China in Action:
Protecting Wildlife and
Combating Illegal Trade

State Forestry Administration of China
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Wildlife occupies an integral place in the ecosystem. The inestimable values of wildlife are arresting more and more attention in different domains such as ecology, genetic engineering, sociology, economy, science, education, culture, entertainment and aesthetics. The need to protect wildlife worldwide has achieved global concern and it demands commitment from the whole society. Furthermore, tireless efforts have been made by the international community in the field of wildlife protection. However, wildlife trade keeps cropping up all over the world, which tells heavily against current efforts, thus gravely disrupting the order of rational wildlife utilization, resulting in resource depletion and endangering many animal species. In response to such a grave situation, it is imperative that we cope with these issues preemptively.

Chinese government has been making all efforts to improve the legal framework of wildlife protection, by strengthening the management system of wildlife protection and its law enforcement, marking out nature reserves in protection of natural resources, enhancing artificial means of animal breeding as well as forestation. China gives high priority to combating wildlife trafficking and keeps close watch on wildlife breeding and utilization and hence imposes severe punishment on illegal actions. Other measures include initiating numerous public education programs, strengthening law enforcement and wildlife supervision. In January 2014, China held a campaign on ivory smuggling, which serves as a definitive indication of China’s intolerance of wildlife trafficking and determination in cracking down
on illegal wildlife trade. In recent years, China has been actively participating in international collaborations on stamping wildlife trafficking and was an active member to many international seminars and conferences such as the International Tiger Protection Seminar (Tiger Summit), the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum, African Elephant Summit, and London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade. In collaboration with other countries, China also organized a series of wildlife protection campaigns including Operation Cobra I and Operation Cobra II. China has conducted dialogues with the U. S. and Europe in the realm of wildlife protection and combating wildlife trafficking. In addition, China has strengthened its cooperation with Africa by providing CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) implementation training programs, and offering financial and technical support and equipment to these countries with the aim of improving their management and law enforcement in protecting wildlife resources.

However, it should be made clear that global wildlife trafficking has not been curbed effectively and illegal trade of some animal species is still rampant in certain regions. The situation of wildlife protection in different countries varies due to their gap in economic development, legal framework and law enforcement capabilities. Under such circumstances, joint efforts by all nations in the world to combat wildlife trafficking become necessary. First, international exchanges in wildlife protection should be promoted in order to share experience and deepen mutual understanding. Second, China shall provide support to those countries rich in wildlife resources to help step up their ability to fight elephant poaching and ivory
smuggling as well as to enhance their management of animal habitats. Third, in order to effectively curb illegal wildlife trade such as ivory smuggling, international cooperation is required to break the links in wildlife trade at every stage including cross-border trafficking, processing and sales of wildlife products. Fourth, China shall further strengthen law enforcement and supervision on wildlife utilization and take strong measures to crack down on wildlife trafficking in order to curb African elephant poaching and terminate illicit market demand for wildlife products. Fifth, public education should be strengthened to raise the public’s ecological awareness with regard to wildlife conservation, as well as to encourage the public to spontaneously boycott illegal actions.

Nowadays, ecological well-being has become a global concern and China has given ecological civilization a strategic priority in its blueprint for national construction, and wildlife conservation in China, therefore, has received unprecedented attention. Under such circumstances, China is determined to combat wildlife trafficking and strengthen exchange and cooperation with other nations as well as international organizations in this field. In order to curb global wildlife trafficking and carry out ecological and environment protection campaigns on a global scale, it is imperative that an effective international cooperation mechanism be established to ensure the sustainable development of mankind in various fields such as science, culture, heritage and economy.

Minister of State Forestry Administration of China
Chinese wildlife protection laws and regulations have been improved and perfected continuously. A number of stipulations have been enacted, including Law for Wildlife Conservation, Lists of Wildlife under Special State Protection, Forestry Law, Regulation on Wild Plants Protection, Regulation on Management of Nature Reserves, and Regulation on Management of Importation and Exportation of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora. Special provision is made on the punishment of criminal acts in the Criminal Law. China’s Central government and local authorities at all levels and their wildlife protection administrations have also launched supporting acts, regulations and policies to ensure the conservation of wildlife species and habitat, the breeding, domestication and rational utilization of wildlife, as well as the standardization of wildlife import & export administration.
1. Law for Wildlife Conservation


The Law is formulated for the purpose of “protecting and saving wildlife species which are rare or near extinction, protecting, developing and rationally utilizing wildlife resources and maintaining ecological balances”, requiring “all activities within the territory of the People’s Republic of China concerning the protection, domestication, breeding, development and utilization of species of wildlife be conducted in conformity with this Law”. According to the law, “the state shall pursue a policy of strengthening the protection of wildlife resources, actively domesticating and breeding the species of wildlife, rationally developing and utilizing wildlife resources, and scientific research on wildlife is encouraged.”, and “citizens are liable to protecting wildlife resources, informing the authorities of or filing charges against acts of illegal possession or destruction of wildlife resources. Institutions are appointed responsible for wildlife protection, and governments of all levels are required to formulate plans and measures for the protection, development and rational utilization of wildlife resources.”

Law for Wildlife Conservation stipulates classified protection for wildlife. Species under special protection are classified into two categories: special state protection and special local protection, according to the level of its rareness and endangerment. Wildlife under special state protection falls into two further categories: under first class state protection and second class state protection.

2. Lists of Wildlife under Special State Protection

Based on the Law for Wildlife Conservation, the Lists of Wildlife under Special State Protection was formulated in 1988 by wildlife protection administration. It was approved by the State Council the same year and announced and implemented in 1989.

On the Lists of Wildlife under Special State Protection, 96 species or groups are listed as wildlife under first class state protection and 160 species or groups are listed as under second class protection, which sweeps all species of wildlife that are rare, precious or near extinction.

Mammals under first class state protection include slender loris (Nycticebus spp.), Assamese macaque (Macaca assamensis), Formosan rock macaque (Macaca cyclopis), pig-tail macaque (Macaca nemestrina), gibbon (Hylobates spp.), giant panda (Ailuropoda melanoleuca), sable (Martes zibellina), wolverine (Gulo gulo), bearcat (Arctictis binturong), leopard (Panthera pardus), tiger (Panthera tigris), snow leopard (Panthera uncia), dugong (Dugong dugong), Baiji (Lipotes vexillifer), Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus), black muntjac (Muntiacus crinifrons), onager (Equus...
hemionus), kiang (Equus kiang), Przewalski’s Horse (Equus przewalskii), Java mouse-deer (Tragulus javanicus), etc. Reptiles under first class state protection include Russian Tortoise (Testudo horsfieldi), giant softshell turtle (Pelochelys bibroni), crocodile lizard (hinisaurus crocodilurus), water monitor (varanus salvator), Python molurus, Chinese alligator (Alligator sinensis), etc. Birds under first class protection include white stork (Ciconia ciconia), black stork (Ciconia nigra), crested ibis (Nipponia Nippon), Scaly-sided merganser (Mergus squamatus), golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), imperial eagle (Aquila heliacal), etc.

