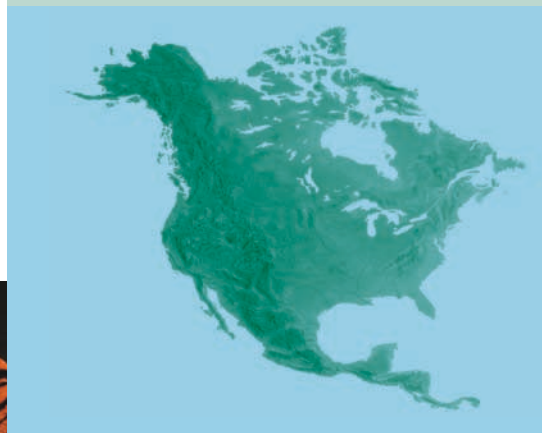


# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



Volume 5 • Number 1 • May 2006

## STRENGTHENING WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY IN MEXICO

**M**exico is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world. Home to at least 10 percent of the known terrestrial species on the planet, 50-60 percent of its species are endemic. However, Mexico is undergoing significant alteration to its natural ecosystems, which presents a serious risk to existing biological resources. Major threats to the biodiversity in Mexico are deforestation, habitat fragmentation and species overexploitation. Of particular concern is the national and international unsustainable use and trade in wildlife. Unfortunately, wildlife law enforcement authorities lack sufficient resources and training to effectively address problems. Additionally, wildlife law enforcement personnel and tools are scarce, which results in limited impact, despite concerted efforts.

TRAFFIC North America, with the support of the Global Opportunities Fund of the United Kingdom and in close collaboration with the Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA), has recently started a three-year project that will address

some of the enforcement limitations in Mexico. This project aims to strengthen the capacities of authorities in charge of enforcing wildlife related laws and regulations in Mexico, with an emphasis on wildlife trade and the implementation of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). In September 2005, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed by PROFEPA, WWF Mexico and TRAFFIC North America, which focused on capacity building, information sharing and public outreach. This wildlife enforcement capacity building project is one component of the Memorandum of Agreement.

*continued on page 2*



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Representatives from TRAFFIC North America, PROFEPA and WWF Mexico gather in September 2005 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding focused on enhancing wildlife law enforcement capacity.

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Photo collage: (l. to r.) scarlet macaw, Howard Buffett; bull shark, WWF/Sylvia Earle; hawksbill turtle, Anja C. Burns; American black bear, Howard Buffett; fishhook cactus, J. Atchley; tiger, WWF/Martin Harvey.

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The General Directorate of Ports, Airports and Borders as well as other sections of PROFEPA, are supported by TRAFFIC North America on the design, development and implementation of training curricula and workshops for field and administrative staff responsible for the implementation of wildlife use and trade laws. TRAFFIC North America expects to provide specialized training through workshops and courses in priority topics to at least 60 percent of all wildlife inspectors from the different regions of Mexico, and to distribute training materials developed to key enforcement authorities at the national level.

This wildlife enforcement capacity building initiative has the potential to bring about many national and international improvements that will help contribute to biodiversity conservation. It will help promote collaboration among authorities in Mexico by bringing them together for workshops as well as assist in standardizing key baseline information for the development of enforcement activities in the country. The initiative will also make enforcement officials' work more efficient by facilitating access to sources of information and practical tools.

TRAFFIC North America hopes this project will contribute not only to the conservation of Mexico's biodiversity, but to biodiversity conservation on a larger scale by strengthening the implementation of international agreements such as CITES. This is



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The UK FCO-funded Wildlife Law Enforcement Capacity Building project is helping TRAFFIC to train enforcement professionals from all of Mexico on priority topics, such as this seminar during a workshop in Oaxaca.

particularly important given the significant role Mexico plays as an importing and re-exporting country of wild plants and animals, their parts and derivatives. These activities are legal in many cases, but illegal smuggling of wildlife specimens is still a common occurrence. This project is envisioned as a starting point from which to build on in the future and to address priority issues and emerging interests.

