main aims of the MoU are,

- Develop and implement a South Asia Regional Strategy for combating illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.
- Ensure that the legal trade of wildlife is maintained at sustainable levels in South Asia.
- Establish the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) and strengthen partnerships, alliances and other cooperative mechanisms to foster impacts of the progress at the national and regional level.

- ◆ Under the MoU, SACEP and TRAFFIC developed a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan in Wildlife Trade.
- ◆ The SACEP Initiative aims to increase regional cooperation in addressing both illegal and legal wildlife trade issues, of importance to the 8 Member Nations of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP).




THE STRATEGY

- ◆ The South Asian Regional Strategy is an attempt to respond to two major Challenges facing Wildlife trade and the implementation of CITES in the region :
 - to develop practical ways to support governments, non government organizations and individuals and civil society in ensuring the effective implementation of national laws, policies and programmes that leverage real and meaningful change in combating illegal trade.
 - to strengthen the relationship between conservation and poverty reduction in such a way that wildlife consumption is maintained at sustainable levels.

PROGRAMME ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY

1. Cooperation and Coordination
2. Effective laws implementation and policies development
3. Sharing knowledge and effective dissemination
4. Species conservation, Sustainable trade and livelihoods security
5. Risk assessment and early warning
6. Capacity building

Purpose and Scope

1. To assist South Asian countries in combating and eventually eliminating illegal trade in wildlife.
2. To support South Asian countries in managing the legal trade at sustainable levels.
3. To assist and support South Asian countries in achieving strategic goals as outlined in CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- ◆ Global Tiger Forum (GTF)
- ◆ Coalition against Wild Life Trade (CAWT)
- ◆ Indo-Chinese Protocol on tiger conservation
- ◆ Collaborations with Country Governments on wildlife conservation/ protection and sustainable Mgt
- ◆ Enforcement Assistance through Interpol
- ◆ Donor community and other stakeholders

1st Regional Inter-Government Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative

- ◆ Workshop was organized by SACEP in collaboration with TRAFFIC International and WWF Nepal.
- ◆ The Government of Nepal hosted the event.
- ◆ WWF-UK and the United State Department of State financially supported this workshop.
- ◆ Senior Government officials and key stakeholders of all the eight member countries of SACEP were present.
- ◆ Representatives from CITES Secretariat was also present.



Aims of the Workshop

- ◆ Development of a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI)
- ◆ Finalize the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade.
- ◆ Follow up on the 2004 Kathmandu Wildlife Trade Workshop

- ◆ In this workshop, for the 1st time in South Asia region, representatives from all the member countries decided to establish the South Asian Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) to combat illegal trade in wildlife and to maintain legal trade in wildlife at sustainable levels.
- ◆ SAWTI is the first wildlife trade initiative of its kind in South Asia

2008 : IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-UP ACTION

- ◆ **Strong Political Support** –
 - Get the Ministerial statement at the 11th Governing Council of SACEP-May 22nd 2008 for full ministerial support to SWATI and establishment of WL Enforcement Network for South Asia and an Expert Group on wildlife trade
 - endorse strategy approved at Inter-govt meeting in February at the 11th Governing Council of SACEP, support priorities for action

2008 : IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-UP ACTION

- ◆ **Co-Ordination** – develop action plan for 2008-12
- ◆ **Inter-agency Co-Operation** – focal points for communication; formalized agreements between SACEP, TRAFFIC, donors and other stakeholders
- ◆ **Information Exchange** – accurate research and timely exchange of vital information will drive sound decision making and facilitate action
- ◆ **Resources** – secure financial, human and technical resource needs

WAY FORWARD : Regional Co-Operation

- ◆ Networking among key stakeholders (e.g. CITES MA/SA, Customs, police etc), ensuring a reliable commitment to feedback and response.
 - *Nomination of focal points at National level for information exchange*
 - *The Regional bodies (SACEP) to establish regional platform for collaboration and promoting both bilateral and multilateral engagements between key countries*
 - *International Technical support from Global Players such as TRAFFIC, CITES Secretariat and financial support from key donors*

WAY FORWARD : Regional Co-Operation (contd...)

- ◆ Ensure **adequate knowledge** and **capacity** of relevant government officials; **build awareness** of private sector and civil society
- ◆ Establish **information-sharing** mechanisms
- ◆ Mutual understanding between South Asian countries on **national legislation, policy and penalties**
- ◆ Include wildlife management/trade in regular trans-boundary and border meetings

WAY FORWARD : Regional Co-Operation (Contd...)