3. Forestry Law

The Forestry Law is a specialized law on forest protection and administration. Formulated in 1984 and revised in 1998, it consists of seven chapters and 49 articles including “General Provisions”, “Forest Administration”, “Forest Protection”, “Forestation”, “Lumbering”, “Liabilities”, and “Supplementary Provisions”.

The Forestry Law provides institutional guarantee for establishing integral and favorable habitats for wildlife. Article 4 defines “forests for special uses”, and Article 8 specifies “imposing a quota on lumbering and promoting forestation in order to expand the area of forest coverage”. Article 24 regulates “protection areas to strengthen protection and administration in typical forest areas of different natural terrains, forest districts where previous animals and plants grow and breed, natural tropical rain forest districts and other natural forest districts with special protection value” and “strict protection should be extended to precious trees outside of the natural protection areas and the plant resources with special value inside the forest districts”.

The Forestry Law provides legal support for wildlife protection. Article 25 specifies “no hunting of wildlife on the national protection list is allowed in the forest districts” and Article 38 specifies “the State forbids or restricts the export of precious trees and their products and derivatives”.

4. Regulation on Wild Plants Protection

Announced in 1996 and enacted in 1997, the Regulation on Wild Plants Protection is the administrative regulation on wild plant protection consisting of 31 articles.

The Regulation is formulated for the purpose of “protecting, developing and rationally utilizing wild plant resources, retaining the biodiversity and maintaining ecological balances”. According to the Regulation, “all activities in the territory of the People’s Republic of China concerning the protection, development and utilization of wild plants must be conducted in conformity with these Regulations”; “the state pursues a policy of strengthening the protection of wild plant resources, actively developing and rationally
utilizing wild plant resources”; “the state encourages and supports scientific research on wild plants, and protects wild plants either in their original habitats or moving to other places”; “all institutions and individuals have the duty to protect wild plant resources”; “the state protects wild plants and the environment”, and “institutions and local authorities are appointed and defined responsible for wild plants protection”.

The Regulation on Wild Plants Protection stipulates classified protection for wild plants. Wild plants under special protection are classified into two categories: under special state protection and special local protection. Plants under special state protection fall into two further categories: under first class state protection and under second class state protection.

5. Regulation on Management of Nature Reserves

The Regulation on Management of Nature Reserves is the administrative regulations on the administration of nature reserves and relevant wildlife announced in October 1994 and enacted in December the same year. It consists of five chapters and 44 articles including “General Provisions”, “Establishment of Nature Reserves”, “Management of Nature Reserves”, “Liabilities”, and “Supplementary Provisions”.

The Regulation is formulated for the purpose of “strengthening the construction and management of nature reserves and to protect the natural environment and resources”. Nature reserves are defined as “such areas, on land, inland water bodies, or marine districts, which represent various types of natural ecological systems, or with a natural concentrated distribution of rare and endangered wild animal or plant species, or where natural traces or other protected objects being of special significance are situated, and so delimited out for special protection and administration according to relevant laws.” The regulation suggests that “The state shall practice the economic and technological policies and measures favorable to the development of nature reserves, and incorporate the development planning of nature reserves into the national economic and social development plans”, and “the state shall practice a system which combines integrated management with separate departmental management for the management of nature reserves.”

According to the Regulation on Management of Nature Reserves, “the nature reserves are divided into national nature reserves and local nature reserves”; “the relevant administrative departments of nature reserves shall set up a special administrative agency in each nature reserve; provide specialized technical staff who shall be responsible for the management of the nature reserves”; “any unit or individual who has violated the Regulation in felling, grazing, hunting, fishing, gathering medicinal herbs, reclaiming, burning, mining, stone quarrying and sand dredging etc., shall be punished according to relevant laws, administrative regulations and rules. Besides, administrative departments of nature reserves in the government at or above
the county level or its authorized administrative agencies have the right to confiscate the violators’ illegal gains, stop the violators from illegal actions, and to restore the original state or adopt other remedial measures within a prescribed period of time. Whoever has caused damage to the nature reserves will be fined between 300 to 10,000 RMB Yuan.”

6. Regulation on Management of Importation and Exportation of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora

Announced in April 2006 and enacted in September the same year, the Regulation on Management of Importation and Exportation of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora is the specialized regulation on the administration of wildlife import and export, which consists of 28 articles.

The Regulation is formulated for the purpose of “strengthening administration of import and export of Endangered Wildlife and their products, protecting and rationally utilizing wild animals and plants resources, and implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (hereinafter referred to as the CITES)”; “The import or export of endangered wildlife and their products which are subject to the import or export restrictions of the CITES, as well as the export of wild animals and plants under special protection of the State and their products shall conform to the Regulation”; “The competent departments of the State Council for forestry and agriculture(fisheries) shall, in accordance with their respective functions and duties, take principal charge of import and export administration of endangered wild animals and plants and their products nationwide”; “The national management authority for import and export of endangered species shall implement the CITES on behalf of the Chinese Government”. Permit/certificate system is applicable for import and export of endangered wildlife.

The promulgation of the regulation has changed the situation of lacking relevant laws to abide by in terms of import and export of endangered wildlife. It will exert far-reaching effects on maintaining the order of international wildlife trading, strengthening the protection and administration of endangered wildlife, improving the convention implementation capacity and international status, as well as protecting the citizens’ lawful rights and benefits.

7. Regulation on the Penalty of Criminal Acts concerning Wildlife in the Criminal Law

Article 341 of the Criminal Law defines the crime of “illegal purchase, transport or selling wildlife species under special state protection as well as the products thereof”. Article 2 specifies “serious violation of the law or
regulations on hunting, hunts wildlife in an area or during a season closed
to hunting or uses prohibited hunting gear or methods for the purpose, thus
damaging wildlife resources” as the crime of unlawful hunting.

The interpretation of the regulation on wildlife-related crime was
passed by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (12th)
on April 24th, 2014. Whoever illegally purchases rare or endangered species
of wildlife as food or for other purposes, knowing (or should have known) it
being under special state protection, shall be subject to criminal persecution.

**8. Complementary Regulations, Stipulations and Policies**

The central government and its administrative sections of wildlife
protection have announced a series of complementary regulations and
stipulations to supervise the breeding and utilization of wildlife, such
as “Regulation for the Implementation on the Protection of Terrestrial
Wildlife”, “Official Reply of the State Council on Adding Musk to the
Lists of Wildlife under Special State Protection”, “Circular of the State
Council regarding Banning the Trade of Rhinoceros Horns and Tiger
Bones”, “Urgent Circular of the State Council on Strengthening Wildlife
Protection and Cracking down on Relevant Crimes”, “The Measures
for Administration of Domestication and Breeding License for Wildlife
under Special State Protection”, “Provisional Regulations on the Breeding
and Utilization of Black Bear”, and “Circular of China State Forestry
Administration and State Administration for Industry and Commerce
Concerning Checking-up and Pilot Labeling of Enterprises Utilizing
Wildlife as well as the Products Thereof”.

