



AV 16.01.004.0021

10 May 2013

To Shipping & Logistics companies, Declaring Agents and Freight Forwarders

### **ADVISORY ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE**

Singapore is a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which is an international agreement to ensure that trade in wild fauna and flora does not threaten them with extinction. The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) is the designated CITES Management Authority in Singapore that implements and enforces CITES.

2 Under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act [ESA], all imports, exports and re-exports of CITES specimens would require CITES permits. In addition, transshipment of CITES specimens via Singapore would also require CITES permits from the exporting/re-exporting country and importing country (if the specimens are listed in CITES Appendix I ie. highly endangered). Under the ESA, offenders are liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$50,000 per specimen (not exceeding an aggregate of \$500,000) and/or up to 2 years' imprisonment for wildlife smuggling offences. Any person found abetting in the commission of the offence may also be liable for conviction under the ESA. In addition, companies implicated may be required to bear the cost of storage, confiscation, maintenance and repatriation of the contraband.

3 AVA has detected several cases of illegal wildlife being transhipped through Singapore. One recent case involved the seizure of 1.8 tons of ivory tusks from Africa. It has been brought to our attention that shipping & logistics companies, declaring agents and freight forwarders are often implicated in such illegal wildlife cases. AVA views wildlife smuggling seriously and would like to take this opportunity to remind shipping & logistics companies, declaring agents and freight forwarders to exercise prudence when accepting jobs from customers or companies, and adopt internal security measures to prevent your company and staff from being implicated in the smuggling of illegal wildlife, their parts and products. Please feel free to contact AVA at Tel: 6227 0670 or the undersigned at Tel: 6325 7290 if you have any further queries on this matter.

Yours faithfully

Gerald Neo  
Senior Executive Manager (Wildlife)  
Quarantine and Inspection Group  
for Director-General  
Agri-Food and Veterinary Services  
[Email: [gerald\\_neo@ava.gov.sg](mailto:gerald_neo@ava.gov.sg)]