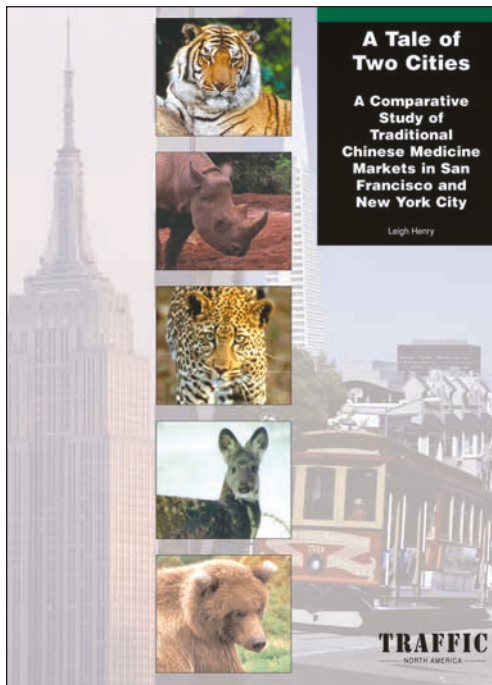
Other countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region share many of the same problems and threats faced in Mexico. Wildlife resource management, conservation, monitoring and enforcement needs to be coordinated among authorities both on a national and regional level. With adequate support from government and donor agencies, the Mexico capacity building project could easily be adapted and expanded, so that the expertise and experiences generated through its implementation in Mexico can contribute to other regional efforts. Expanding the initiative could improve transboundary cooperation among the diverse authorities and actors involved to create new synergies and promote better enforcement of national laws and CITES.

*(contributed by Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC North America-Mexico)*

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## LOOKING BACK AT A TALE OF TWO CITIES...



In May 2004, TRAFFIC North America published *A Tale of Two Cities: A Comparative Study of Traditional Chinese Medicine Markets in San Francisco and New York City*. Here we look back on the reactions to, and results of, that report.

A 2004 undercover survey by TRAFFIC North America of traditional Chinese medicine shops in New York City and San Francisco found that illegal products made from endangered species — including tigers, rhinos, leopards and musk deer - are widely available. The resulting report, *A Tale of Two Cities*, revealed that the availability of most endangered species products had increased in the New York City shops; however, they had significantly decreased in the San Francisco shops. TRAFFIC North America, in partnership with WWF and the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM), have been active in community outreach efforts with the Chinese American community in San Francisco for a number of years but not in New York City.

The outreach program has been so successful in San Francisco that now it is being replicated in the New York City area. Working with Chinese language schools and the Chinese Herbalist Association, the program spreads the message about the legal and conservation implications of using threatened and

endangered species in traditional medicine. This work is aimed at encouraging consumers and merchants not to buy and sell these products, which fuels the illegal killing of these species in the wild.

Also, as a result of the *Two Cities* report, the New York City Council asked TRAFFIC to help draft legislation to empower them to regulate sales in endangered species. On 23 November 2004, New York City became the first municipality in the United States to approve a law making it illegal to buy or sell products containing, or advertised as containing, endangered species. The law came into force on 1 October 2005.

Though federal legislation like the Endangered Species Act makes interstate commerce of endangered species products illegal, it does not apply to sales within a city. The new law closes loopholes in New York City law by making the sale of products containing, or labeled as containing, endangered species a violation of city law and gives New York City enforcement officials the authority to take action. This law meets an important need in the global effort to combat illegal wildlife trade.

(contributed by Leigh Henry, TRAFFIC North America-U.S.)

This report is available on TRAFFIC North America's website: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/pubs.cfm>. A 2005 feature article on this study in *Conservation in Practice* can be accessed at: <http://www.conbio.org/cip/article61HEA.cfm>

### FROM THE BENCH: BOOKER'S IMPACT ON DETERRING WILDLIFE TRADE

On 12 January 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision that could have far-reaching impacts on the sentencing of criminals throughout the United States. In *United States v. Booker* (125 S. Ct. 738), the Court overturned the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, implemented in 1987, stating that they violated a defendant's Sixth Amendment right to be tried by a jury. Therefore, what were once mandatory guidelines are now merely discretionary. This gives judges, and juries, much more flexibility in determining the sentence that they feel best fits the crime.

