

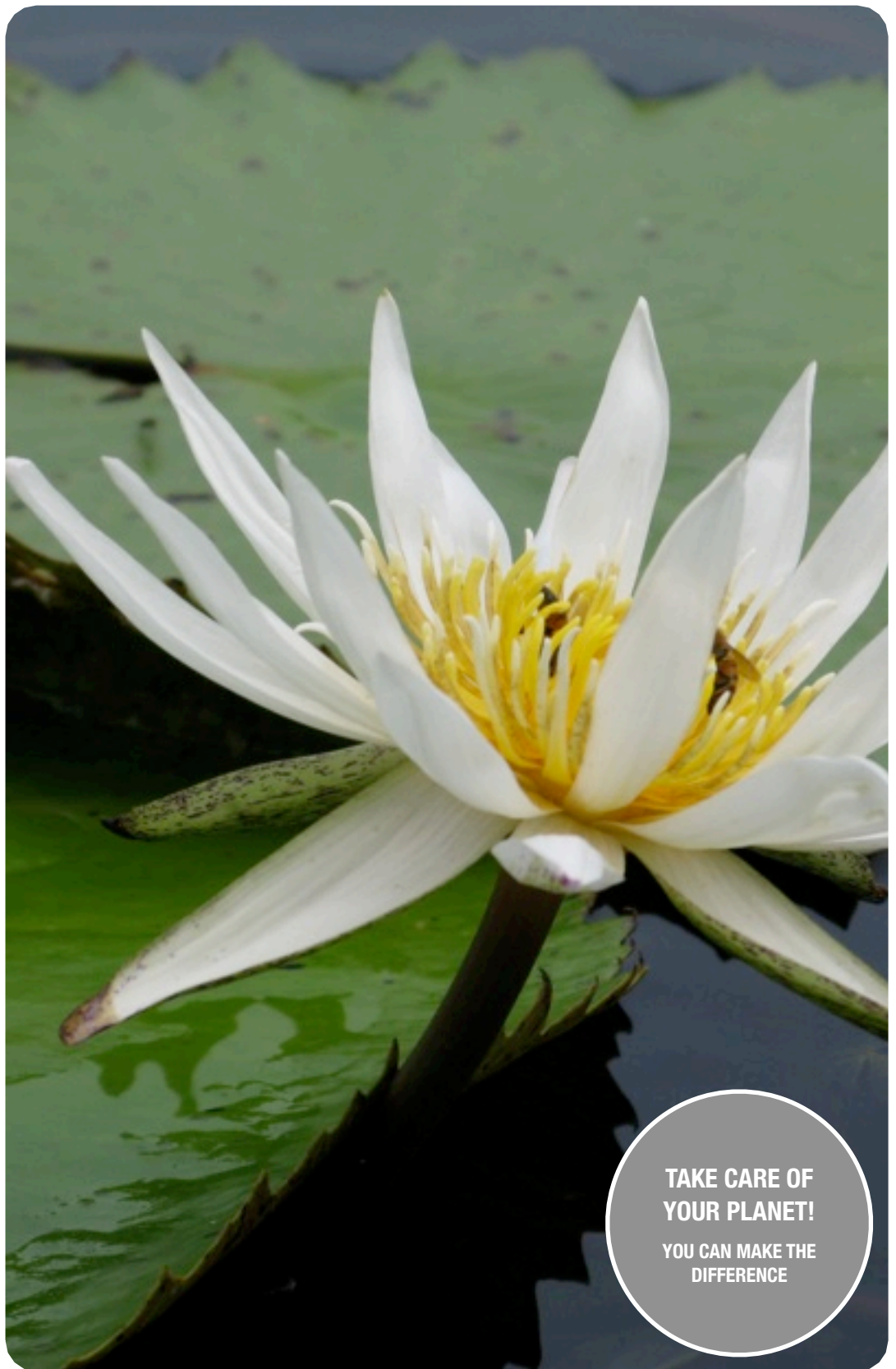
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**WILDLIFE  
TRADE**

**IN  
ASIA**

**AND  
THE  
WORLD**



**TAKE CARE OF  
YOUR PLANET!**

**YOU CAN MAKE THE  
DIFFERENCE**

### **WILDLIFE TRADE**

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is a practice of medicine rooted in more than 3,000 years of Chinese history and culture. TCM uses natural ingredients

derived from plants and animals. Since more people in China can afford to buy these medicines, consumption increased. The international conservation community is

increasingly concerned about the use of parts and products from threatened, endangered, or protected species in traditional Chinese medicine.

# CITES



## WHAT IS CITES?

CITES is the Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species. This worldwide biodiversity treaty regulates the trade of endangered species and products of it. The treaty is signed by almost 180 countries. More than 30,000 protected species of plants and animals are regulated by permits and certificates.

**Rhinoceros** and Saiga antelope horns, **tiger** and leopard bones, musk glands from musk deer, bear gallbladders, fur seal bacula (penis bone), and American ginseng roots are some prominent examples of parts and products from endangered, threatened, or protected species that are **used in traditional Chinese medicines (TCM)**.

**Moreover, traditional medicines also include in less extend sea lions; macaques; pangolins; crocodiles; green sea turtles; freshwater turtles; tortoises; water monitor lizards; cobras; ratsnakes; and giant clams.**

## Growing demand

Human population growth has led to increased consumption of certain plants and animals, and reduced habitat for many species. Tigers and rhinoceros are of greatest concern among conservationists. Although China had success reducing the demand for tiger bones; a significant black market continues to exist. An estimated 4,000 tigers are being raised in “tiger” farms in China to supply the Chinese medicine trade in violation of the CITES agreement which prohibits such acts. An [investigation](#) shows that these tiger farms also brings the species quicker to extinction. Meanwhile illegal poaching of rhinoceros continues untill today.

## Worldwide decline of biodiversity

Harvesting many endangered species does not only threat the survival of these species but also the on the overall health status of the majority of people living in this [region](#). There is a link between the growing demand and decline of certain plant and animal species. Some species in Africa show rapid decline in populations. There is no evidence that this is caused by China’s growing demand. Neither it shows a direct link of the country’s shift to other endangered species. Tiger bones are replaced by lion bones; dugons for turtles; and wild ass for antelopes. Although, there is a correlation in the period when China got active in these African countries and the decline of certain species, such as rhinoceros.

## How we can help?

Controlling trade and prohibiting international trade in many animal and plant species is needed. International custom co-operated to create a TCM [identification guide](#). This guide assists law enforcers to determine which medicines and ingredients are legal or illegal. Consumers can help eliminate the demand for medicines made from endangered species parts and products by refusing to buy such medicines, or by insisting on substitutes made from non-endangered species.



**Once living,  
now dead meat**