China is made up of 34 province-level administrative regions. Each
region has its own relevant regulations, measures or regulatory documents
for wildlife protection. Beijing has enacted “Measures of Beijing for the
Implementation of Law for Wildlife Conservation”, “Administrative
Measures of Beijing for Granting ‘Breeding and Domestication License’
for Wildlife”, “Administrative Measures of Beijing for Law for Wildlife
Conservation”, “Compensation Measures of Beijing for Losses Caused
by Terrestrial Wildlife under Special Protection”. Guangdong Province
has enacted the “Regulations of Guangdong Province on the Protection
of Wildlife”, “the First Lists of Wildlife under Special Protection of
Guangdong Province”, “Provisional Regulations for the Utilization and
Transport of Wildlife and the Products thereof”, and “Administrative
Measures of Guangdong Province for Granting ‘Breeding and
Domestication License’ for Wildlife”. All these regulations, together with
national-level regulations such as Law for Wildlife Conservation, have
constructed a well-established legal system.
Unit Two  Ever-perfecting Administrative System of Wildlife Protection

China’s administrative system of wildlife protection has been improved and perfected unceasingly. An efficient top-down administrative system with joint law enforcement of multiple departments is established. With nature reserves at the core, a habitat protection system has come into being, and a rescue & breeding system is established based on wildlife rescue & breeding centers, urban zoos, wildlife parks and botanic gardens. In this way, an effective input security mechanism takes into effect.
1. **Top-down Administrative System of Wildlife Protection**

A top-down wildlife protection administrative system is established in China. Wildlife administrative departments are set up at four levels, from the central government to provincial, municipal and county governments. Township-level wildlife protection administrative stations are established in most of the focal wildlife distribution regions to guarantee all the protection administrative actions. Chart 1 demonstrates five-layer wildlife protection administrative system from central to township levels.

Governments of lower levels are subordinate to governments of higher levels. Forestry administrations of higher and lower levels are of instructive relations, so are wildlife protection administrative departments of higher and lower levels. Forestry administrations are subordinate to governments of same level and wildlife protection administrative departments are subordinate to forestry administrations of same level. Some township forestry working stations are subordinate to township governments, while some are subordinate to county-level forestry administration. Township wildlife protection stations are basic wildlife protection administrations.

![Chart 1: Top-down Protection Administrative System](image)

2. **Supervision System of Joint Law Enforcement of Multiple Departments**

Under the leadership of China’s central government, various administrative departments including forestry, agriculture, industry and commerce, the Customs, public security, and quality inspection departments perform their respective duties jointly.

Forestry departments are responsible for arranging inspection,
supervision and rectification of wildlife protection as well as urging local administrations to strengthen market inspection and protection patrol in the field. General Customs Administration is responsible for supervising import & export and chasing smuggling of endangered species. The Customs joined hands with forestry administrations to launch a half-year-long joint action against the smuggling of ivory and rare timber, etc. The Ministry of Public Security has strengthened shotgun control as fundamental countermeasure to keep down the crimes in illegal hunting. A number of wildlife smuggling cases are solved by anti-smuggling actions in specified coastal or border areas. The State Administration for Industry and Commerce launched a one-month special campaign against violation of wildlife protection. General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) has captured endangered species and products thereof by putting more efforts on inspection and quarantine of materials carried by passengers or by post. Import & export of endangered species is managed jointly by Administration for Import & Export of Endangered Species as well as forestry and agricultural departments, as a commitment to CITES.
3. Habitat Protection System Based on Nature Reserves

China has established a wildlife protection system based on nature reserves. There are altogether 2697 nature reserves in China, covering 14% of national territory, which greatly accelerates the restoration and expansion of wildlife habitats, and more than 85% population of the wildlife under national key protection are effectively protected. Many endangered species under special state protection, such as giant panda, Manchurian tiger, crested ibis, black gibbon, Asian elephant, golden monkey, orchid and Chinese yew enjoy their own nature reserves, and species restoration is guaranteed.

4. Wildlife Rescue & Breeding System

China has put efforts on the construction of protection administration facilities such as wildlife rescue centers, urban zoos, wildlife parks and botanic gardens. The rescue and breeding of endangered wildlife are promoted and science education is undertaken accordingly.

1) Wildlife Rescue & Breeding Centers

By the end of 2013, more than 250 wildlife rescue & breeding centers had been established in 16 provincial capitals and more than a hundred prefecture-level cities, county-level cities and counties. A systematic wildlife rescuing network has been formed to provide shelter and first-aid for wildlife for the purposes of breeding research, artificially-bred species development and wildlife conservation publicity.

Beijing Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Center was established in 2001 upon approval of Beijing Institutional Organization Commission. It is subordinate to Beijing Municipal Bureau of Landscape & Forestry. It has the following main responsibilities: to be dedicated to rescue and rehabilitation of terrestrial wildlife within Beijing territory; to monitor epidemic source & diseases of wildlife; to domesticate and breed endangered wildlife; to be responsible for scientific research of wildlife protection; to involve in academic exchange cooperation home and abroad; to undertake various popularization.
and education of wildlife conservation.

Hunan Wildlife Rescue & Breeding Center was established in 1992 as one of the earliest established wildlife rescue and breeding centers of China. Since its inception, the center has taken in and rescued over 100 thousand wild animals of 112 species, of which more than 300 (15 species) were under first class state protection and over 90 thousand (38 species) were under second class state protection. It has also undertaken a dozen provincial research projects on wildlife protection, breeding and disease-control, and has developed two wild animal rearing standards of provincial level.

2) Urban Zoos

Urban zoos are zoological parks in which animals are confined within enclosures, displayed to the public, and in which wildlife may be rescued, domesticated or bred. They also provide education and popularization of animal protection to the public. Zoos are established in most of the cities in China, the majority of which are built in city centers. Beijing Zoo, Shanghai Zoo and Guangzhou Zoo rank top three in China, in terms of technology, number of species, visitor counts and revenue.

Beijing Zoo is the oldest city zoo in China and has one of the largest animal collections in the country. It is a science education base of the country as well as of the city, an AAAA grade tourist attraction, and ranks first in the top ten best zoos in China. Beijing Zoo occupies an area of 89 hectares. The zoo has over 900 species and is home to over 20,000 animals. The best known pavilions are Mount Lion and Tiger, Mount Bear, Mount Monkey, Deer Park, Elephant Pavilion, Rhinoceros and Hippopotamus Pavilion, Orangutan Pavilion, Giraffe Pavilion, Giant Panda Pavilion, Golden Snub-nosed Monkey Pavilion, Reptile Pavilion, Mount Eagle, Children's Zoological Pavilion, and Penguin Pavilion. Beijing Zoo has established friendly relationship with zoos in over 50 countries and regions in the world.
3) Wildlife Park (Safari Zoo)

Wildlife Parks (Safari Zoos) keep wild animals in nature-like environment, in which wildlife may be rescued, domesticated or bred. They also provide education and popularization of animal protection to the public. By the end of 2013, over 30 safari zoos have been opened in China, including Beijing Badaling Wildlife Park, Shanghai Wild Animal Park, Guangzhou Panyu Xiangjiang Wild Animal World and Shenzhen Safari Zoo, etc.

