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联合国环境规划署



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ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME MEDIA UPDATE

October 7, 2011

The United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP) provides an Environmental Crime Media Update as a free service for internal, non-commercial use by members of the SIDA funded MEA Regional Enforcement Networking project, the Asian Regional Partner's Forum on Combatting Environmental Crime and other networks and/or organisations that have shown an interest and follow environmental crime issues. The goal of Environmental Crime Media Update is to provide current news on a weekly basis on environmental crime. With the exception of items written by UNEP and occasional contributions solicited from other organizations, the news is sourced from on-line newspapers, journals and websites. [Disclaimer](#)

POLLUTION CRIME

[Dumping appliances, e-waste is a growing, costly problem \(Green Bay Press Gazette\)](#)

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[E-Waste: China is not alone in Facing a Serious Challenge \(Recycling News\)](#)

There is an urgent need to prepare developing countries for surge in e-wastes, states the landmark report "Recycling from E-Waste to Resources" released by UNEP. Sales of electronic products in countries like China and India and across continents such as...

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[Police produce smuggled black buck in court \(Indian Express\)](#)

From a chameleon being rescued from the airport to a black buck being produced in court, Wildlife Week (October 1-7) in the Capital has been eventful so far. The series of events has caused concern among activists...

[Vietnam joins anti-poaching rhino campaign \(Independent Online\)](#)

A pioneering conservation campaign in Vietnam last year made its citizens aware of the perilous state of Asia's endangered tigers. Now Nguyen Trung Kien hopes a similar effort will turn public attention in his country to the plight of South Africa's rhino...

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT NEWS

[China Customs kicks off 'Green Customs' training to combat crimes against nature \(UNEP OzonAction Programme\)](#)

Ningbo, 19 September 2011- Sixty senior Chinese Customs officers gathered today in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, to take part in the first national Green Customs Workshop in China, a four-day event providing awareness-raising and training on combating...

[PATROL training helps combat border crimes in Cambodia and Vietnam \(UNODC\)](#)

Bangkok (Thailand) - Rapidly improving infrastructure, streamlined border procedures and greater connectivity have helped create bigger regional markets and booming economies in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The rapidly increasing flow of people...

[OSCE Mission in Kosovo to discuss combating environmental crime \(MMD Newswire\)](#)

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo will host a one-day seminar tomorrow on environmental crime for representatives of Kosovo institutions and international organizations. The seminar is the first event of its kind in Kosovo to look at environmental crime...

[Thai Style Recycling \(Waste Management World\)](#)

Over recent decades the Thai government has made a concerted effort to improve the nation's waste management infrastructure and move away from the use of open dump sites. Policies that offer incentives to both local government and private industry have...

[Workshop aims to tackle animal smuggling \(The National\)](#)

ABU DHABI // The illegal trade in endangered and exotic animals is so lucrative that traffickers use smuggling methods that risk the animals' lives, experts said yesterday. Smugglers commonly sedate young animals and carry them on board planes in hand ...

Dumping appliances, e-waste is a growing, costly problem

Green Bay Press Gazette, 5 October 2011

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20111005/ADV01/110050420/Dumping-appliances-e-waste-growing-costly-problem>

There is a down side for agencies that accept unwanted items in Door County for resale: Sometimes donations are dropped off during hours when organizations aren't open.

Dumping — anything from a bag of clothing, televisions and refrigerators on their doorstep — is an added cost for nonprofits.

"We need good items gently used. But if your toaster doesn't work, it goes into our dumpster and then it costs us money," said Estella Huff, director of operations at Feed and Clothe My People and 14th Avenue Thrift Store. "Every week we have our six-yard Dumpster emptied. It gets to be quite a bit of money."

The 14th Avenue Thrift Store does not take large appliances, microwaves, TVs, computers, exercise equipment, in-line skates or ice skates. But Huff often finds them at her back door.

"If people drop that off when we aren't here, we have to pay to dispose of it just like anyone else," Huff said. "If someone has a washer, dryer or furniture that works and is free, we will post it on our bulletin board to match them up with someone who needs it."

Agencies are skeptical that drop boxes work. Devious people "donate" unwanted items they know the agency does not want. On Sunday, Scandia Village's Bargain Unlimited Resale Store in Sister Bay received a bag of clothes. Buried inside was a small television, store manager Bonita Jackson said.

"They leave everything on our doorstep. One time it was a big console TV," Jackson said. "That is not helpful to us."

An unwanted "donation" of that type costs the store \$30 to recycle, she said.

Matthew House, 7896 Wisconsin 42, Egg Harbor, had to dispose of two couches left outside, said their resale store manager Marilyn Beyer.

"They were nice couches, too." Beyer said.

Beyer said local governments do not have adequate hours and policies for residents who need to recycle these items.

"People need to get rid of it. They are here with second homes and don't want to cart it back to Illinois," she said. "Most are really good about donations. Wisconsin is supposed to have a recycling law. It's not working."

Law enforcement does get called for dumping. Taxpayers ultimately are left holding the bag — paying for both the recycling and the time and efforts of police reports.

Fines range from \$173.30 to \$1,000 depending on the violation that can be written for littering, disposing of garbage, illegal dumping, trespassing with illegal dumping or illegal disposal of hazardous materials, said Sturgeon Bay Police Lt. Investigator Clint Henry.

"No Dumping" signs are posted at all agencies and all also have signs posted that ask that donations not be left when they are not open. Most premises are under surveillance and there are cameras, but small nonprofits don't have the staff to review tapes and try to catch and prosecute offenders.

One option nonprofits suggest to get rid of electronics is Best Buy's recycling program. The closest location is Green Bay, but their stores will accept three items per household per day regardless of the brand and where it was purchased. They accept nearly everything electronic, including tube TVs and computers. The charge is \$10 for televisions and monitors, but customers immediately receive a \$10 Best Buy gift card good toward a future purchase.

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Tackling the EU's e-waste mountain

European Parliament, 4 October 2011

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20111003IPR28083/html/Tackling-the-EU's-e-waste-mountain>

EU Member States should be obliged to collect and recycle more discarded fridges, phones and other e-waste, said the Environment Committee on Tuesday. MEPs want to make it easier for consumers to return small products and harder for unscrupulous operators to ship e-waste illegally out of the EU.

The Environment Committee's near-unanimous second reading vote (52 in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions) concerns changes to the current waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) Directive. A plenary vote is currently planned for January 2012, to allow negotiations with Council.

"Collecting and recycling e-waste is good for the environment and good for the economy. Parliament's ambitious but achievable targets will help recover valuable raw materials and cut the flow of e-waste to landfills, incinerators and developing countries," said rapporteur Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP, DE).

Collection targets

MEPs say targets should be based on actual e-waste generated, with 85% to be collected by 2016. Council supports a 65% target based on goods going on sale, to be phased in to most EU countries by 2020 and the remainder by 2022. A flat-rate annual target of 4kg per person is currently applied.