TRAFFIC has begun to look into the ramifications of the Booker decision on the prosecution of those involved in

illegal wildlife trade. Now that judges have more discretion in sentencing these traders, there has been much speculation about whether the judgments handed down will be more lenient or more stringent. Many fear that these crimes are not taken seriously, that sentences will become even more lenient than they have been in the past and, as a consequence, the deterrent for illegal wildlife trade will be reduced. In addition, Booker will likely mean an increased workload on prosecutors, as they no longer have the negotiating tool of a "minimum" sentence and are less likely to be able to settle cases before they go to trial. With such a small number of prosecutors dedicated to wildlife-related cases, this is a serious concern.

TRAFFIC, with the help of students from the University of South Carolina School of Law, will be analyzing trends in wildlife trade-related sentences over the past decade, and will determine a further course of action based on the results of that research. We are also looking into appropriate means of communicating with the judiciary as to the seriousness of these crimes to insure that future sentences act as an adequate deterrent to illegal wildlife trade.

(contributed by Leigh Henry, TRAFFIC North America-U.S.)

### EYE ON ENFORCEMENT: RE-EMERGING THREATS TO TIGERS

It was believed in recent years that the troubles for tigers were diminishing in terms of demand for their bones in traditional medicine and fur for fashion, as a result of concerted global conservation action from governments and civil society. The discovery in 2005 that Sariska Tiger Reserve in India had lost all its tigers to poaching, and with other reserves in very bad shape, was a wake up call to India and the conservation community. The expanding economic fortunes of China seem to be stimulating the demand for tiger furs as both fashion and cultural symbols, and the government policy banning tiger bone trade inside China may be relaxed.

In August 2005, in Lhasa, Tibet, representatives of WWF and TRAFFIC met to assess the growing trade in tiger and Asian leopard furs in the Tibetan areas of China. In one day, they found



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TRAFFIC and other organizations are working to decrease threats to tigers by building enforcement capacity, developing consumer campaigns and conducting trade investigations.

nearly 25 stores openly selling tiger and leopard 'chubas,' a traditional Tibetan robe, in the central market in Lhasa. The demand for these robes is no longer the sole interest of Tibetans; they are becoming more widely popular as fashion items, as are tiger and leopard skin rugs. Numerous major seizures of tiger and leopard skins and bones in India, Nepal and Tibet, including one

seizure of 39 tiger skins in 2003, show a steady flow of significant volumes of tiger parts from India to Tibet over the past three years. A combination of poor protection of wild tigers in some Indian reserves, ineffective enforcement, the internal conflicts of Nepal allowing an easier smuggling route and the increased wealth and availability of furs in China, may spell disaster for the tiger.

spell disaster for the tiger.

In mid-2005, the first rumors emerged that the State Council of China was considering re-opening a legal trade in tiger bones from Chinese tiger farms, to supply medicinal needs in Chinese hospitals. There are four thousand tigers held legally on farms in China, and some farms have hundreds of tigers. No official

statement has been made on whether re-opening trade will occur but the Chinese government confirmed it has been proposed. There are concerns that this trade would increase the potential to launder black market stocks of tiger bone into the legal market. With less than 5,000 tigers left in the wild, the populations cannot sustain any significant loss that may arise from increased poaching. Prompted by TRAFFIC, the Director Generals of WWF and IUCN-The World Conservation Union responded to the concern in late 2005, in a joint letter requesting the Chinese government not re-open the domestic trade.

Once again, governments and conservationists are rallying to suppress the re-emerging threats to tigers using political engagement, enforcement capacity building, consumer awareness campaigns and trade investigations. Can the tiger survive the latest poaching onslaught driven by trade? The answer lies largely with China and India and whether or not they will respond rapidly and work together and with others to protect the tiger.

*(contributed by Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC North America-U.S.)*

## DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suspended import and re-export of threatened beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*) caviar and meat originating in the Caspian Sea basin countries on 30 September 2005 and from the Black Sea countries on 28 October 2005. As a result, beluga sturgeon caviar (including products containing caviar, such as cosmetics) and meat from the Caspian Sea and Black Sea basins are no longer eligible to be imported into the United States. The trade suspension can be lifted if Caspian Sea and Black Sea countries submit information on the status of the fish stocks as required by CITES.