- ◆ Develop '**action plan**' for follow up that could be supported/facilitated by TRAFFIC.
- ◆ **Identify funding and technical resources** to support this regional co-operation on wildlife trade and CITES matters.
- ◆ Need to engage **high-level political will** and maintain momentum

WAY FORWARD: CITES Implementation

- Increased **political commitment** at national level
- Develop **specific legislative provisions** for CITES
- Strengthen CITES Secretariat's ability to **support South Asian Parties**
 - *Development of regional capacity building / training initiative on CITES – e.g. Regional training workshop on CITES implementation, enforcement, science, resource management, etc.*

WAY FORWARD : Law Enforcement

- Establish **National Wildlife Law Enforcement Committee** at Federal and State/Provincial levels.
- Build on **existing structures** - e.g. national networks, task forces to develop specialised / dedicated unit within enforcement agencies.
 - *Enforcement focal points in relevant agencies*
- Establish **Wildlife Enforcement Network** for South Asia, including regular enforcement meetings at field level (national, regional).

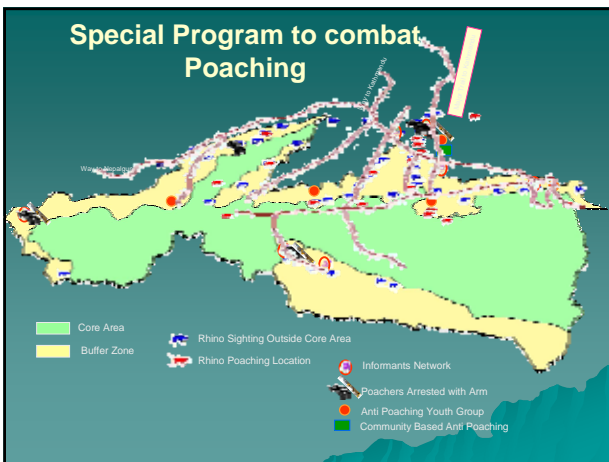
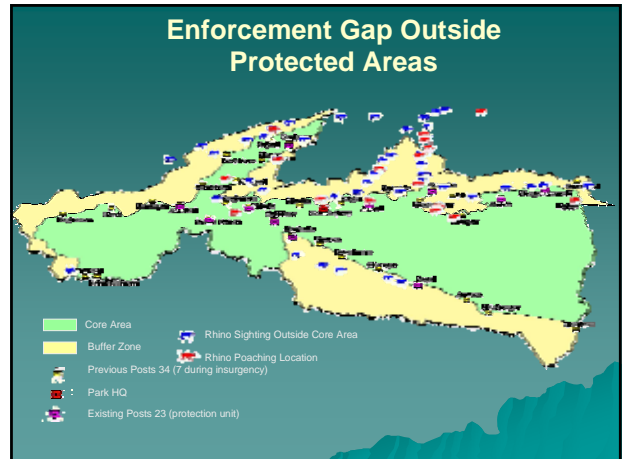
WAY FORWARD: Law Enforcement (CONTD...)

- Evaluate and review formal agreements between wildlife authorities and Enforcement agencies to ensure effective collaboration.
- Promote awareness and motivation among prosecutors and the judiciary.
 - Develop national / regional enforcement / judicial training package in local languages
 - Establish appropriate penalties and disincentives
- Establish wildlife trade control desk at major Ports
 - Awareness campaigns developed in partnership with NGOs at ports.
- Mobilise community engagement in local protection, awareness and informer networks.



Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade





Some Major Seizures of Wildlife Parts in Nepal

Tiger and Leopard

<p>April 2003</p> <p>October 2003</p> <p>January 2004</p> <p>March 2004</p>	<p>109 leopard skin 14 Otter Skins (Kathmandu)</p> <p>32 Tiger Skins 579 Leopard Skins 600 Otter Skins (Tibetan Border)</p> <p>1 Tiger skin and bones (Kathmandu)</p> <p>7 Tiger Skins 6 Jungle Cat Skins 165 kg Tiger Bones 185 Rhino skins (Daklang – Way to Tibet)</p>	 
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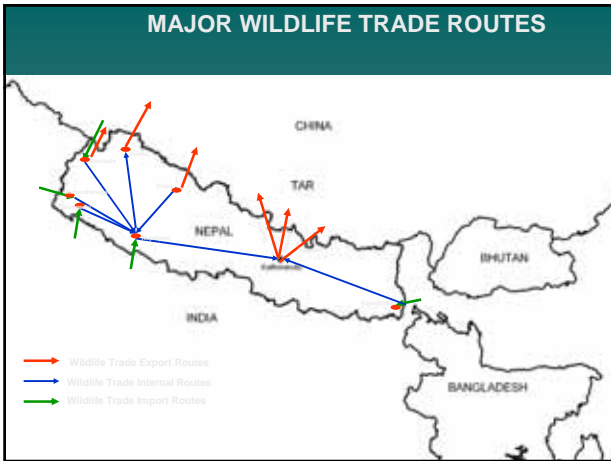
Some Major Seizures of Wildlife Parts

<p>March 2004</p> <p>April 2004</p> <p>May 2004</p> <p>July 2004</p>	<p>7 Leopard skins, 6 Otter skins, 165 pieces of Leopard and Tiger bone and 185 pieces of Rhino skin (Sindhupalchok)</p> <p>6 Tiger skins, 24 Leopard skins, 12 Otter skins. 2 Tiger skins, 8 Leopard skins, 4 sacks of fresh tiger bones and a sack of rhino bones (Kathmandu).</p> <p>3 full seize of Leopard skins (Nepalganj)</p> <p>1 Tiger Skull, 2 Tiger Skins, 5 Sacks of Tiger bones, 8 Leopard Skins (Kath.)</p>	  
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Major Seizures of Wildlife Parts cont..