Many smaller e-waste items are thrown away with other rubbish even though they contain harmful or valuable substances. To tackle the problem, MEPs say consumers should be allowed to hand in very small appliances to all but the smallest electrical goods shops for free. This would offer a useful alternative to the dedicated facilities that already accept domestic e-waste without charge.

Recover, recycle and reuse

Depending on the category, MEPs say 70-85% of e-waste should be recovered and 50-75% recycled. They propose a separate 5% reuse target so that more functional goods get a new lease of life instead of being scrapped.

Red tape

MEPs say producers and consumers should bear the costs of e-waste, not the general taxpayer. But more should be done to cut out unnecessary administrative burdens and costs faced by companies. For example, distance sellers should be able to report data to a central EU system, to avoid the extra red tape and expense of signing up for multiple national registers.

Illegal shipments

Large amounts of the EU's e-waste are being illegally exported to countries, notably in Asia and Africa, where processing may fail to respect workers' health and the environment. MEPs therefore want to shift the burden of proof to exporters to ensure their shipments to non-OECD countries contain only reusable goods, and no waste.

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Asbestos dumpers in Moreland do it in bulk

Melbourne Times Weekly, 4 October 2011

<http://www.melbournetimesweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/asbestos-dumpers-in-moreland-do-it-in-bulk/2312360.aspx>

ASBESTOS dumping in Moreland is raising health concerns and costing the council thousands of dollars.

Moreland mayor Oscar Yildiz said illegal dumping was "out of control".

As well as dangerous asbestos, about 3000 mattresses are dumped in Moreland City every year.

More than 1400 tonnes of rubbish, including asbestos, has been collected from dumping sites over the past year, according to council data.

Moreland has dealt with 52 cases of illegally dumped asbestos in the past nine months, with 12 cases in Brunswick. Eight cubic metres of asbestos material was collected from a Coburg oval in June, and four cubic metres was picked up from Coburg North in July.

Cr Yildiz said illegal dumping had to stop.

"It's out of control. When you get a truckload of asbestos dumped, that is pretty clear," he said.

He said illegal dumpers would be prosecuted and urged witnesses to report dumping details to council staff.

"While this has obvious environmental implications, it also hits ratepayers financially with the bill to remove the rubbish topping \$140,000 a year," Cr Yildiz said.

Popular items dumped include analogue TVs, tyres, lounge suites, tree cuttings and furniture.

Asbestos Removalist operations manager Pablo Bettinsoli, whose business collects dumped asbestos for Moreland, said while the frequency of asbestos dumping remained the same, dumpers were offloading in larger quantities.

He said this year his business had responded to higher volumes of dumped asbestos cement sheets in Moreland.

He said industrial areas were hotspots for illegal asbestos dumpers.

Slater and Gordon asbestos lawyer Margaret Kent cautioned people against attempting to remove, break or damage asbestos products.

"The recent renovation trend has increased the dumping of asbestos. While generally asbestos in homes does not pose a risk, asbestos products are very dangerous materials," she said.

She said tampering with asbestos products could release asbestos fibres into the air, increasing the risk of inhalation.

"This in turn increases your risk of developing mesothelioma, lung cancer and pleural plaques, not to mention other respiratory conditions," she said.

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National e-recycling strategy ignores export component

By Mike Breslin, American Recycler Newspaper

<http://www.americanrecycler.com/1011/1146national.shtml>

The latest major development aimed at controlling electronic waste disposal occurred at a press event in late July in Austin, Texas. There, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and major manufacturers of electronics signed an agreement to encourage certified recycling and support the best practices for end-of-life products.

To kick off the initiative, CEO's of Dell, Sprint and Sony and top officials from the Obama administration unveiled the "National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship." It aims to encourage electronics manufacturers to responsibly design, purchase, manage and recycle products to protect the environment and public health. By doing so, government and manufacturers want to promote electronics recycling through certified recyclers in order to recover more materials and create more new American jobs.



The new National Strategy also plans to promote the development of more efficient and sustainable products within the federal government. It directed federal agencies to buy, reuse and recycle electronics responsibly, support recycling options for consumers and strengthen the United States role in international stewardship. The announcement also included the first voluntary commitments by the three manufacturers to foster environmentally sound management of used electronics.

"Through a strong federal partnership, and coordination with manufacturers, retailers, recyclers, State and local governments, and other stakeholders, the actions outlined here will help address the potential health and environmental problems caused by the mismanagement of discarded electronics," said Nancy Sutley, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. "This strategy will encourage the recycling of these valuable resources and allow the United

States to take advantage of the economic opportunities of remanufacturing and create jobs of the future here in America.”

All of this is good, but there is something missing. No one is tracking data on e-waste exports from the United States or knows precisely how much is actually being exported, but government and most everyone in recycling industry knows it is a big, lucrative and largely uncontrolled business.

From experience, Jim Puckett, executive director of Basel Action Network (BAN) and the e-Stewards certification program claims that as much as 80 percent of United States e-waste is going overseas. “You can go out into the recycling community and they will tell you it’s about 80 percent of what is going into recyclers are being exported. Even though we don’t have an exact quantification, we have a lot of anecdotal data which cannot be ignored.” Other informed industry sources such as ISRI (Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries) estimates United States e-exports at 50 to 80 percent of total United States volume generated.

An e-Stewards certification, for example, helps assure integrity of recycling operations through an independent audit process conducted by accredited certification bodies. The standard is written for international use and operates under the framework of the Basel Ban, which prohibits the export of toxic e-waste to developing nations.

The 1989 Basel Convention is a United Nations treaty designed to prevent dumping toxic waste on developing countries from more developed countries. In 1995, the Convention was amended to ban the export of hazardous wastes for any reason from rich, industrialized countries to developing countries. The United States is the only developed country that has failed to ratify the Basel Convention and the Basel Ban Amendment. Because the United States has not signed up, it is illegal for 143 Basel countries to accept hazardous waste from the United States. However, the United States continues to export hazardous e-waste, in effect violating the laws of importing countries and dealing in illegal international trafficking of hazardous waste.

“We need to stem this tide right away, but unfortunately the National Strategy did not include that,” Puckett noted. “The EPA and the General Accounting Office (GAO) had a chance at least to do something for federal agency generated waste. We asked them to do that because the federal government is the single largest generator of e-waste on the planet.”

In a 2008 report, the GAO told the EPA it needed to better control harmful United States e-waste exports through more comprehensive regulation and stronger enforcement, yet little or nothing has been done. The report admonished EPA for poor enforcement of the cathode ray tube rule that requires companies to notify EPA before exporting them. In addition, GAO recommended EPA takes steps to ensure that the larger universe of potentially harmful electronic devices – such as computers, printers and cell phones are exported in a manner not harmful to health or the environment; expand hazardous waste regulations to cover other exported used electronics; submit a legislative package to Congress to ratify the Basel Convention; and work with Customs and Border Protection and other agencies to improve identification and tracking of exported used electronics.