Shanghai Wild Animal Park is established by State Forestry Administration and Shanghai Municipal Government. It covers an area of 153 hectares. Shanghai Wild Animal Park was one of the first AAAA national tourist attractions and has been promoted to AAAAA grade in 2007. More than ten thousand typical and rare animals of over 200 species from all over the world were collected in the park, such as giraffe, zebra, antelope, and white rhinoceros from aboard, and giant panda, golden snub-nosed monkey and golden takin which are under first class state protection.

Guangzhou Panyu Xiangjiang Wild Animal World is the world’s largest safari zoo both in terms of species number and space. It is home to more than 20,000 rare animals of over 500 species, including 10 giant pandas, 22 koalas (exclusive in China mainland), 150 white tigers (world’s largest collection), 23 Asian elephants (largest cultured population in China), black rhinos (exclusive in China), pigmy hippopotamus, and ant bears. It is the first “drive-through’ safari zoo and the “drive-through” area occupies about one million square meters. Guangzhou Panyu Xiangjiang Wild Animal World was granted AAAAA Tourist Attraction of China in 2005.

4) Botanic Gardens

Botanic gardens are gardens dedicated to the investigation, collection, identification, introduction, cultivation, preservation, and display of plants. It also has the function of popularization and education of
botanic science and provides recreation site for the public. China has built over 30 botanic gardens, which effectively promotes the resource preservation and ex-situ of wild plants.

Established in 1956, Beijing Botanic Garden is a comprehensive botanic garden with functions of botanic science research, botanic knowledge popularization and sight-seeing. It is the largest botanic garden in northern China. The public accessible area covers 200 acres and consists of plant display zones, scenic or historical spot zones, and scientific study zones and nature reserves with more than 1,500,000 plants of over 10,000 plant varieties. The center of the garden is the botanic greenhouse with 13 display rooms. More than 1500 species of tropical and semitropical plants grow here, including such rare plants as gypsophila, fire stick plant and dancing orchid.

5) Effective Input Guarantee Mechanism

A multi-channeled input system is established in China, with government input as primary, social investment as secondary and international donations as favorable supplements, of which the steadily-growing government investment plays the leading role. At the turn of the century, China has invested scores of billion yuan on launching the key ecological projects of wildlife protection and nature reserve construction.

![Chart 4](chart4.png)

**Chart 4** Endangered Wildlife Input Guarantee Mechanism

6) Achievement of Wildlife Protection in China

China is one of the countries richest in wildlife resources of the world. There are more than 6500 vertebrate species in China, accounting for about 10 percent of the world’s total. China ranks third in plant resources with more than 30,000 plant varieties. There are over 470 terrestrial vertebrates native only to China, such as giant panda, crested ibis, golden snub-nosed monkey, south China tiger and Yangtze alligator. According to survey and monitoring data in
recent 10 years, rare and endangered terrestrial species in China has reversed the decreasing tendency and the total number of such species is steadily rising. Some of the extremely endangered terrestrial wild animals and plants are no longer in danger of extinction. Up to now, more than 230 species of wild animals and thousands of wild plants such as Chinese yew have their own artificially bred population. The number of giant pandas living in the wild has rebounded to 1,596, and artificially bred population number has reached 341. The number of rare crested ibises has risen from only seven in 1981 to more than 2,000, and artificially bred ones have successfully returned to the wild. The number of wild Manchurian tigers has risen from 12~16 in 2000 to 18~22. The number of Yangtze alligators has risen from around 300 in 1980s to more than ten thousand and artificially bred alligators have returned to the wild successfully. Wild horses and milu deer which once disappeared in the wild have restored their wild herds.
Unit Three  Effective Law Enforcement and Supervision of Endangered Wildlife Protection

China has continuously worked on its law enforcement and supervision to improve wildlife protection, including nature reserve and forest patrol, regular inspection and examination of breeding and utilization, wildlife tracking and labeling system, forest police’s special operation, zero-tolerance of online wildlife trafficking, anti-smuggling by the Customs, destroying illegal ivory in public, etc.
1. Nature Reserves and Forest Patrol

China's nature reserves and forestry administrations have built specific teams to implement regular patrol in nature reserves and forested areas. Daily patrol is assured in areas under their own jurisdiction. Entrances and exits of nature reserves and forested areas are under close monitoring, and special surveillance is put on the areas rich in wildlife resources or known for rampant illicit hunting. All suspected people entering nature reserves and forested areas are monitored in real time. All these measures are for the purpose of preventing, deterring and cracking down on illicit wildlife hunting. In the regions prolific of wildlife related crimes, the police and other administrations are called into cooperation as special preventing measures to reinforce filed patrol and safeguard wildlife in these areas.

2. Regular Inspection and Examination of Wildlife Breeding and Utilization

According to the stipulations of Law for Wildlife Conservation, Forestry Law, Regulation on Wild Plants Protection, and Regulation on Reproduction and Breeding of Wildlife, wildlife protection administrations of all levels inspect and examine the wildlife breeding and reproduction stations regularly and keep themselves informed of latest updates. Bringing wildlife of illegal origin to the market in name of domestication, reproduction and breeding, as well as maltreating wild animals is strongly cracked down on. Birds' wintering site, restaurants, peddlers' markets, and railway stations are inspected and screened constantly to fight against illegal breeding or utilization of wildlife, so as to create a favorable environment for wildlife domestication and breeding. The wildlife administration is authorized to disqualify a breeding station for its unlawful practice, and such institution may be handed over to judicial authority to face criminal charges when in severe circumstances.

3. Wild Animal Tracking and Labeling System

Starting from May 1st 2003, State Forestry Administration of China has adopted a unified “Special Label Management system for Wildlife Operation and Utilization”. Some enterprises involving the utilization of terrestrial wild animals and their products were chosen to be the pilots for the wildlife labeling scheme. The label
has equal validity with transport and selling certificate of wildlife and their products in wildlife administration. Enterprises dealing with wildlife are no longer required to hold approval documents for transporting and selling “labeled” terrestrial animals. Forestry or industry & commerce administrations may submit suspected cases to related agencies for the identification of the marking. Any entity or individual who fakes or replicates the label will be investigated and punished by forestry or industry & commerce administrations according to law. Up to now, the marking scheme has been applied to ten domains: Chinese herbal medicine, healthcare products, commodity, foodstuff, musical instruments made from python skin, leather products, specimen, ivory products, fur material, and living wild animals.

4. Forest Police Campaigns

The forest police have carried out a series of campaigns against wildlife related crimes. Strong measures are taken constantly to crack down on illicit trade of wildlife to safeguard wildlife resource. Between April 1st, 2014 and June 30th, 2014, the Forest Police Bureau of State Forestry Administration of China organized a nationwide campaign codenamed “Skynet 2014” to fight against wildlife crimes from the first link in the chain of wildlife trade. They are also making great efforts to address new types of crime such as online wildlife trafficking. Forest police all over the country have taken effective efforts to curtail wildlife-related crimes with all kinds of operations in respective regions.

