



# Seminar Invitation



## Seminar on Strengthening ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) through Public-Private Partnerships in Legal Cooperation

Hosted by the Asia Pacific Center for Environmental Law (APCEL), &  
Centre for International Law (CIL)

Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS),  
with

ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), USAID-funded ARREST Program  
(Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking) & FREELAND Foundation

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**Wednesday, 30 May 2012**

**9.30 AM – 1.00 PM**

**Federal Conference Room, Federal Building, Faculty of Law  
National University of Singapore, Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259776**

**BACKGROUND:** Wildlife crime has become one of the most lucrative forms of black market businesses after drugs and arms trafficking. It rivals human trafficking in annual profits. Profits from poaching and illegal trade are attracting and strengthening organized crime and, in some cases, forest and marine-based insurgent groups. The extirpation of species degrades ecosystems and reduces their services as watersheds and carbon sinks. Poorly regulated wildlife trade also increases the risk of the spread of zoonotic infectious diseases. While not yet officially categorized as such, wildlife crime has become a national and regional security issue.

In response to this threat, ASEAN launched its own Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) in December 2005. Each ASEAN Member State (AMS) has developed a multi-agency task force (national "WENS"), which consists of focal points from CITES, Police, Customs, and, in theory, from the Judicial, Military and Transport sectors too. Between 2006-2010, a USAID-sponsored support program and the ASEAN-WEN Secretariat documented an 11-fold increase in major wildlife enforcement actions.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Leading ASEAN-WEN officials, government representatives from US and South Asia, conservationists, academics and private sector representatives will discuss collaborative legal support initiatives to protect ASEAN's natural heritage. The USAID-sponsored support program for ASEAN-WEN, "ARREST" (Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking), has been working closely with the ASEAN-WEN Secretariat and other partners to help address these gaps. A proposed "ASEAN-WEN Legal Support Program" would accelerate progress in strengthening ASEAN-WEN to more effectively stem the flow of endangered species moving out of and through this region. The Asia Pacific Center for Environmental Law (APCEL) of the National University of Singapore is facilitating this seminar to boost legal cooperation partnership in the field of wildlife crime suppression.

To confirm your attendance, please email your name, organization and contact nos. to [shirleymak@nus.edu.sg](mailto:shirleymak@nus.edu.sg) c.c. [pcu@asean-wen.org](mailto:pcu@asean-wen.org)

**(For all official observers and interested government delegates to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network, a bus will be arranged by ARREST and NUS to facilitate local transfers from Concorde Hotel – NUS – Concorde Hotel. Pick-up at the Concorde Hotel on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012 will be at 8:30AM, and return to Concorde at 1:15PM)**