Over the years some in Congress have attempted to do through legislation what the EPA has not addressed through regulation. The most recent proposal happened on June 23 when a bill to restrict exports of toxic e-waste to developing nations was introduced in the House (HR 2284) and in the Senate (S1270), with bi-partisan sponsorship. This proposed law would allow the export of tested, working used electronics, but prevent the exports of non-working equipment or parts containing certain toxic substances destined for developing countries.

“It takes laws to do things nationally for everyone’s waste, but with a stroke of Obama’s pen things can be put in place to responsibly recycle federal government electronic discards,” said Puckett. “They had a chance to comply with international law, but did not. It’s pretty glaring that they did not mention that it is illegal for most of this trade to take place. As we understand, that was pulled out by the U.S. Trade Representative’s Office. Certain factions within the Obama Administration have control over issues like pro free trade at all costs. Instead, the EPA said we are going to spend \$2.5 million dollars on gathering information. So all of their desire to create more domestic green jobs in e-recycling and have better control over this is undermined by the fact that they haven’t closed the escape hatch of exports. Until we do that there is no real incentive for anyone in this country to invest in high tech recycling and employ more people to do so.”

On the other hand, we can’t expect government to legislate and regulate every aspect of e-waste. Where there is a will, there is always a way to make a buck with unsavory disposal. Add the fact that most consumers and companies do not want to pay for certified domestic recycling, thus the large volume of exports.

As Americans begin to realize that there is a cost associated for the responsible disposal of their electronic gadgets and dire environmental and health consequences for not doing so, more people will insist that their discards go to certified e-recyclers.

In addition to e-Stewards, which incorporate the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System standard, the other main e-waste certification options are R2 and RIOS (Responsible Recycling Practices and Recycling Industry Operating Standard).

“Most serious recyclers know that they have to be certified, including really small ones,” said Puckett. “Certification is far from complete saturation in North America, but moving there very rapidly. Right now I think we are at the peak where everybody is taking the plunge. The debate now is should I have one or both certifications. For political and promotional reasons many recycler are doing both – a lot more companies than I would have ever predicted.”

John Knappenberger, president and CEO of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) commented on the growth of e-waste certifications, “Certifications have not picked up as fast as we would like, but as more and more municipalities have days where e-waste is collected; the word is going to go out to make sure the material is not going someplace where it is detrimental.”

ANAB is the United States accreditation body for management systems which accredits certification bodies to audit and issue certificates of conformance to e-Stewards, R2, RIOS, ISO 14001, as well as other management system standards and requirements.

Knappenberger provided insight about certification bodies and certifications: “Anybody can say they are an electronics recycler, but how do you know where the material is going? It could wind up in a dump in Africa or China. We certify organizations to live up to a set of standards and verify the fact that certifiers are working on the same process in the same manner. The only thing we sell is confidence. When you see an accredited certification mark you can count on the fact that we have been there, looked at the process and the process is sound. That does not mean some rogue business could not foul it up, but the opportunity for error is so much lower with a certified e-recycler. Working inside a documented process gives confidence to anyone recycling with them that they are, by and large, what they represent themselves to be – a reputable recycler.”

Recyclers become certified for various reasons Knappenberger said, “Like most of these certification programs they start out small. There is a vanguard of people who are zealots, the leaders, who believe in it, believe it’s a competitive advantage, the right thing to do and want to demonstrate it. The next group is the fast-followers. They look at it and say if the big guys are doing it and getting some play out of it, they want to get on the bandwagon, too. Then there are the laggards who feel they have to do it to stay in the business. And there are others who are looking for an easy way to get a certificate so they can play, but are really not into it. Getting the certification and then working at it are difficult. You have to want it.”

“It’s not about what the government does; it’s what the citizens want. In my mind that will drive it. If I want to find a way to dump my stuff in a landfill I will find a way to do it, even if I bury it in my backyard. If I really understand the value of recycling, not only from the standpoint of economics, but also the fact that I don’t want my kids or grandkids living in the cesspools these things create, I want it cleaned up. And I don’t want somebody surreptitiously taking a run out in the dark and dumping it somewhere,” Knappenberger concluded.

No question that a genuine National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship should include some form government intervention to curtail the export of hazardous e-waste, but a strong educational component addressed to the general public is also needed. If consumers, companies and jurisdictions begin to insist that their old electronics follow paths to certified, domestic e-recyclers there are many benefits beyond the global spread of hazardous wastes.

Rather than dumping used devices on the developing world, the United States has an opportunity to develop new hi-tech systems and processes to recover commodities for both domestic reuses as well as for export. Maybe then those much needed American jobs will be created.

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E-Waste: China is not alone in Facing a Serious Challenge

Recycling News (press release)

<http://www.recyclingportal.eu/artikel/27399.shtml>



There is an urgent need to prepare developing countries for surge in e-wastes, states the landmark report “Recycling from E-Waste to Resources” released by UNEP.

Sales of electronic products in countries like China and India and across continents such as Africa and Latin America are set to rise sharply in the next ten years. And, unless action is stepped up to properly collect and recycle materials, many developing countries face the spectre of hazardous e-waste mountains with serious consequences for the environment and public health.

According to UN experts the released UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) landmark report used data from eleven representative developing countries to estimate current and future e-waste generation, which includes old and dilapidated desk and laptop computers,

printers, mobile phones, pagers, digital photo and music devices, refrigerators, toys and televisions.

In South Africa and China for example, the report predicts that by 2020 e-waste from old computers will have jumped by 200 (2007 levels) to 400 per cent and by 500 per cent in India. By that same year in China, e-waste from discarded mobile phones will be about seven times higher than 2007 levels and, in India, 18 times higher. By 2020, e-waste from televisions will be 1.5 to two times higher in China and India while in India e-waste from discarded refrigerators will double or triple. China already produces about 2.3 million tonnes (2010 estimate) domestically, second only to the United States with about three million tonnes. And, despite having banned e-waste imports, China remains a major e-waste dumping ground for developed countries.

One person's waste, another's raw material

Moreover, most e-waste in China is improperly handled, much of it incinerated by backyard recyclers to recover valuable metals like gold – practices that release steady plumes of far – reaching toxic pollution and yield very low metal recovery rates compared to state of the art industrial facilities. “This report gives new urgency to establishing ambitious, formal and regulated processes for collecting and managing e-waste via the setting up of large, efficient facilities in China,” says UN Under-Secretary-General Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP. China is not alone in facing a serious challenge. India, Brazil, Mexico and others may also face rising environmental damage and health problems if e-waste recycling is left to the vagaries of the informal sector.

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WILDLIFE CRIME & ILLEGAL LOGGING

CITES extends trade controls to 91 precious hardwood species from Madagascar and Panama

UNEP in Europe, September 2011
www.unep.org

The Governments of Madagascar and Panama have requested the Geneva-based CITES to list 91 hardwood species in the CITES Appendix III, in an effort to curb illegal trade of timber by enabling verification of legal origin under CITES standards. The listing of ebony wood and rosewood species in CITES Appendix III announced on 28 September will help facilitate the detection of fraud and make critical trade information available to exporting and importing countries. CITES Appendix III regulations mean that all cross-border shipments entering Europe now have to be authorized by the issuance of a document certifying the origin of the products covered by the listing.

