

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Southeast Asia is world famous for its biodiversity, which human rely on the wildlife for food, livelihoods, medicines and status item. The geography which is quite extreme consists of mountains, rivers, forests and plateaus. It influences the religions, beliefs, practices and survival mechanism of Southeast Asian people. For example, people in highland areas with animist and lowland areas tend to follow the major world religions which are Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, or Christianity. Then, people in rural or remote areas have mechanism in exploit or use everything around them to survive. For example, people used tiger for luxury food, status item and ingredients in traditional medicine. However traditional medicine are ingrained and rooted in many Southeast Asian cultures.

Southeast Asia is also recognized as a global hotspot for poaching and trafficking of illegal and protected animal species. The increasing demand for tigers and tiger parts triggers illegal trade of tigers, because tigers are such a walking gold, worth a lot of money. Illegal trade of tigers has chain of trade, from hunting, to transporting, marketing and finally to consumer. Due to the nature and structure of illegal trade of tigers which complex, the chain of trade involves various type of actors and moves across the borders. The actors involved in sourcing, transporting, marketing are different. Illegal trade of tigers are involving

more than one country, they can become the source, the transit, the consumer or mix of them.

The chain of trade is mobile and dynamic and their location shift over time in response to availability and demand. Smuggling methods and routes also shift and adapt to avoid detection and traffickers exploit weak wildlife enforcement and a general lack of knowledge and capacity to identify the wildlife such as tigers. Transnational organized group control this chain of trade and they are well organized as criminal syndicates dealing in drugs and human trafficking.

The lack of capacity, awareness of laws towards illegal wildlife trade and cooperation among countries made this transnational organized crime continues. As combating illegal trade of tigers is complex matter like another transnational organized crime such as drugs and human trafficking, it requires comprehensive and coordinated response.

Illegal trade of tigers which continues done by transnational organized criminal group has threatened Southeast Asia's biodiversity. The decline of tiger population is inevitable and has affected on the degradation of ecosystem, in ecosystem there are specific organism which help to support the entire system in a particular powerful way. If this particular organism is removed or declined, the other organism in the ecosystem will be dramatically affected. This type of organism refers to a keystone species. Tigers as keystone species in the ecosystem limiting herbivore numbers so that they will not over populated and use too many resources within ecosystem.

ASEAN WEN is a one step of the right decision in establishing the basis for coordinated action in wildlife law enforcement. Cooperation in ASEAN WEN is needed in combating the illegal trade of tigers in Southeast Asia, because ASEAN countries need to work together in WEN in intelligence gathering and sharing, and greater inter-agencies cooperation. WEN is a crucial tool in combating the illegal trade of tigers by bolster cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies in national level and regional level by creating task forces. Those are part or the agreement by governments of ASEAN member states that agreed to allocate necessary financial and human resources and to collaborate in cross-borders cooperation. However it shows that political will and support from governments are needed. Through this WEN, ASEAN countries have increased their coordination and cooperation among law enforcement agencies at disrupting the chain of trade in order to combat the illegal trade of tigers that controlled by transnational organized group.

Then effective international cooperation is based on good cooperation among different law enforcement officers within each country and with their neighborhood. Then basically effective cooperation is driven by trust and in maintaining effective cooperation is based on trust and interpersonal communication. Therefore ASEAN WEN Support Program, by investigation training aims to build trust among law enforcement officers through direct and real-time communication and sharing information. Also increased the investigations capacity to keep pace with criminal syndicates which constantly changing tactics and use creative methods to avoid detection.

Then legal training aims to raise awareness among judiciary and prosecutors about the seriousness of illegal trade of tigers and examines legal tools available to successfully prosecute the criminals. Investigations and arrests must also lead to successful prosecution and appropriate sentences. ASEAN WEN through this Support Program has inspired some member states to implement the CITES objective by amend their domestic laws in order to effectively address the illegal trade of endangered animal species.

From 2001-2004, there was still lack of information being shared and effectivity of enforcement toward the illegal trade of tigers. It can be seen from the reported seizures of Tigers in 11 tigers range country was in the low level.

Effective international cooperation and enforcement driven by trust and starts with a good understanding. The absence of trust resulted in information not being shared and lack of cooperation and capability hindered the effective enforcement.

ASEAN WEN provides mechanism for coordinated and comprehensive action in combating the illegal trade of Tigers. The risk of getting caught increase significantly and seizures and arrest followed up by swift prosecution and adequate sentences which reflecting the seriousness of crimes against Tigers. These resulted in a notable increase in the reported seizures of Tigers since 2005. So, the high number of seizures indicates the effective enforcement of ASEAN WEN to reduce the illegal trade of Tigers.