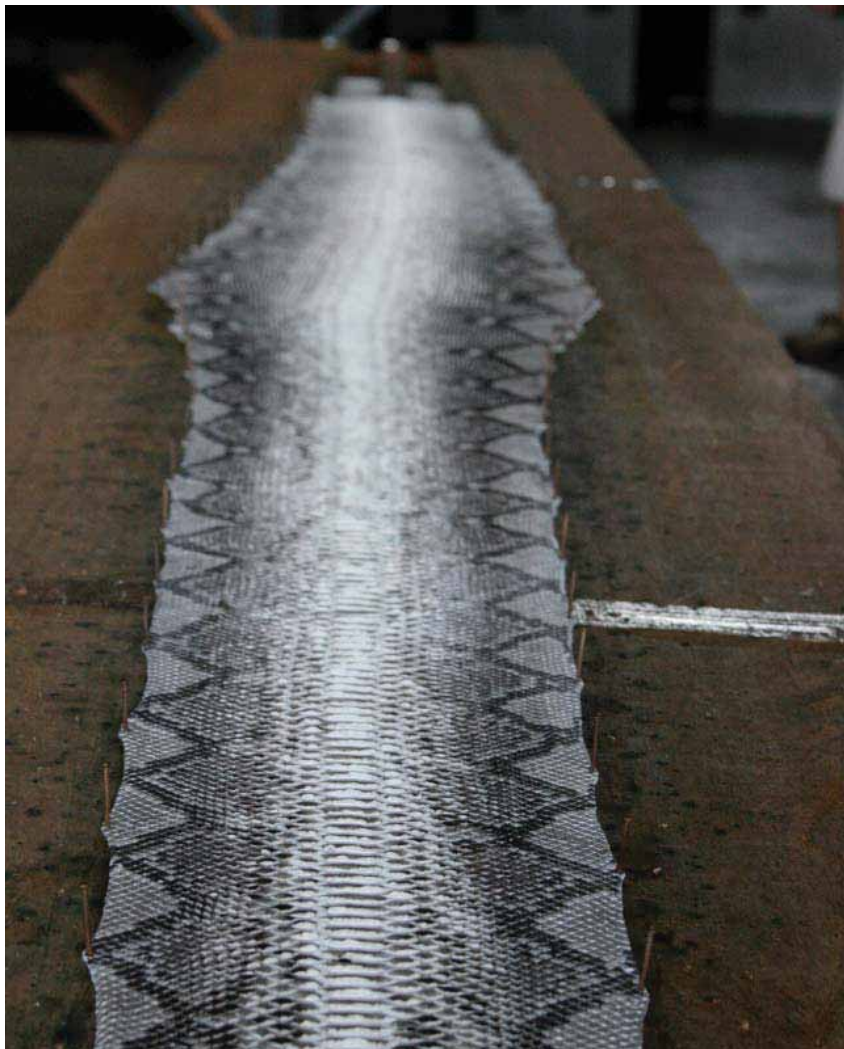


THE TRADE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIAN PYTHON SKINS



THE TRADE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIAN PYTHON SKINS

Abstract for trade information services

ID=42975

2012

SITC-211 TRA

International Trade Centre (ITC)
TRAFFIC International
World Conservation Union (IUCN)
The Trade in South-East Asian Python Skins
Geneva: ITC, 2012. xiii, 54 pages (Technical paper)
Doc. No. SC-12-225.E

This report describes the trade flows of python skins in South-East Asia and identifies the main points of value addition in the supply chain for the five most heavily traded python species – provides information on the regulation of python skin trade; analyzes the trade flows in python skins from key exporting countries in South-East Asia; gives an overview of the value chain of pythons; reviews welfare and sustainability issues regarding python harvesting for the skin trade; presents recommendations in a number of areas of concern relating to illegal trade, trade measures, sustainability and animal welfare; includes bibliography (p. 51-54).

Descriptors: Hides and skins, Leather, Endangered Species, South Asia, East Asia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Singapore, Viet Nam, Value Chain, Sustainable Development.

Citation: Kasterine, A., Arbeid, R., Caillabet, O. and Natusch, D. (2012). *The Trade in South-East Asian Python Skins*. International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva.

For further information on this technical paper, contact kasterine@intracen.org

English

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

ITC, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland (www.intracen.org)

Views expressed in this paper are those of consultants and do not necessarily coincide with those of ITC, UN, WTO, TRAFFIC or IUCN/SSC BPSG. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this paper do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the above-mentioned organizations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Mention of firms, products and product brands does not imply the endorsement of ITC, UN, WTO, TRAFFIC and IUCN/SSC BPSG.

This technical paper has not been formally edited by the International Trade Centre.