Madagascar requested the inclusion in CITES of five species of rosewood (genus *Dalbergia*) and 84 species of ebony wood (genus *Diospyros*) after illegal trade increased by 25% in 2009 and approximately 25,000 m³ of rosewood were exported. Rosewood, extensively used for high-end furniture, housing and musical instruments, is sought for its rich reddish-brown colour and hard wood.

Panama also requested the help of the other 174 CITES member States to control the trade in their national populations of *Dalbergia darienensis* and *Dalbergia retusa*, known as black rosewood or cocobolo. Commenting on the new listings, which will enter into force on 22 December 2011, CITES Secretary-General John Scanlon said "The global benefits of regulating trade in hardwood species will not only help to protect these particular high-value species from overexploitation, but will also have a key impact on the conservation of ecosystems. The international framework provided by CITES will support Madagascar's and Panama's efforts in controlling timber trade and ensuring that such trade remains legal and traceable".

Further information: Juan.Vasquez@cites.org

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Continuing rape of Perak's forests

By Himanshu Bhatt, The Sun Daily, 5 October 2011

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/167386>

SOME time in 2006, a sharp alarm was sounded over massive illegal logging and clearing activities in one of Peninsular Malaysia's richest and most sensitive virgin rainforests along the Royal Belum and Temenggor basins. These 130-million-year-old jungles are known to house a vast array of wildlife and indigenous tribes, including some of the most precious species to be found nowhere else on Earth.

What made the issue particularly painful and bitter for environmentalists – leaving aside the bewilderingly widespread apathy among the urban public – was that these areas were actually gazetted forest reserves, meant to be protected.

As pressure on the authorities escalated, with groups like the Malaysian Nature Society vigorously exposing the blatant intrusions by timber operators, it reached a point where the state government of Perak, where the forests are located, had to respond. But the reply seemed largely in economic terms.

The then menteri besar Datuk Seri Mohd Tajol Rosli Ghazali reportedly told the media that the logging in Temenggor could not be stopped because it was contributing to the country's economy, giving jobs to some 9,000 people. Amazingly enough, he went on to reason that there were actually premiums, royalties and taxes that were being collected by the government, amounting to as much as RM22 million in 2003 and RM26 million in 2004.

One can surely understand how frustrating it must have been to anyone who was at that time concerned about such a barefaced rape of our land's natural treasures. The plain fact of the matter was that these were reserve forests – officially earmarked for protection and conservation. That alone should have been enough to stop the plunder, without the authorities pleading economics in what was essentially a plain violation of the law.

Perhaps due to mounting criticism, Tajol addressed the issue again some months later, announcing that the state government would stop logging in Temenggor from 2007. But until today, activists still present evidence of continuing logging, unashamed and unabated. Poor

enforcement and management of Perak's nature reserves have even been highlighted in the Auditor-General's annual report.

One individual who has made salvaging the rainforests a personal mission is Meor Razak, a native Perakian who operates as a field officer for Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM). Meor has documented with photographs, numerous cases where protected forests in Perak have been encroached on and exploited, some so badly that the damage is irreparable.

Many of the jungle tracts have been completely replaced by plantations and roads, and now even house commercial outlets like roadside restaurants.

The situation may well leave some people gasping with helplessness. For Meor, the question is no longer how these lost forests can be brought back. They can't. "How can they be re-gazetted if the forests do not exist there anymore?" he has asked.

But there is a legal provision, under section 12 of the National Forestry Act 1984, requiring the state government to replace land that has been excised from permanent reserve forests. In other words, forests protected by law that have been logged, must be replaced with other state land gazetted as reserve land.

In addition, SAM recently urged the Perak government to declare its management plans for protected forests, including the Temenggor, which is classified as a permanent reserve forest, and with an area of 148,870ha, is the largest forest reserve in the state.

Other forest reserves identified to have been severely affected include the Tanjung Burong reserve in Manjung district, the Gunung Besout and Chikus in Batang Padang, the Chior in Kuala Kangsar, and the Bukit Merah lake reserve in Kerian. The Perak government needs to also re-gazette permanent reserve forests that have been de-gazetted, including the Parit reserve in Perak Tengah and Teluk Muroh in Manjung, SAM has said.

The denudation of our forests is as much a challenge to our humanity as it is an outright defiance of the law. But with the way in which exploitation and encroachment continues, one can't help but wonder if our succeeding generations will have anything significant left of these forests in the distant future.

Himanshu is theSun's Penang bureau chief. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

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Asia's Fight Against Wildlife Crime

The Beat Magazine, 4 October 2011

<http://beatmag.com/daily/latest-news/asia%E2%80%99s-fight-against-wildlife-crime.html>

“Too Cute to Survive?” Special Documentary Screening this week in Jakarta

In light of continued and recent seizures of endangered wildlife being smuggled from Indonesia to Thailand and other countries, a team of government investigators and NGO activists from Bangkok are visiting Jakarta this week to reach out to their Indonesian counterparts to find a way to stop the cross border trafficking. Highlighting the problem and providing background, the new USAID funded ARREST (Asia’s Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking)



Program is hosting a special documentary film screening on October 7th at 6.30 pm at Marley Signature Bar & Food in Jakarta. The event will include a special screening of “Undercover Trade” from the new National Geographic TV “Crimes Against Nature”, which features the visiting team from Bangkok who will be joining an open discussion on issues raised in the show.

A series of similar screenings are being held throughout Asia. The Undercover Trade episode follows undercover police operatives trying to penetrate a trafficking ring profiting from sales of the vulnerable slow loris. Slow lorises are small primates native to the tropical evergreen rainforests of Southeast and South Asia. Their survival is threatened because they are prized as exotic pets all over the world. Recent findings of a WCU Indonesia study on Jakarta’s Jatinegara market found that 150 – 250 slow lorises are sold there each month. The majority of those sold as pets die within a year of being sold, often because of mouth infections caused by the extraction of their teeth.

The task force featured in the film was trained by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) Support Program, led by FREELAND foundation and supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Southeast Asia is a major source of illegally traded wildlife, supplying a global black market estimated at US\$10 billion-US\$30 billion annually. USAID, FREELAND and an alliance of partners across Asia including National Geographic TV are continuing to build capacity and political will to combat wildlife crime as part of the ARREST program.

