



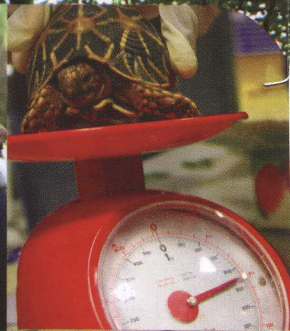
ASEAN-WEN

Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network



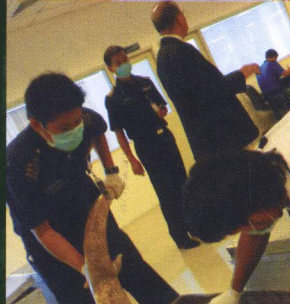
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What is ASEAN-WEN

ASEAN-WEN stands for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network. It involves law enforcement agencies of the 10 ASEAN Member Countries and facilitates cross-border collaboration in the fight against the region's illegal wildlife trade. The establishment of this network was first proposed at the CITES 13th Conference of the Parties in October 2004. ASEAN-WEN was officially



ASEAN-WEN and its National Task Forces and National Interagency Coordination Groups

ASEAN-WEN is an integrated network among law enforcement agencies, and involves CITES authorities, customs, police, prosecutors, specialized governmental wildlife-law enforcement organizations and other relevant national law enforcement agencies from across the ASEAN region. Each country is expected to establish and sustain a national inter-agency task force and cooperation models among police, customs and environmental officers. These task forces and cooperation models are the enforcing mechanisms of the Network committed to stopping national and trans-national illegal wildlife trade.

Law enforcement officers in national task forces and cooperation models receive trainings on patrolling, investigations, species identification and wildlife regulation and laws to improve their capacity and expertise in wildlife crime.



These are also responsible for stopping wildlife crime in their country and coordinating with counterparts across the region to stop cross-border wildlife crime.

What ASEAN-WEN is for?

Southeast Asia is a global hotspot for the poaching, trafficking, and consumption of illegal wildlife parts and products. The region's high biodiversity, increasing affluence and accessible transport links make illegal trade in protected species an attractive option for criminals. Drivers of the illegal wildlife trade include demand for timber (hardwoods and softwoods); rare plants; bones; scales and other ingredients for traditional medicines; pets and zoo exhibits; collectors' trophies; decorations and luxury items; as well as wild meat.





The illegal wildlife trade has already led to destruction on a massive scale, and threatens to irrevocably damage Southeast Asia's ecosystems. Part of the problem lies in inadequate law enforcement and coordination between government agencies. In order to effectively combat organized illegal wildlife trade, law enforcement agencies need to form an organized response. Under ASEAN-WEN, Police, Customs and environmental management agencies are establishing National Task Forces and crossborder intelligence sharing links to successfully curtail the illegal wildlife trade.



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ASEAN Member Countries recognize the need for more aggressive efforts to counter the multi-billion dollar black market trade in wildlife that threatens global biodiversity, endangers public health, and undermine economic wellbeing. On December 1, 2005, they launched the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN).