Additionally, in January 2006 the CITES Secretariat declined to publish annual export quotas for caviar for range states that share stocks of sturgeon citing a lack of sufficient information on the sustainability of their sturgeon catch and compliance with the terms of the CITES Resolution 12.7. The CITES Secretariat had remained hopeful that

the exporting countries would supply the missing data to allow international trade to resume but when the CITES Secretariat finalized all export quotas for the year on 13 April it still had not received the required information from the five Caspian Sea States that would have allowed it to publish quotas for wild specimens of the other sturgeon species in this shared basin. These countries will not be allowed export caviar during 2006. Iran is allowed to export up to 44,370 kg of caviar from a different species, the Persian sturgeon, this year. Caviar from farmed sturgeon is not affected by the export quotas ruling.

In January 2004, CITES introduced a universal labeling system in order to make legally traded caviar easy to identify but governments in Western Europe were slow to adopt these requirements. Earlier this year, a law was passed in the EU requiring its members to implement the caviar labeling system. Now all caviar imported to or exported from the EU will bear the appropriate CITES label. Consumers should only buy

sturgeon caviar that is properly sealed with a non-reusable label containing information on the country of origin and the type of caviar. For more information on the universal labeling guidelines, go to [www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/Caviarlabellings.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/Caviarlabellings.pdf)

*(contributed by Sarah Janicke, WWF U.S.)*

*(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service News Release, 29 September 2005, CITES Press Release, 3 January 2006)*



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The Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan are banned from exporting all caviars to countries that are parties to the Convention and Iran is only allowed to export caviar from Persian sturgeon.



## NEWS FROM MEXICO

### SHARK FISHING IN MEXICO FACES A CONTROVERSIAL NEW REGULATION

With more than 30 thousand tons landed per year, the shark fishing industry is considered one of the 10 largest fisheries in the world. In Mexico, it is especially important since thousands of fishermen earn their living from this low cost fishery that provides a product high in protein. However, the sustainability of this fishery has been seriously questioned due to declines in stock abundance.

In 1993, the National Fishing Institute (IPN) in Mexico published a study on shark populations and recommended not to increase the number of permits issued for commercial shark fishing until more information was available about the status of the populations. In 1996, a Committee of Responsible Fishing was established for the purpose of evaluating the shark populations and fishing pressure. Two years later, Mexico signed up to the Food and Agriculture Organization's International Plan of Action, which aims to conserve shark stocks.

By 2000, the Committee of Responsible Fishing proposed the creation of an Official Norm (a regulation) with the objective of promoting sustainable shark fishing. The development of this Norm evolved from a long process where the priority was to establish, in consensus, the basic requirements needed to regulate this activity. The result of this process was the publication, on 12 July 2002, of the

NORM-029 for Responsible Fishing for shark and associated species.

Controversy arose immediately after this publication from fishermen and the tourism industry in Baja California, as well as national and international NGOs, who offered harsh criticism because fixed quotas were not established for shark fishing, as is the case in many other fisheries. Finally, after weeks of pressure, the Norm was cancelled only three months after its official publication.

A new Technical Working Group was then created, this time with the participation of all the interested sectors and stakeholder groups. This group continued with the analysis, which included two additional years of data. The analysis and consultative process formed the basis upon which a new Norm for shark fishing, which was developed and provisionally published in November 2005. Public consultations regarding the Norm will occur until March, when a decision to publish the regulation will be made. Recently the consultation process has been characterized by controversies and disagreement regarding fishing gear, hooks, nets and distance from shore for fishing.

Even though the publication of this regulation is an important step toward sustainable use and conservation of



A proposed regulation in Mexico attempts to lay out standards for sustainable shark fishing.

sharks in Mexico, many other issues need to be addressed for effective management. For example, further information such as the number of boats and crew, catch per unit effort as well as the economic benefits from the fishery, would contribute to a better understanding of the full scope of the shark fishery and consequently more effective conservation and management.

*(contributed by Gael Almeida, TRAFFIC North America-Mexico)*

### 2005 RESULTS OF THE PROGRAM TO COMBAT ILLEGAL FORESTRY

The Federal Attorney's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) in Mexico presented the results of the 2005 Program to Combat Illegal Forestry. The Report draws attention to illegal forestry as a matter of national concern, as almost one third of the wood logged in Mexico is thought to originate from an illegal source.

The report also highlights some of the major enforcement outcomes of the Program. As part of this program, 164 investigations were undertaken in the country and 38 persons were arrested; 13 sawmills were closed permanently, while 43 were closed temporarily; and of two thousand vehicles inspected, 154 were seized by authorities. Sixty percent of the confiscated timber was donated to public charitable institutions.