The event will be held at:

Marley Signature Bar and Food

The Energy Building 2nd Floor, SCBD Area, Lot 11A Jl. Jend Sudirman kav 52-53

Jakarta, Indonesia 12190

(for directions to the venue, call +62 2152961199)

For more information, contact FREELAND Indonesia Officer Nisa Chaerunisa via +62 812-10485838 or nisa@freeland.org

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Police produce smuggled black buck in court

By Jayant Sriram, Indian Express, 5 October 2011

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Police-produce-smuggled-black-buck-in-court/855865/>

From a chameleon being rescued from the airport to a black buck being produced in court, Wildlife Week (October 1-7) in the Capital has been eventful so far. The series of events has caused concern among activists, who claimed that illegal wildlife trade was on the rise in the country.

The Delhi Police on Monday rescued a black buck, which was captured from Meerut to be sold in the city, and arrested four persons in that regard. The animal was reportedly caught in Sanjay Van, Partapur, and the smugglers were hoping to get Rs 1 lakh from its sale.

The black buck spent the night in a shelter run by NGO Wildlife SOS, and was then taken by the police to a special court in Tis Hazari court complex. In its order, the court directed the investigating officer to house the animal in the Delhi Zoo until further orders were passed.

A week ago, the Wildlife SOS team had rescued an Indian chameleon from the Delhi International airport after being alerted by the authorities there. According to its co-founder Kartik Satyanarayan, the reptile was first seen through CCTV cameras near the Customs department.

“The smugglers had bandaged the chameleon’s limbs and tail. They were probably planning to sneak it through, but developed cold feet at the last minute and left it on one of the potted plants. We sent a team to the scene immediately and the reptile was confirmed as an Indian Chameleon, native to the Western Ghats,” he said.

Ever since the chameleon arrived at their shelter, Satyanarayan and his team spent a lot of time ensuring that it regained its strength. “It was very fragile and weak when it came to us. It basically feeds on insects, but the problem comes with drinking water. Chameleons do not drink water, they lick dew drops off the leaves of plants. So, we had to create that atmosphere over here,” he said.

The process of transporting the chameleon back to its native habitat in the Western Ghats is likely to be a long one, but Satyanaryan feels that such cases of smuggling need to be investigated more thoroughly by authorities. “This was a very professional job. They had taped the claws of the chameleon very neatly and were probably going to smuggle it out in some cylindrical tube. This just goes to show that there is a lot of smuggling of Indian wildlife,” he said.

In the past few days, the SOS team also rescued a vulture and an Indian Pangolin, which had lost a paw in a jaw trap.

An injured deer was also sent by New Ashok Nagar police to the Wildlife SOS shelter on Tuesday.

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Vietnam joins anti-poaching rhino campaign

By Sheree Bega, Independent Online, 3 October 2011

<http://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/vietnam-joins-anti-poaching-rhino-campaign-1.1149550>

A pioneering conservation campaign in Vietnam last year made its citizens aware of the perilous state of Asia's endangered tigers.

Now Nguyen Trung Kien hopes a similar effort will turn public attention in his country to the plight of South Africa's rhino.

"The tiger is very close to us in Vietnam because it's one of the 12 animals in our calendar," said Nguyen, a member of the Vietnamese embassy in South Africa.

"The campaign was good because people realised the importance of protecting the tiger and a lot of young people joined.

"People learnt about the tiger in real life. My son, who is four, asked me if the tiger was like a dog.

"I said the tiger was dangerous and could kill us, but I told him it was beautiful and must be protected."

But like the tiger, whose body parts are in demand for medicinal use in Asia, Nguyen said he realised any campaign that sought to stop the use of rhino horn come up against ancient belief systems.

"In Vietnam, people don't know much about rhino. But we have a billion people (also in surrounding states) who use oriental medicine and believe rhino horn is a treatment. It's a false belief, we need to tell them that, and that wildlife here in South Africa is connected to their lives in Vietnam."

Nguyen was among a senior Vietnamese delegation who met this week with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to finalise an agreement on wildlife protection and law enforcement – the core focus is the 311 rhino that have fallen prey to the bullets and chainsaws of international crime syndicates this year.

Fundisile Mketeni, the deputy director general of biodiversity and conservation at the department, told a media briefing this week that discussions with consumer countries like Vietnam would extend to China and Thailand, in a bid to stem the carnage.

Several Vietnamese nationals have been caught smuggling rhino horn out of the country. The latest case is that of Duc Manh Chu, who tried to smuggle 12 rhino horns through OR Tambo International.

"We know we have a challenge with rhino," said Mketeni.

"But we cannot only protect rhino. Tomorrow, it's elephant ivory. Our focus is on looking at the broader issues of wildlife, and the illegal killing of rhino."

Vietnam did not have a specific campaign around rhino poaching, explained Twan Cong Ha, the leader of the delegation, through an interpreter.



“We’ve been running several conservation programmes and campaigns. Our hope after these working sessions (with the DEA) is to come up with an (awareness) campaign for a specific species.”

Twan acknowledged that in Vietnam, the belief persisted that rhino horn could cure cancer – contrived, according to conservationists, by wildlife syndicates to fuel more profit in the bloody trade.

“Personally, I don’t believe in that statement or rumour. We have got a medical research institution involved in a process to verify if rhino horn can cure cancer, and we will make that public.”

But Nguyen said in Asia, oriental medicine had ancient roots that were trusted.

“In oriental medicine, you learn by experience.

“A thousand years ago someone said the use of a product could cure... people still believe that today...”

And it’s not just about the claimed medicinal values of rhino horn.

Nguyen explained that an Asian royal used a cup made of rhino horn centuries ago to drink alcohol.

“To get rich speedily, people use these cups to act like the king.”

The Javan rhino has virtually disappeared from Vietnam, too, said Nguyen. “We are also victims (of rhino poaching).

“Poor people get paid to traffic rhino horn. We need to prevent poaching at the very beginning and we need to stop the user from (holding) the false belief that rhino horn can cure cancer, which is wrong.”

Wildlife was under threat everywhere, he said.

“I went to a game farm and I looked through the binoculars at a wild dog. I thought ‘why do we need to shoot this animal, it is beautiful’, but people here in South Africa are killing them.”

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Madagascar holds concert against illegal logging

By JASON STRAZIUSO - Associated Press | AP – Fri, Sep 30, 2011/ Yahoo! News

<http://news.yahoo.com/madagascar-holds-concert-against-illegal-logging-163800198.html>

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Musicians in Madagascar are holding a concert Friday to promote a message against illegal logging one week ahead of an entirely different tea party-supported concert to be held in Nashville, Tennessee to support a company that had Madagascar wood seized from it.

The Madagascar musicians want to publicize the problem of illegal logging of rosewood and ebony trees on their island nation, where more than 1,000 trees a day are unlawfully felled in the Masoala rainforest, where the nation's renowned lemurs live.

"This is really urgent. As we know our forests are disappearing every day more and more," said Razia Said, a singer/songwriter and one of the organizers of Friday's concert, which organizers hope will attract up to 5,000 people.

The tea party groups, meanwhile, will hold a rally and concert Oct. 8 to support Gibson Guitar Corp.