Digital images on the cover: © O. Caillabet and Daniel Natusch

© International Trade Centre 2012

ITC encourages the reprinting and translation of its publications to achieve wider dissemination. Short extracts of this technical paper may be freely reproduced, with due acknowledgement of the source. Permission should be requested for more extensive reproduction or translation. A copy of the reprinted or translated material should be sent to ITC.

Foreword, ITC

The trade in wildlife provides income to millions of people around the world, particularly to rural communities in developing countries. The trade is, however, characterized by widespread illegality and there is real concern about its lack of transparency and sustainability.

Many of the efforts to protect biodiversity lie within the context of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This agreement provides tools for governments to protect and regulate the export of species. Thousands of non-governmental organizations, foundations and communities are also working towards sustainable use of the world's flora and fauna. The challenges are great. As a result of growth in wealth, there is an increasing demand for wildlife products. Efforts to maintain sustainable management are undermined by poverty, smuggling and weak enforcement capacity. There is lack of transparency in the wildlife trade. Greater knowledge about how the supply chains work is needed to help find innovative solutions for combatting illegality and ensuring survival of species. The International Trade Centre (ITC) is therefore delighted to have had the opportunity to use its expertise to analyse the wildlife trade.

Following discussion with CITES, ITC selected the South-East Asian python snakes in our study of wildlife trade. These enigmatic animals have been the subject of trade between Asia for the European fashion and leather industries for more than 50 years. The python skin has become a classic and demand is growing. Starting out as a skin sold in an Indonesian village for US\$ 30, a python skin handbag from famous Italian and French fashion houses can fetch up to US\$ 15,000. However, experts have raised concerns about the conservation of these species. Furthermore, animal welfare groups have campaigned against cruelty in the transport and slaughter of snakes.

There is very little information available on how the python supply chain operates. This report is intended to fill this information gap. It examines in detail the flow of trade, the value-addition stages, the loopholes in the permitting system that allow illegality, the sustainability of harvests and animal welfare issues.

The report was prepared in partnership with the Boa & Python Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and TRAFFIC. I would like to acknowledge their hugely valuable contribution. This partnership has been effective in bringing together expertise from our respective worlds of conservation and trade to analyse a complex value chain. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the CITES Secretariat and Parties in supporting this work. ITC is grateful to the Government of Denmark for funding this study through ITC's Trade and Environment Programme.

The report makes a set of recommendations which is intended to support the CITES process, in particular discussions at its Conference of Parties in March 2013 in Bangkok. I also hope that the report will help galvanize fashion houses, regulators and traders to increase the transparency of the trade. Above all we hope that this report will help improve the sustainable management of this valuable species and so safeguard income streams for collectors and their families.



Patricia Francis
Executive Director
International Trade Centre

Foreword, CITES Secretariat

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) stands at the intersection between trade, environment and development and it promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. CITES recognises the aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational and economic value of wild fauna and flora.

The 176 Parties to CITES regulate international trade in close to 35,000 species of plants and animals – with international commercial trade generally prohibited for 3% of these species, and with international commercial trade for the remaining 97% regulated to ensure the trade is legal, sustainable and traceable.

CITES has been at the cutting edge of the debate on the sustainable use of biodiversity for the past 36 years and it has records of over 12,000,000 international trade transactions in its data-bases, and records are growing at the rate of 850,000 a year. These records provide a valuable overview of the extent of international trade and they provide wildlife users and managers with a unique tool to understand sustainability.

CITES-regulated trade involves a chain of interlinked processes and events that have an impact on the status of wild populations. The 'value chain' approach used in this study helps the reader to understand the formal institutional arrangements as well as the highly complex informal relationships between the whole range of actors and activities involved in the management, production, and marketing of a wildlife product. It also describes some of the relationships established between actors involved directly and indirectly in each stage of the chain (e.g. producers, processors, distributors, traders, regulatory and support institutions).

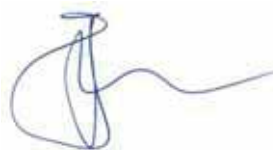
Trade in South-East Asian python has been regulated under CITES since the Convention entered into force in July 1975. With the exception of the Indian subspecies of the Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus molurus*), all species are included in Appendix II – being species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization that is incompatible with their survival.

The pythons of South-East Asia are not only an extremely important part of the fauna of this region, but also an important source of revenue for rural peoples in several countries. The Convention's scientific committee for fauna – the CITES Animals Committee – has carried out a number of enquiries into the sustainability of the trade in skins (and other products) that have been authorized in several of these species over the years. The South-East Asian Parties concerned with these enquiries have subsequently implemented remedial measures to put the trade on a more sustainable footing.