5. “Zero Tolerance” of Online Wildlife Trafficking

Chinese government declares “zero tolerance’ towards online wildlife trafficking. In June 2012, the Forest Police Bureau of China State Forestry Administration joined hands with Network Security Supervision of Administration of Public Security, Conservation Division of State Forestry Department, State Endangered Wildlife Management Office and International Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC), held a meeting on online wildlife trade with participants from major websites
in order to strengthen network surveillance and reject online wildlife trafficking. A number of wildlife related criminal cases were uncovered in various regions. In March 2013, forest police bureau of Lanzhou Public Security Bureau solved an online wildlife trafficking case, with one suspect captured and a batch of wild animals under second class state protection seized including goshawk and saker falcon. In June 2013, the Forest Branch of Shenzhen Public Security Bureau, Guangdong Province uncovered “6.02” especially important serial cases involving online trafficking of rare and endangered wild animals. In this operation, seven major dens for illegal trade of rare and endangered wildlife were destroyed and 12 suspects were arrested and over 300 rare or endangered animals were confiscated including pythons, Siamese crocodiles and monitor lizards.

6. Anti-Smuggling Operations of the Customs

China Customs has strengthened entry-exit inspection and effectively curbed illegal entrance and exit of wildlife. In July 2012, Ningbo Customs seized 849 pieces of ivory products weighing 56 kilos. In May 2013, Ala Mountain Pass Customs subordinate to Urumqi Customs seized 719 Saiga Antelope horns. In June 2013, Jinan Customs seized 28 kilos of pangolin scales, and Manchuria Customs seized 213 bear paws. In July 2013, Hangzhou Customs seized 229 smuggled wild living rock cacti (Ariocarpus fissuratus), Jinling Customs seized over 6000 dried seahorses weighing 10 kilos, Jiamusi Customs subordinate to Harbin Customs seized 169 bear paws, Nanning Customs seized 5,326 Asia bullfrogs (Hoplobatrachus tigerinus), and Macau Customs seized 78 smuggled tiger teeth and 69 tiger paws. In August 2013, Beijing Customs seized 645 smuggled wolf skins, and Shenzhen Customs seized 147 smuggled wild Neotropical parrots and 422 tortoises. In December 2013, Xiamen Customs seized 185 Asian box turtles. In February 2014, Gongbei Customs seized over one kilo of smuggled pangolin scales.

7. Sheltering and Proper Handling of Confiscated Wild Animals

According to law, wildlife confiscated in law enforcement operations is an important part of wildlife resources as well as the state’s property. Any entity or individual shall not
grab, scramble for, intercept, share out, embezzle, swap, destroy or dispose of such wildlife and products thereof. A special account book shall be kept for the registration of confiscated wildlife and a person in charge shall be designated. The procedure of taking-in, checking, registration, custody, utilization, destruction and periodical clearance of terrestrial wild animals and products thereof shall be standardized. Photo or video records shall be kept when necessary. Living wild animals survivable locally shall be released to the wild for their benefits. Those animals which are not suitable for releasing to the wild or suffering from injury or illness shall be properly treated and fed, and be returned to the nature, kept in breeding station, or utilized for scientific research according to their recovery status. Products made from wildlife confiscated in law enforcement operations shall be sealed up or destroyed.

8. Destroying Confiscated Ivory in Public

China State Forestry Administration and the General Customs have worked together to destroy 6.1 tons of ivory of elephant confiscated in operations. China has sent a clear signal to the international and domestic society: China does not tolerate any ivory trafficking. This is China’s first time destroying confiscated ivory to deter illegal trade of wild animals. Mr. Zhao Shucong, Minister of State Forestry Administration, said that this operation is a strong gesture to show China’s consistent stand to discourage and crack down on illegal wildlife trade. This operation was also intended to remind law enforcement agencies of their duties and raise public awareness. The attendants of this ceremony included officers of relevant departments and embassy delegates of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Kenya, Gabon, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, India and Thailand, as well as officers from such international organizations as CITES and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and international nongovernmental organizations such as Worldwide Fund for Nature. On May 15th, Hong Kong SAR burned one ton of ivory, which is another example of China’s determination in combating wildlife trafficking.
Active education publicity has been established by the Chinese government. A series of programs have been held to popularize wildlife knowledge to the public, especially to children, by means of television, the Internet, and handouts of brochure, leaflets or Q&A booklets on special days like World Wildlife Day, Wildlife Protection Month, Bird Loving Week, World Wetland Day, and International Tiger Day. Other activities include seeking cooperation with nongovernmental organizations, inviting the public participation in protection patrol, having celebrities promoting wildlife protection with their social influence, encouraging adoption of wildlife and sending reminder message to Chinese citizens abroad.
1. Wildlife Education for the Public

1) World Wildlife Day

On December 20th, 2013, the 68th annual United Nations General Assembly made decision to observe the World Wildlife Day on March 3rd each year. March 3rd of 2014 was the first World Wildlife Day. In order to respond positively to the UN resolution and improve the social awareness of wildlife conservation, State Forestry Administration of China organized a nationwide World Wildlife Day campaign to provide information to the public on wildlife protection issues and legislation. The public were taught to tell the difference between legal and illegal wildlife breeding and utilization. Citizens were encouraged to conscientiously boycott unlawful actions and report violations of wildlife law. Wildlife conservation campaign was received and safeguarded by the whole society.

On March 2nd, 2014, State Forestry Administration of China and China Wildlife Conservation Association held a public service campaign on World Wildlife Day. Attendants included representatives from such countries as USA, South Africa, Kenya and UK, as well as international organizations such as International Union for Conservation of Nature, UN Environment Program, together with young people and representatives from various communities. More than ten thousand people signed an initiative: “When we protect wildlife, we are helping ourselves.”

On March 3rd, Endangered Species Import &Export Management Office held the first symposium on the World Wildlife Day when all participants from various governmental departments, embassies and international organizations exchanged their experiences and opinions on wildlife protection.

2) Wildlife Conservation Month

China has decided to hold Wildlife Conservation Month campaign in November each year, to concentrate efforts on the popularization of wildlife protection knowledge and raise public awareness of and participation in wildlife conservation. In 2013,
China Wildlife Conservation Association, International Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRFFIC) and World Wide Fund of (WWF) jointly hosted a campaign named “Ecological China; Beauty of Wildness”, and the “China Wildlife Conservation Month” with a theme of “Focus on Wildlife Trafficking” was launched at the same time. This annual event of wildlife conservation month is a new measure to draw public attention to wildlife protection.

3) Bird Loving Week

China initiated Bird Loving Week in 1981. The State Council approved the Regulation on Terrestrial Animal Protection, in which specified Bird Loving Week to be held for a week between March and May. Knowledge about birds was provided for the public with various publicity and education activities, such as Bird Loving Week Kickoff, academic seminars, photo galleries with ecological themes, setting up artificial bird nests, and distribution of bird loving posters. Currently, Bird Loving Week has become a well-known wildlife protection charity brand.

4) World Wetland Day

China held publicity and education campaign annually on World Wetland Day (February 2nd).