The head of Nashville, Tennessee-based Gibson has said over the last month that his company is being unfairly targeted after an Aug. 24 raid by federal authorities at factories in Memphis and Nashville. The raids appear to be over the use of wood from India that is not finished by Indian workers.

During a 2009 raid against Gibson, chief executive Henry Juskiewicz said authorities seized guitars and "ebony fingerboard blanks from Madagascar."

No criminal charges have been filed from either raid, Juskiewicz said. Gibson has sworn statements and documents from the Madagascar government showing the seized wood was legally exported from that country, Juskiewicz has said.

Juskiewicz has publicly blasted the raids as an example of the federal government risking U.S. jobs with over-zealous regulation, and the raids rocketed up the political ladder when Juskiewicz attended a speech by President Barack Obama as a guest of House Speaker John Boehner.

The tea party groups also took up the cause.

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Vietnam to dispel rhino horn myths

By YOLANDI GROENEWALD, Mail & Guardian Online, 30 September 2011

<http://mg.co.za/article/2011-09-30-vietnam-to-dispel-rhino-horn-myths/>

A meeting between Vietnamese and South African government delegations in Johannesburg this week revealed that the Vietnamese were completely unaware of the scale of the horn-smuggling racket on its soil, a senior South African government official said after the encounter.

The Vietnamese had even cited statistics showing that illegal -trafficking in rhino horn in Vietnam was decreasing, said South Africa's deputy director general of biodiversity and conservation in the department of water and environmental affairs, Fundisile Mketeni.

Last week the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) revealed that South Africa had lost 297 rhinos to poachers this year. Of the 165 people arrested in connection with the crime, many were Vietnamese nationals.

Last month a South African magistrate sentenced two Vietnamese citizens to eight and 12 years in prison, respectively, for attempting to smuggle rhino horn out of the country. Vietnam's deafening silence on the issue has drawn strong criticism from conservation bodies. Traffic, an international wildlife-trade monitoring network, is deeply concerned about the role of Vietnamese nationals in driving the illegal -selling of horns. The network sponsored this week's meeting between South Africa and Vietnam.

The role of Vietnamese crime syndicates in the poaching scourge came under the spotlight in "robust" discussions, as did bilateral co-operation in catching the gangsters, said Mketeni.

"We're now sharing information. South Africa had its own statistics and this correlated with those of Traffic." By contrast, Vietnam's statistics indicated that the trade in rhino horn had declined. "Now that we've had the discussions and shared information, the Vietnamese are much more aware of what is going on."

At a press briefing after the meeting, the five-person Vietnamese delegation said it was important to share information and resources, especially the intelligence needed to combat poaching.

The monitoring the movement

One of the suggestions at the meeting, Mketeni said, was that all Vietnamese hunters should register with Vietnam authorities before they came to South Africa for trophy hunting. This would better equip authorities to monitor the movement of horn.

"Vietnam said it complied with Cites [the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora], but South Africa said that is not enough. They have to do more to eradicate crime."

At the same time, Mketeni said, it was important not to point fingers at the Vietnamese and create animosity. "We want to work together, but they have to deal with the culprits in their country."

One of the major issues raised was the false idea that preparations made from rhino horn could cure cancer and treat other illnesses. The five Vietnamese delegates denied that they believed in this myth.

But Nguyen Truy Kien, a councillor in the Vietnamese government, said that his government would have to conduct medical tests to show the Vietnamese people that horn did not have curative properties.

"This is the Oriental experience founded a thousand years ago. It cannot change overnight. We have to convince the people through our own research that the horn means nothing."

He said a campaign would be run in Vietnam to change people's attitudes.

Traffic spokesperson Tom Milliken said crime syndicates were making false claims that the relatives of -politicians and some celebrities had been cured of dread diseases using rhino horn.

"But once you follow up it emerges that no politician or celebrity ever made that claim. It's just a powerful marketing tool."

Milliken said that Traffic's research showed that Vietnam was the hot spot for rhino trading and that 171 Vietnamese had applied for permits last year to hunt rhinos in South Africa.

Horn was now being moved in the same way as narcotics, he said, with the same criminal elements involved, and Vietnam and South African both had to play their part in exposing the syndicates.

"People, rangers, are losing their lives. Yet wildlife smuggling is not seen at the highest political level as the same problem as that of smuggling drugs. We are only now catching up," Milliken said.

The next step would be a meeting with China, because there was -evidence that Vietnamese were smuggling horn over the border to its giant neighbour.

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China Customs kicks off 'Green Customs' training to combat crimes against nature

UNEP OzonAction Programme

<http://www.unep.org/ozonaction/News/Features/2011/ChinaCustomskicksoffGreenCustoms/tabid/56280/Default.aspx>

Ningbo, 19 September 2011- Sixty senior Chinese Customs officers gathered today in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, to take part in the first national Green Customs Workshop in China, a four-day event providing awareness-raising and training on combating the illegal trade of environmentally-sensitive commodities. The workshop, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with China Customs, the World Customs Organization (WCO), Interpol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Secretariats, under the "Green Customs Initiative," aims to enhance the capacity of Chinese Customs officers and other enforcement personnel to detecting and prevent the smuggling of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), toxic chemical products, hazardous wastes and endangered species, as well as facilitating legal trade.

The workshop, taking place in China, the largest international trading country in the world, will help to equip customs and enforcement officers with a knowledge of MEAs and the current global and regional trends of illegal trafficking of environmentally-sensitive commodities. At the opening session of the event, a Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and China Customs was signed to strengthening cooperation in capacity building in addressing environmental crime.

China is the largest importer of solid waste and a major destination of illegal waste. "China Customs has played a leading role in addressing illegal trade in ozone depleting substances and hazardous waste by launching a regional cooperation project entitled Project Sky Hope Patching," said Mr. Zhang Shigang, Coordinator of UNEP China Office.

"In terms of ozone depleting substances, China's production of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) accounts for 70% of the global production, and one-third of Chinese production is exported. Hence, efficient controls of imports and exports are vital and capacity-building and information exchange is of utmost importance. UNEP intends to further enhance cooperation with China to prevent illegal trade" said Mr. Ezra Clark, Green Customs Coordinator, UNEP OzonAction Programme.

China is also a major chemical producer and destination county for many endangered species and wildlife products. Therefore, the actions of Chinese Customs in addressing the illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities will have a great impact on the environmental security and the compliance of various MEAs not only in China but in other countries as well.

"China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) welcomes the Green Customs Initiative and commits to strengthen its control on international trade under various environmental agreements through international cooperation," highlighted Mr. Xu Wenrong, Deputy Director General of Anti-Smuggling Bureau of China Customs.

In this training workshop, experts from UNEP, WCO, Interpol, UNODC and the representatives of MEAs Secretariats will share their knowledge to build the capacity of the participants and to foster better cooperation between customs, the MEA Secretariats and their regional offices.