In order to ensure that international trade only takes place under the auspices of a correctly issued CITES permit, States Party to CITES have also taken measures to ensure all trade is legal. The relevant authorities have made many seizures of illegally traded specimens of South-East Asian pythons in recent years as a result of this effort. Constant vigilance is however required and in 2010, China and the United States of America joined forces to call for an examination of the conservation implications of the snake trade in Asia to consider biological, implementation, and enforcement issues. The fifteenth meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties agreed to this examination and the results will be discussed at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Bangkok, Thailand in March 2013.

In this context, the present study from the International Trade Centre (ITC) is a very timely initiative. Conscious of the need to provide our Parties with the most up-to-date information possible in order to make fully informed and well-founded decisions, the CITES Secretariat has provided support and encouragement to ITC to undertake this work.

I am confident that the results presented in this report will prove very valuable to the CITES Parties as they strive to refine and further develop policies to ensure that future international trade in South-East Asian pythons under CITES is legal, sustainable and traceable.



John E. Scanlon
Secretary-General
CITES Secretariat

Acknowledgements

The report was prepared by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in partnership with TRAFFIC and the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Boa & Python Specialist Group (BPSG), part of the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

The report was prepared by Alexander Kasterine (ITC), Ralph Arbeid (Consultant), Olivier Caillabet (TRAFFIC) and Daniel Natusch (IUCN/SSC BPSG).

BPSG is a global network of herpetologists and conservationists who work to understand and protect boa and python species. TRAFFIC is a non-governmental organization which is a joint programme of IUCN and WWF.

The project is funded by the Government of Denmark through its support for ITC's Trade and Environment Programme.

Support to the publishing process was provided by Natalie Domeisen, Isabel Droste, Jarle Hetland, Amanda McKee and Anne Thobie. Lloyd Blum provided assistance in the research.

ITC, BPSG and TRAFFIC would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for contributing their time and expertise in facilitating field visits, participating in stakeholder interviews or providing information used by the authors to develop advice to the structure and content of the report.

CITES Secretariat and authorities

Tom De Meulenaer, David Morgan, Marcos Silva, Juan Carlos Vasquez, Marceil Yeater (CITES Secretariat).

Bouaphanh Phanthavong (CITES MA, the Lao People's Democratic Republic); Syarifah Khadiejah (CITES MA/SA, Peninsular Malaysia); Augustine Tuuga, Silvester Saiman (CITES MA/SA Sabah, Malaysia); Nandang Prihadi, Irvan Sidik (CITES MA/SA, Indonesia); Fong Keng Lye, Gerald Neo (CITES SA, Singapore); Do Quang Tung, Nguyen Minh Thuong, Thai Truyen (CITES MA/SA, Viet Nam); Mathias Lörtscher (CITES MA, Switzerland); Bruce Weissgold (CITES MA, the United States of America).

Inter-governmental organizations, NGOs and researchers

Tomas Waller (BPSG), Noorainie Awang Anak, Claire Beastall, Steven Broad, Vicki Crook, Naomi Doak, Elizabeth John, William Schaedla, Chris R Shepherd, Richard Thomas, Sabri Zain (TRAFFIC).

DJ Schubert (Animal Welfare Institute), Karl Ammann (Independent), Bryan Christy (Independent), Guy Morgan (BSR), Mark Auliya (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research), Ronald Orenstein (Humane Society International), Dena Cator and Jean-Christophe Vié (IUCN), Claudia Schoene (Pax Animalis), Andrew Kelly (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), Daniela Freyer (Species Survival Network / Pro Wildlife), John Hutton, Alison Rosser (UNEP-WCMC), Professor Rick Shine (University of Sydney), Grahame Webb (Wildlife Management International, Australia), Eduardo Escobedo (UNCTAD), Renae Stenhouse (World Bank), Stuart Chapman (World Wildlife Fund).

The leather and fashion industries

Carlo Zaniboni (Esotica srl, Italy), François Taverne (HCP-Gordon), Jerome Caraquel (HCP-International), George T. Saputra (IRATA, Indonesia), Thomas Jost (Novalpina AG), Koh Choon Heong (Heng Long International Ltd), Dre Van Meer (PT Mega Citrindo, Indonesia), Holly Dublin (PPR), Liceno Malucchi (SISAT Farm, Thailand).

Further information on partner organizations and programmes

ITC's Trade and Environment Programme, visit: <http://www.intracen.org/projects/tccep/>

BPSG: http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/who_we_are/ssc_specialist_groups_and_red_list_authorities_directory/amphibians_and_reptiles/

CITES: www.cites.org

TRAFFIC: www.traffic.org

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_23023

