

Tues, 16 Apr 2024 | 10 am | DBS Conference Room 1

Hosted by Prof Koh Lian Pin

# Stories of tusks, scales and fury - fighting illegal trade and mobilising youth



**By Adrian Loo**

*NParks Fellow, National Parks Board, Singapore*

## **About the Speaker**

*Adrian graduated from the National University of Singapore (NUS) studying palms in the montane forests of Peninsular Malaysia and was a post-doc in Kew Gardens and NUS on an LKY Post-doctoral Fellowship. As NPark's Group Director for Wildlife Management and Senior Director for Community Projects, he led a division to reduce human-wildlife conflicts through science-based management, education and community stewardship. Working with international partners, he led efforts in fighting illegal wildlife trade. As Senior Director for Community Projects, he led stakeholder-engagement in the One Million Trees movement in Singapore to plant native trees to enhance well-being, and as Nature-based Solutions. He continues to work with the Centre for Wildlife Forensics at NParks, recently set up to combat illegal wildlife trade. He is the mentor for the CITES Global Youth Network engaging youth in the protection of endangered species from unsustainable trade and illegal wildlife trade.*

In 2019, NParks took on the role as the country's CITES Management Agency. It was also the year where record-breaking seizures of pangolin scales (est. 37.5 tonnes valued at \$152.5 million) were made, followed by a seizure of elephant tusks (est. 8.8 tonnes valued at \$17.6 million). These came from an estimated 40,000 pangolins and 300 elephants and were enroute to Vietnam from Central and West Africa. These successful enforcement efforts enhanced our capacity in fighting illegal wildlife trade. A National Centre for Wildlife Forensics, and K-9 unit were set up; active enforcements were carried out locally, and at our borders. We participated actively at the Convention of Parties at CITES, uplisted endangered birds, amended the Endangered Species Act and Wildlife Act. Our enforcement insights showed that education and developing conservation leadership and networks will be a future game changer. Today, Singapore, working closely with the CITES Secretariat, is building up a CITES Global Youth Network to build leadership and capacity for the future sustainability and effective enforcement networks.