PATROL training helps combat border crimes in Cambodia and Vietnam

UNODC, 22 September 2011

<http://www.unodc.org/eastasiaandpacific/en/2011/09/patrol-fff/story.html>

Bangkok (Thailand) - Rapidly improving infrastructure, streamlined border procedures and greater connectivity have helped create bigger regional markets and booming economies in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The rapidly increasing flow of people and goods across borders, however, has created huge cross-border trafficking opportunities for transnational organized criminals in drugs, wildlife, timber, ozone-depleting substances and hazardous waste.

To fight transnational border crimes in this region, PATROL (Partnership Against Transnational-crime through Regional Organized Law Enforcement) recently held face-to-face training courses for Cambodian and Vietnamese officers working at key border checkpoints.

Held 24-26 August in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, and 14-16 September in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, the PATROL training sessions revealed challenges shared by both countries, as well as more specific areas of concern.

In Sihanoukville, Cambodian government and law enforcement officials urged the PATROL team to help them counter the tide of Cambodians illegally migrating to Thai farms and factories for work. They noted that these migrants were regularly exploited by their employers and forced to consume methamphetamines, often resulting in drug addiction.

"Training on border cooperation and transnational organized crime is not just desired by the border law enforcement community in Cambodia, it is actually highly demanded," stressed Pol. Col. Huot Sophally, Director of Planning and Training at the National Authority for Combating Drugs. "This is why we encourage continued collaboration between UNODC, the PATROL partners and the Government of Cambodia."

In Viet Nam, the PATROL team trained 37 officers from agencies operating in 5 Border Liaison Offices, including Border Army, Customs Administration, Environmental Police, Anti-Narcotics Police, immigration and the Forest Protection Department on new cross-border trafficking and smuggling threats. Importantly for the Vietnamese officials, PATROL provided them with a forum to cooperate more effectively across agencies and borders with their counterparts in Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR.

"This PATROL training seminar supports the efforts of the Government of Viet Nam to strengthen cooperation with neighboring countries to ensure peace, development and stability," said Pol. Sen. Col Nguyen Kien, Director of Standing Office on Drugs and Crime in Viet Nam.



Trainees during the pre-course test in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

To help border officials better deal with these complex challenges, the PATROL team brought participants up to date on the new trafficking and smuggling trends and methods used in transnational crimes, primarily migrant smuggling and the trade of illicit commodities. They provided instruction in how to respond to these crimes and underlined the effectiveness of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) and cross-border cooperation. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) concluded the Cambodia programme with a session on ethics, integrity and human rights that emphasized that effective enforcement meant respecting universal principles and international law standards.

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OSCE Mission in Kosovo to discuss combating environmental crime

MMD Newswire (press release), 4 October 2011

<http://www.mmdnewswire.com/osce-mission-in-kosovo-70106.html>

(MMD Newswire) - - The OSCE Mission in Kosovo will host a one-day seminar tomorrow on environmental crime for representatives of Kosovo institutions and international organizations.

The seminar is the first event of its kind in Kosovo to look at environmental crime matters. The aim of the seminar is to initiate multi-agency co-operation to combat environmental crime as an emerging form of organized crime, and to examine its municipal, Kosovo-wide and international aspects, such as illegal importation and disposal of hazardous waste, water and air pollution, illegal woodcutting, as well as gravel and sand exploitation.

The seminar will be attended by representatives of the Interior Ministry and the Environment and Spatial Planning Ministry, municipalities, Kosovo police and Interpol, as well as local and international environmental activists.

The Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Werner Almhofer, Interior Minister Barjam Rexhepi and Environment and Spatial Planning Minister Dardan Gashi will open the event.

Media are invited to attend the seminar opening on Wednesday, 5 October, at Hotel Emerald, at 10:00.

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Thai Style Recycling

Waste Management World

<http://www.waste-management-world.com/index/display/article-display/0054231538/articles/waste-management-world/volume-12/issue-5/features/thai-style-recycling.html>

Over recent decades the Thai government has made a concerted effort to improve the nation's waste management infrastructure and move away from the use of open dump sites. Policies that offer incentives to both local government and private industry have helped increase the country's recycling rate to 22%.



Shabbir Gheewala examines how the momentum can be maintained.

Like other developing countries in Asia, Thailand is facing severe problems in the sphere of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) management. In 2009, the volume of waste being generated in Thailand reached about 15.1 million tonnes - approximately 41,410 tonnes per day. Of this only approximately 3.3 million tonnes, or 22% were separated and sent to recycling centres, a rather small fraction as compared to the total amount of garbage produced. More than 20% of the MSW generated in the country is from Bangkok Metropolitan Area (BMA). In addition, there is the potential for an annual increase of 200,000 tonnes, resulting from a combination of factors including population growth, economic growth and tourism.

Before the 1990s, most of the waste collected from urban areas in Thailand was dumped in open areas. However, since then there has been a gradual improvement in waste disposal practices from open dumping to sanitary landfilling. And since then, recycling has become the second most common method of MSW management method in Thailand. At a community level, recycling offers local communities the potential to generate income, while diverting materials away from landfills.

Over a number of years the Thai government has been encouraging co-operation among various stakeholders to promote the 3Rs (reduce, re-use, recycle) concept in the country. The central government has also been providing technical and financial support to local governments in order to improve existing waste management systems in their area. In addition, guidelines, measures, and standards related to the 3Rs concepts are being developed and disseminated to the local community. As a result of all these efforts, successful recycling projects have been implemented in the private sector as well as local communities.

Private sector recycling

Recycling businesses are growing successfully in many cities in Thailand. There are also cases where recycling businesses have faced serious difficulties, especially due to price fluctuation of materials. One example of this is Wongpanit, a private sector waste-buying business based in Phitsanulok Province that has been expanding across the country. In parallel to this private initiative, a government initiative with waste banks collecting recyclables is also encouraging the active participation of elementary and secondary school students, teachers and staff, parents in a project to raise public awareness of the value of waste materials. Participants are encouraged to join waste sorting operations leading to the recovery of valuable recyclable materials. In many instances this waste bank program operates in coordination with Wongpanit.

Wongpanit purchases various types of municipal and industrial waste including plastics, steel, precious metal scraps, paper and glass for recycling into value-added products. At present, the company can handle between 200 tonnes and 250 tonnes of waste per day.

After sorting and processing the recyclable materials (particle size reduction and baling), materials are then transported. The price paid for the different types of recyclable materials can fluctuate with demand by between 1% and 25% each day.

Currently over 400 Wongpanit branches are spread throughout the country. The reasons behind the company's progress are successful networking with franchises, adhering to international standards, promoting the idea that local collectors should neatly separate wastes, setting up purchasing points which are convenient local drop-offs, and promoting further branch franchises, even overseas, thereby promoting international trade.

Encouraged by its success in Thailand, Wongpanit is extending its business to other countries in Asia, including Laos, China, Malaysia, and India.