Tiger and Leopard

<p>2006</p> <p>2006</p> <p>2006</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2007</p>	<p>Tiger bones, Kathmandu</p> <p>6 Leopard skins and Tiger bones, Bardia</p> <p>3 Tiger skins in different part of Nepal.</p> <p>5 Leopard skins and 15 kg tiger, Dhangadi</p> <p>5 Leopard Skins, Kathmandu</p> <p>19 Shatoosh Shawls, Kathmandu</p>	  
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Big Cats *Panthera tigris, P. pardus, Uncia uncia*



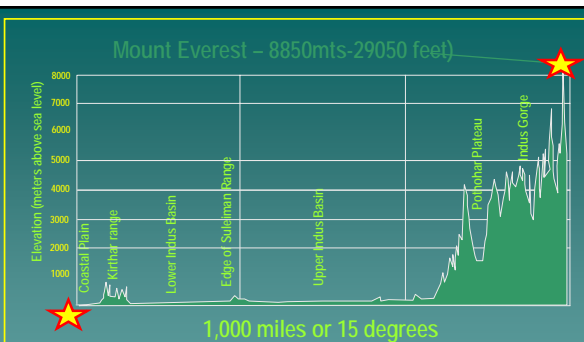
Red Sandalwood *Pterocarpus santalinus*



Indian Star Tortoise *Geochelone elegans*



Agarwood *Aquilaria spp.*



Over 29,000 feet - the greatest change in elevation within any Region on Earth! Hence Mega Management/Enforcement Problems

THE SUSTAINED LIVELIHOOD APPROACH TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Tendu leaves Study - India

-Dr. ARVIND BOAZ

Getting ready to return to their dwellings for tying the leaves in bundles

Back from the forest after collecting Tendu Leaves

Tying the leaves in bundles in their households

Tendu leaves Study - India

-Dr. ARVIND BOAZ

Sorting leaves for tying in bundles

Tying the leaves in bundles in their households

OTHER EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES-India

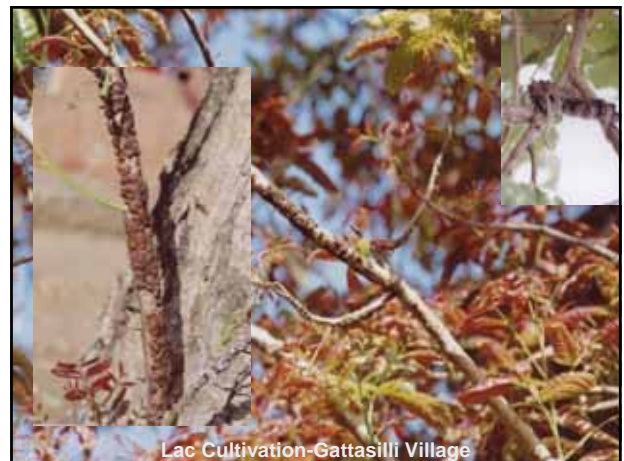
Network of People's Protected Areas-15-20000 ha

- > Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)
- > Rural Income Generation
- > Biodiversity Conservation through multi-tier approach to forest Management

Our Values

- Highest respect and concern for people
- Care and share

- Capacity building at all levels
- Upgradation of local technologies



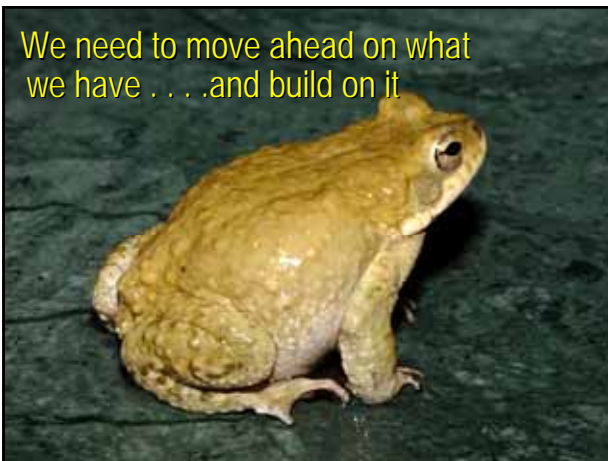


Legal trade of species that is sustainably used- Pakistan

Community-based Trophy Hunting

Markhor *Capra falconeri*

Government of Pakistan



Thank you for your kind attention!

- SACEP, NO. 10 ANDERSON ROAD, COLOMBO-5, SRI LANKA. TEL: +94 112 589 787 WEB: WWW.SACEP.ORG