In 2014, Wetland Conservation Management Center of State Forestry Administration of China distributed “Notice on Carrying out World Wetland Day Publicity Campaign of 2014” to all the provincial wetland conservation agencies. Star Lake Wetland National Park in Zhaoqing, Guangdong Province celebrated 2014 World Wetland Day with a series of programs such as releasing “wetland knowledge Q&A”, learning about wetland ecology, watching wetland park promotion video clips, and calling for “green consumption”. Over ten thousand visitors participated in the activities and were well informed of the importance of protecting wetlands and constructing an eco-friendly homeland.

5) International Tiger Day

In November 2010, “International Tiger Protection Seminar” (Tiger Summit) took place in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The “Global Tiger Recovery Plan” was passed and “St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation” was released by the heads of tiger range countries. They appealed
for joint endeavor to conserve tigers and their habitats and decided to celebrate International Tiger Day annually on 29th July. On the International Tiger Day, 2013, “the International Workshop for Trans-boundary Conservation of Tigers and Other Endangered Species and the Strategy to Combat Illegal Trade in Wildlife” was convened and hosted by the Chinese government. “Kunming Consensus” was made jointly by governmental delegates from China and other 11 tiger range countries, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

6) Education Aiming at Juveniles

China attaches great importance to wildlife protection education for juveniles. State Forestry Administration of China issued “Implementation Guideline on Strengthening Young People’s Ecological Ethics Education” to all forestry agencies of the country. The Ministry of Education issued “Education program on Environmental Protection Education for Students in Middle Schools and Primary Schools” and “Implementation Guide on environmental Protection Education in Middle Schools and Primary Schools” and environmental education was brought into Comprehensive Practical Activity Program as an interdisciplinary theme. Committee of Experts on Ecological Ethics Education for Juveniles was established by China Wildlife Conservation Association, which involved in the planning and publicity of CCTV’s children’s program “Adventure in Green Fields”. They established constant correspondence with over 130 “Young Journalist Schools (of young
observers, young correspondents and young commentators)” as part of ecological ethics education program for juvenile. Symposia on ecological ethics education practice for juveniles were held and attended by school teachers and nature reserve PRs. Books on ecological ethics education practice for juvenile such as “Tracing”, “the Sigh of Life”, “Book on Ecological Civilization Education” were published. China Wildlife Conservation Association initiated the “Seminar on Ecological Ethics Education for juvenile of China”, the slogan of which was “Stepping into the Arena of Nature; Lighting up Children’s Dream”.

7) Publicity in Mass Media (Television, the Internet)

China has been utilizing mass media like TV and the Internet as a platform to promote wildlife protection ideas and broadcast wildlife protection schemes. Press conferences held by the Information Office of State Council on wildlife conservation was broadcast live on TV. During World Wildlife Day, Wildlife Protection Month, Bird Loving Week, World Wetland Day, the events were publicized in public media including TV, radio stations, magazines and the Internet. A series of measures were taken to provide education on wildlife protection such as exhibitions, photo galleries, bird watching, posters, on-site consultancies, returning wild animals to the nature, seminars, online interviews and public-interest advertisements.

8) Brochures, Leaflets and Q&A Handbooks

State Forestry Administration of China published “100 Q&A on Wildlife Conservation of China”, “the CITES Pamphlet”, and distributed free handouts of brochures, leaflets and Q&A handbooks.

2. Public Participation

1) Nongovernmental Wildlife Protection Organizations

China encourages nongovernmental organizations to participate in wildlife protection and management. NGOs are playing active roles in wildlife protection and management. Currently, a number of NGOs have been active and publicly recognized, such as China Wildlife Conservation Association, China Wild Pant Conservation Association, Chinese Medicine Association and Friend of Nature.
Founded in Beijing in December 1983, the China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA) is a wildlife protection organization with unique features. It now has over 778 provincial-level and prefecture/county-level branches with about 360,000 members. Guided by wildlife protection regulations and policies of China, CWCA’s major objective is to carry out educational and scientific activities, to promote academic communication and cooperation home and abroad, to raise funds for wildlife protection, and to conduct China wildlife conservation projects. In 2011, the “International Funds for Elephant Welfare” was founded by SWCA. It collects funds from traditional ivory-carving industry of China to sponsor petty-sum projects on international elephant protection. In recent three years, over ten countries and regions in Africa and Asia received funding of over $400,000 to carry out more than 30 projects such as “Strategic Study on Elephant Protection in Africa”.

2) Participation in Protection Patrol

China encourages the public to participate in patrol as new blood in nature reserves and wildlife protection. Upon training by the professionals, the interested citizen will join an official patrol team and experience a field patroller’s career, and s/he could also appreciate the beauty of landscape on the way. Currently, patrol experience project is available in Shanxi Qinling Panda Nature Reserve and Taibaishan National Nature Reserve. The latter has compiled a specific booklet on public participation in patrol.

3) Charity: Celebrity Ambassadors

China encourages celebrities such as film stars to be goodwill ambassadors for wildlife protection, so as to set examples for the public and arouse social awareness and enthusiasm for wildlife conservation.

TV star Zhang Jinlai (also known as Liuxiao lingtong) is designated “Charity Ambassador” by China Wildlife Conservation Association. Liuxiao Lingtong was one of the best known Chinese stars who played Sun Wukong (Monkey King) in mythology TV series A Journey to the West.

4) Adoption of Wild Animals

China promotes wild animal adoption as a channel for public participation in wildlife protection. In big cities like
Beijing and Shanghai, wild animal adoption has become common practice. In Shanghai city zoo, over half of the animals have been adopted and some large animals were adopted collectively. For example, hippopotamus which costs 8000 RMB yuan a year for breeding was adopted by 16 citizens. In Dalian Ocean World Aquarium, a Dalian Aquatic Animal Protection Association was established. “Children growing up with small animals” is the slogan brought out by Nanning Zoo for animal adoption, aiming at pupils and pre-school children as well as their parents. The zoo management would first organize families to join an activity called “Experiencing animal breeding for one day”, in order to impress the families with the joy of having small animals for company. Such activities could attract more families to animal adoption.

5) Sending Reminder Messages to Chinese Citizens Abroad

China is aware of wildlife protection education for citizens and expatriates traveling abroad. With the aids of telecom companies, all citizens arriving abroad will receive a text message: “Please do not hunt, collect and utilize wildlife illegally, nor purchase, carry, post and ship endangered species and their products illegally.” It is intended to help Chinese citizens aware of wildlife protection and dissuade them from involvement in wildlife crime.
China has carried out fruitful wildlife protection and international collaboration by involvement in and commitment to international conventions, by the participation in and organization of worldwide wildlife protection conference, by strengthening multilateral protection administration collaboration and joint law enforcement, and by the organization of international law enforcement actions. China has received international recognition and acclaim for its achievements.
1. Joining and Implementing International Conventions

China attaches great importance to international collaboration in wildlife protection, and joined the “Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)”, “Wetland Convention” and the “Convention on Biological Diversity”. China signed agreements on strengthening nature and wildlife protection collaboration with the United States, Japan, Australia, Russia and South Africa. China keeps smooth cooperation with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), etc.