Local authority sustainable recycling programs

The recycling rate in Thailand is progressively increasing due to efforts from both private companies and local authorities. One example of how the local government is helping Thailand to boost its recycling rate is in the Nonthaburi Municipality. Located 20 km northwest of Bangkok, it covers an area of 39 km² with a population of 270,000. The Nonthaburi Municipality is making a significant effort to maximise recycling and minimise waste generation through community approaches, public awareness and public participation. Nonthaburi has a strong policy to promote waste separation at source through public participation, and has expanded such activities to a number of its communities. As a result, waste recycling has risen from 22% in the year 2006 to almost 25% in 2010. Building public participation and awareness, as well as the strong political will of the local administration were deemed crucial to boosting recycling rates in the region.

At present Nonthaburi generates around 370 tonnes per day - 0.8 kg per capita per day. Approximately 90 tonnes of source separated recyclables are being collected by 38 small private companies. These 38 small companies have spread within the municipal limit so that people in the community can always sell source separated recyclables with less effort. The collected recyclables fall into five major categories such as paper, plastics, glass, aluminium and steel at 22.9%, 3.3%, 7.3%, 26.6%, and 39.9% respectively. These recyclables are being pre-processed (cleaning, size reduction, compaction and baling) at a pre-processing facility and then sent to various recycling facilities in different provinces by heavy duty trucks.

Particular attention is being paid to the separation and sale of aluminium, metals and paper since there is a possibility of earning a good income from such materials. However, a considerable fraction of un-recovered recyclables (87 tonnes per day), mostly plastics and paper (less valuable fraction), is still being disposed at the landfill along with the mixed waste stream. Changing public perception is therefore very important to enhance recycling and reduce environmental pollution.

A sustainable solution

Economic and social benefits should be taken into consideration when developing sustainable recycling programs. As far as the environment is concerned, the attractive point of such a recycling program is the potential opportunity for the recovery of significant amount of materials, which indirectly, reduces the demand for fossil fuels.

For instance, considering the composition of recyclables in Nonthaburi Municipality, which recycles 90 tonnes per day, the annual GHG emission reduction would amount to 151,120 tonnes CO₂ equivalent.

In addition, the current recycling activities would substantially contribute to avoidance of fossil fuel depletion through material recovery, with estimated annual net fossil fuel savings amounting to 25,580 tonnes of crude oil equivalents.

Recycling is also an economically attractive option since there is a potential of generating 11,300 baht (\$380) per tonne of mixed recyclables in Nonthaburi as net earnings. In fact, approximately 373 million baht (\$12.5 million) can be expected as "annual net earnings" from the existing recycling program in Nonthaburi.

This money is being distributed among the stakeholders of the process chain, such as the small companies collecting the recyclables, sorting facilities and recycling companies. Such financials prove that recycling activities would therefore be an economically attractive business in Thailand.

Furthermore, recycling can contribute to raising living standards of the community in Nonthaburi. At present, the sale of source separated recyclables (on the basis of 90 tonnes per day) is

estimated to offer an indirect annual income generation potential of 573 million baht (\$19.2 million) to the community. It is also estimated that 675 skilled employment opportunities will be created.

What is next?

Although there have been successful cases of effective recycling activities observed, still only 22% of the waste generated in Thailand is being recycled. The success of recycling mainly depends on the active contribution from the community. Initiation of effective source separation programs is a key feature of successful stories in Thailand. Thus, education and awareness raising campaigns are pre-requisites to ensure more widespread and successful recycling activities in the country.

Shabbir H. Gheewala is a professor in the Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand. Co-authors included Dr Sébastien Bonnet and Miss S. N. M. Menikpura, lecturer and PHD student, respectively.

The information was collected as part of the Integrated Sustainable Solid Waste Management project (ISSOWAMA) funded by the European Commission under EU-FP7.

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Workshop aims to tackle animal smuggling

By Vesela Todorova, The National, 3 October 2011

<http://www.thenational.ae/thenational/news/uae-news/animal-smugglers-are-making-a-killing>



ABU DHABI // The illegal trade in endangered and exotic animals is so lucrative that traffickers use smuggling methods that risk the animals' lives, experts said yesterday.

Smugglers commonly sedate young animals and carry them on board planes in hand luggage, said Dr Elsayyed Mohamed, the programme manager at the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

"Usually, the animals die, but because of the large profits, smugglers will take a chance in case one of them survives,"

said Dr Mohamed, whose organisation runs training seminars on how to combat wildlife smuggling.

However, alert customs officers can snare the most ingenious animal traffickers, said Mahdi Quatrameez, the head of wildlife enforcement at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan.

He gave the example of a smuggler who tried to bring rare birds into the United States tied to his shins, but was given away by the bird droppings on his shoes.

The two experts were speaking at the start of a five-day workshop in the capital for 60 police officers and municipal and customs officials at the forefront of efforts to curb the illegal trade.

Training enforcing officials is seen as key to tackling the issue.

"Most smugglers take the risk that they will not be inspected or the customs officer will not know about this," Dr Mohamed said.

The trade in rare animals and plants is regulated by an international treaty, the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (Cites).

Enforcing the convention is complex. It requires officers to recognise vulnerable species or groups of species, and there are different procedures depending on the degree of endangerment of an animal or plant.

Some animals may be traded across borders if their handlers have a Cites permit issued by the country of origin; others should not cross international borders unless they are to be used for scientific purposes.

Cheetahs and lion cubs, baboons, rare ornamental birds, houbara bustards and falcons are the species most frequently smuggled into the UAE.

The caviar of rare fish, reptile skins and items made of ivory are also traded here. Some of the smugglers find a market in the UAE with people keeping exotic pets at home and in private zoos; others re-export the rare creatures.

"The UAE is a centre for general trade and it offers infrastructure to promote trade. Naturally, they will attract a part of wildlife trade and part of it will be illegal," Dr Mohamed said. "We recommend more supervision and more inspectors to control this trade."

As part of their training at the workshop - organised by the Emirates Dog Breeders Society and supported by Abu Dhabi Police - officers are being taught to divide animals into groups. Primates and falcons, for example, cannot be carried through an international border without a Cites permit. The workshop will also teach participants how to validate permits, and introduce them to techniques that smugglers use.

"Smugglers always invent new things that make the life of a customs officer difficult," Mr Quatrameez said.

Law 11 of 2002 allows for the prosecution of wildlife smugglers and gives the Ministry of Environment and Water the responsibility of deciding which cases should be referred to court.

Dr Mohamed called on the ministry to do so more often. "Usually the items are confiscated, and that is it," he said.

Muna Al Shamsi, who works at the Cites unit of the ministry, said offenders were referred to the courts and there had been three or four cases this year.

NM, 36, an Emirati, was arrested at a Bangkok airport in May on suspicion of trying to smuggle baby leopards, a monkey, a gibbon and a Malayan sun bear in two of his suitcases.

At the time of his arrest, NM was accompanied by six men also suspected of animal trafficking, who boarded the first-class area of a flight to Dubai.

He left Thailand before a court hearing scheduled for May 30.

vtodorova@thenational.ae

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