China places great emphasis on CITES implementation and management, and law enforcement and capacity of endangered species protection has been improved continuously. Special agencies were established to implement CITES convention and to manage import and export of endangered wildlife with following efforts: 1) State Forestry Administration of China and Chinese Academy of Science set up departments for the management of international wildlife trade and scientific research. 2) China also made efforts to improve the legal framework of wildlife trade and implementing international convention. The “Regulation on Administration of Import and Export of Endangered Wildlife” was enacted to push forward the implementation of measures and policies specified in the Convention. 3) Wildlife management departments of forestry and agriculture administrations collaborate in maintaining and updating the “Catalog of Import and Export Wildlife Products”, setting up optimized licensing system of import and export of endangered species, and keeping wildlife transactions under close surveillance. 4) Academic organizations are also involved in the scientific study on endangered species and professional evaluation and supervision of large and significant species and the scientific action of wildlife management. 5) Multiple law enforcement agencies form a state-level team to coordinate CITES implementation and law enforcement operations of forestry, agriculture, the Customs, public security, industry and commerce and quality supervision departments. Law enforcers have received intensive training for cracking down on wildlife smuggling. 6) Various campaigns have been carried out to publicize knowledge about the convention to make sure wildlife protection and CITES implementation is understood and received by the whole society.

China is playing an active role in CITES operations and keeping smooth interactions with CITES member countries, the CITES
secretariat and other international organizations. China has hosted a number of seminars and kept good communication with the convention implementing departments of member countries on trade management and protection law enforcement of certain species. All member countries, international organizations and the CITES secretariat work hand in hand to strengthen the protection of endangered species, optimize trade environment, intensify law enforcement of CITES implementation, and protect various wildlife resources on earth.

2. China takes part in international operations on global wildlife protection

China attaches great importance to international attentions on wildlife protection and cracking down on wildlife trafficking by hosting a series of international conferences and high-level political dialogues and taking part in the discussion and formation of international policies on wildlife protection and combating trafficking.

Combating wildlife trafficking and strengthening international cooperation was written in “Leader’s Declaration” on 2012 and 2013 APEC summits. The 20th leader informal summit of APEC called for increasing efforts to combat illegal trade in wildlife and timber, to fight for sustainable forest and ocean ecosystem and to promote the protection and sustainable management of wild species. On the 21st informal leadership summit of APEC, leaders of all countries vowed to “combat
wildlife trafficking by enhancing international cooperation through Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) and other existing mechanisms, reducing the supply of and demand for illegally traded wildlife, increasing public awareness and education related to wildlife trafficking and its impacts, and treating wildlife trafficking crimes seriously.”

In 2012, State Forestry Administration of China held the “International Workshop for Trans-boundary Conservation of Tigers and Other Endangered Species and the Strategy to Combat Illegal Trade in Wildlife” in Kunming. More than 130 governmental officials, specialists and scholars from 12 tiger range countries attended the conference from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam and China. They released a statement entitled “Kunming Consensus”, calling for the international community to work on trans-boundary wild tiger conservation, combating illegal trade menacing tiger species and eliminating illicit demand for wildlife products.

In 2013, a high-level delegation sent by State Forestry Administration of China attended Sixteenth meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties and forum of ministers on combating trans-boundary wildlife crime. China also attended “Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum”, on which “the Bishkek Declaration” was discussed and passed. China participated in the formulation of “Urgent Measures for Protecting African Elephants” on “African Elephant Summit”.


Mr. Zhao Shucong, Minister of State Forestry Administration of China, delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the fifth-round of China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue Breakout Session on Wildlife Trafficking

3. International and Inter-regional Cooperation

1) China-US Cooperation

Since 2012, combating wildlife trafficking has become an important part of China-US cooperation. The fifth round of the Sino-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue was held in Washington, D.C., July 10th-11th, 2013. Under the framework of China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue, State Forestry Administration of China and US Department of State cohosted the “Breakout Session on Combating Wildlife Trafficking” in US Department of State. The two nations were committed to
the pursuit of more effective mechanism for cooperation in order to strengthen enforcement at the national, regional and global level, including enhanced cooperation among law enforcement agencies with efforts to eliminate the supply and demand for illegal wildlife products for the development of innovative technologies to advance such efforts and to strengthen international cooperation in wildlife conservation and protection.

This dialogue opened China-US cooperation on combating wildlife trafficking. To fulfill their commitment, China and the USA strengthened law enforcement on combating wildlife trafficking respectively by publicly crushing confiscated ivories and public education campaign of World Wildlife Day. The bilateral communication and cooperation between the two nations has been a significant step in solving the international issue of wildlife protection.

2) China-Europe Cooperation

China values its cooperation with Europe on wildlife protection and combating wildlife trafficking, and seeks to enhance multilateral dialogue with the European Union, Germany, the United Kingdom and France. In July 2013, State Forestry Administration of China signed a cooperation agreement with EU Department of Environment on the CITES implementation and the enhancement of sustainable global wildlife trade. This scope of cooperation has become a part of “2020 Sino-Europe Strategic Agenda for Cooperation” released at summit meetings. The two parties planned to have further discussion on the implementation of the agreement and to formulate policies and measures for combating wildlife trafficking.

3) China-Africa Cooperation

China attaches great importance to wildlife protection cooperation with Africa and has signed forestry cooperation agreement with South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Lesotho, Cote d'Ivoire and Congo. Special agreements on wildlife protection were signed with South Africa and Kenya. In 2012, China held “Africa Training Seminar on CITES Implementation and Wildlife Conservation”. More than 30 officials from African countries such as Kenya attended the seminar. Chinese companies involved in wildlife utilization were mobilized to donate 200,000 US Dollars to African Elephant Conservation Fund. Elephant Conservation Fund run by China Wildlife Conservation Association made contribution to the cooperation with African countries. China will hold more CITES implementation training seminars to strengthen the capability of law enforcement agencies in Africa.
In May 2014, Chinese Premier of State Council Li Keqiang paid a state visit to Africa. He visited Kenya’s famed ivory burning site at the Nairobi National Park and for the first time in public stated the standpoint and attitude of Chinese government towards wildlife conservation. Premier Li Keqiang said that China was strongly committed to protecting wildlife and would spare no effort in combating poaching and ivory smuggling jointly with African countries. His remarks indicated that China sought to enhance wildlife protection in good faith and was determined to provide any assistance within its capabilities to help Kenya build the capacity to protect wildlife.

Premier Li made a speech in headquarters of African Union and brought out “461” Sino-Africa cooperation framework. He said the implementation of environmental protection was one of the six areas of cooperation projects. He also promised to offer 10 million US dollars to protect wildlife in Africa and strengthen technology cooperation and experience sharing. Premier Li made a special address on World Economic Forum in Africa, saying the Chinese government would request Chinese enterprises in Africa to fulfill their social responsibilities and abide by local environmental regulations. Redwood or ivory trafficking had to be cracked down on. He reaffirmed that China would provide 10 million US dollars for protecting African wildlife resources and biodiversity, so as to accelerate the development of Africa. Premier Li and Kenyan President Kenyatta witnessed the signing of “MOU on Cooperation in the Fields of Forestry and Ecological Conservation” between State Forestry Administration of China and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya. According to the MOU, China and Kenya would strengthen partnership on wildlife conservation, combating poaching and wildlife smuggling and management of law enforcement. In “China-Kenya Joint Statement”, the two nations restated that “poaching and ivory smuggling would be combated and closer cooperation in the fields of forestry and wildlife protection would be assured.”

4) China-Asia Cooperation

China attaches importance to the cooperation with other Asian countries in the fields of wildlife protection and law enforcement. MOU on combating wildlife trafficking jointly was sighed between China and ASEAN wildlife law enforcement network, for the purpose of jointly combating wildlife trafficking. China hosted “China-ASEAN CITES Implementation Enforcement Session” and “Special Investigation Meeting on ASEAN Wildlife Trafficking”. China keeps close communication and cooperation with India, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia and ASEAN, so as to improve information exchange and capacity building of law enforcement.
4. International Law Enforcement

1) Operation Cobra I

Between Jan 6th and Feb 5th, 2013, led by China, an international crackdown on wildlife crimes codenamed “Operation Cobra I” involving 22 countries in Asia and Africa claimed a significant victory. More than 200 cases concerning endangered species smuggling were solved, with more than 100 suspects arrested and a large quantity of wildlife and associated products including 6.5 tons of ivory seized. China was rewarded by Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for its achievement.

“Operation Cobra I” aimed at fighting the smuggling of elephant ivory, rhino horns, pangolin scales, and skins of tiger and leopard. China initiated the plan jointly with Wildlife Enforcement Network of ASEAN (ASEAN-WEN). It received positive responses from wildlife law enforcement agencies of South Africa, the United States and South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network, and Lusaka Agreement Task force (LATF). Three wildlife enforcement agencies of China, South Africa and the United States were organizers of the operation and three international law enforcers including CITES Secretariat, World Customs Organization (WCO) and International Police Organization (Interpol) offered their supports and aids. Customs polices and wildlife administrations of 22 countries including South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the operation.
During the operation, more than 100,000 personnel from these countries inspected imported goods and posts at all entry ports in coastal or border areas and seized 42 tons of red sandalwood, 6.5 tons of elephant ivory and associate products, 1.55 tons of Tibetan antelope cashmere, 0.8 ton of pangolin scales, 324 pairs of wreath hornbill beaks, 22 rhino horns and four pieces of rhino horn products, 10 tiger skins, seven leopard skins and other wildlife products.

2) Operation Cobra II

China furthered its triumph of Operation Cobra II by another global operation codenamed “Operation Cobra II” to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking jointly with other countries in Asia, Africa and North America between Dec. 30th, 2013 and Jan. 26th, 2014.

Three wildlife enforcement agencies of China, South Africa and the United States were organizers of the operation and three international law enforcers including CITES Secretariat, World Customs Organization (WCO) and International Police Organization (Interpol) offered their supports and aids. Customs polices and wildlife administrations of 28 countries participated in the operation. Headquarter of the operation “International Coordination Team” was located in Kenya and Thailand, which was co-chaired by China and Lusaka Agreement Task Force. China sent personnel from Forestry, the Customs, Judiciary, Entry & Exit Inspection and Quarantine Administration to participate in the operation. China also transferred law enforcing staff temporarily to Africa, who organized lectures and sessions on wildlife protection and arrested an ivory smuggling kingpin.

During the operation, more than 350 major wildlife crimes were solved and 400 criminals arrested. Cobra II also resulted in the seizure of over 200 tons of rosewood, over three tons of elephant ivory and ivory products, over 10,000 turtles, more than 10,000 European eels, more than 1,000 skins of protected species, 36 rhino horns and other wildlife products. China alone solved more than 200 cases and arrested more than 250 criminals. Mr. John E. Scanlon, CITES Secretary-General, said, “Operations brought police, Customs and wildlife enforcement agencies of range, transit and destination States together to combat wildlife crime are essential.”
5. International Awards Received in Recognition of China's Law Enforcement

In 2006, the fifth “CITES Secretary-General’s Certificate” was awarded to Mr. Lu Chuan, director of the film KokoHili: Mountain Patrol, which brings to the attention of the international community the plight of the Tibetan antelope and the efforts to combat criminals.

On May 9th, 2013, China was awarded the 12th “CITES Secretary-General’s Certificate” in recognition of China’s prominent contribution to fighting wildlife crime. With the cooperation of the National Inter-Agency CITES Enforcement Collaboration Group (NICECG) of China, during two operations organized by China State Forestry Administration and the Customs General, more than 700 cases of illegal wildlife trade were uncovered; enforcement action was taken against 1,031 wildlife dealers involved in illegal activities; 13 wildlife-related criminal networks were dismantled and approximately 130,000 wild animals, 2,000 wildlife products and 147 wild animal skins were confiscated; 7,155 illegal wildlife stalls and shops as well as 628 illegal online wildlife shops were shut down; tons of information and posts involving wildlife trafficking were deleted. During the Customs Authorities Operation “Gateway Shield” organized by the General Administration of Customs, 313 suspects were arrested; 21 wildlife-related criminal networks were dismantled; 1.37 tons of ivory, 33 tons of red sandal wood and approximately 30 tons of yew timber and 876 horns of saiga antelope were seized. The CITES Secretary-General, Mr. John E. Scanlon said, during the two nationwide wildlife law enforcement operations, over 100,000 enforcement officers were mobilized. These operations were living textbooks for joint law enforcement in combating wildlife crime.

In 2013, CITES Secretary-General’s Certificate was awarded to “Operation Cobra No.1”, organized by the Chinese government.
Unit Six  Outlook on Protecting Wildlife and Combating Wildlife Trafficking

China takes a decisive stance on protecting wildlife and combating illegal trade. Facing the challenge from global wildlife trade and endangered species trafficking, China aims to make its best efforts to perfect its legal framework and management system, strengthen law enforcement and supervision, promote public education and participation, expand wildlife management capacity, better law enforcement and international cooperation, further the habilitation of rare or near extinction species and general conservation of wildlife and their habitats, and standardize wildlife breeding and utilization.

China aims to further public education and participation in wildlife protection and promote public knowledge and awareness of illegal trade and encourage boycotting of wildlife products of illegal or dubious sources. Incentive mechanisms are to be established to expand public supervision and policing of wildlife trade, thus encouraging the role of the public as contributor, activist, propagator, messenger and donor in wildlife protection.

China pledges to enhance international collaboration and exchange in wildlife protection and implement relevant international conventions and intergovernmental agreements on the basis of mutual respect, mutual benefit, mutual complementarity and joint protection. China pledges to further Operation Cobra and carry out regional campaigns against wildlife trafficking on a regular basis. More efforts shall be made to support African countries in wildlife protection and special funds shall be set up and relevant technology and equipment shall be offered to help construct nature reserves in African countries for wildlife species, enforce community supervision at governmental and communal levels, encourage renovation and upgrade, ease human-wildlife clashes and achieve sustainable development.