Additionally, in 2005, 123 volunteer and community patrol groups were formed and all of the members were provided with forest ranger identification badges, uniforms, communication equipment and other necessary materials. ([www.profepa.gob.mx](http://www.profepa.gob.mx), 17 January 2006)

### MEXICO PROHIBITS IMPORT AND EXPORT OF MARINE MAMMALS AND PRIMATES

On 26 January 2006, a decree was published in the federal government's Official Diary that strengthens the General Law of Wildlife in Mexico. The first addition is to Article 55 and prohibits the import, export and re-export of all marine mammals and primates, as well as parts and derivatives of these species, with the exception of those used for scientific research. The second addition, in Article 60, prohibits the use of primates for hunting or trade.



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The Mexican government recently published a decree that strengthens the General Law of Wildlife. This decree prevents imports of primates such as the squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*), which are often captured from the wild for pets.

The publication of this Decree is the result of two years of Senate discussions and it ultimately seeks to control one of the main industries in Mexico in relation to the commerce of dolphins and sea lions. Also, in the past year there has been a growing interest in some Latin American primate species as pets, where the historical demand was partially covered by species from other parts of the world. The decree hopes to protect against the growth of an emerging import market to Mexico. However, the risk remains that the illegal market might increase for native species such as the howler monkey (*Alouatta palliata*) or the spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*), which could present a potential threat to these species' populations if trade is not strictly controlled.

(contributed by Gael Almeida, TRAFFIC North

## NEWS FROM CANADA

America-Mexico)

### THE KAISER'S SPOTTED NEWT— TRADED TO THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

In 2005, the Canadian office of TRAFFIC North America initiated an assessment of the trade in the Kaiser's Spotted Newt (*Neurergus kaiseri*), a

rare, colorful species of salamander endemic to Iran. The wild population of this species is estimated to be fewer than 1,000 mature individuals found in three streams within a restricted area of the southern Zagros Mountains, Lorestan and Khuzestan Provinces. Not surprisingly, the species is listed as Endangered by IUCN due to its very small range and a continuing decline in the extent and quality of its habitat. IUCN notes that deforestation for subsistence use and recent severe droughts are major threats to the species. Damming of the few known inhabited streams is a serious potential threat to the species. Until recently, international trade was not considered to be a major threat and the species is not currently listed by CITES.

However, in December 2004, 50 specimens of Kaiser's spotted newt were offered for sale via an Internet web site. The seller was located in Canada but the specimens were offered to the U.S. market. It was not immediately clear whether these animals had actually entered Canada or were being offered on speculation. The website listing did not indicate whether the animals were taken from the wild or captive bred but if they were from the wild, then these specimens would have accounted for approximately five percent of the known population — a devastating blow to the survival of the species. The demand for this species in the international amphibian pet trade is likely due to both its rarity and its attractive color pattern. As a result, the price for one Kaiser's spotted newt, up to CA\$350 per specimen, is high compared to most salamander species.

The investigation by TRAFFIC North America was unable to corroborate whether the 50 specimens offered for sale on the Internet were actually ever imported into Canada. However, it was determined that two previous (smaller) shipments had been imported to Canada from a dealer in the Ukraine. Correspondence with this dealer in 2005 confirmed that they import and sell wild-caught adult specimens of Kaiser's spotted newts (among other species). According to the dealer, in early 2005 they traded approximately 200 specimens and they were expecting to have approximately 250 more available by January 2006.

Correspondence with the Iranian CITES Management Authority confirmed that trade in *N. kaiseri* is regulated under the Iranian Game and Fish Law. The Iranian authorities also confirmed that no permits have been issued for trade in this species in the past 10 years. Thus, recent international trade in wild-caught specimens of *N. kaiseri* is based on their illegal export from Iran. Import of wild-caught specimens into the United States or Canada would be a violation of these countries' laws.



©MOZAFAR SHARIFI

TRAFFIC is looking into the internet-based trade of the rare Kaiser's Spotted Newt, found only in limited riparian areas in Iran.

This initial analysis indicates that efforts to protect this species in the wild from the detrimental effects of trade should be taken on several fronts: enforcement efforts to stop illegal collection and export from Iran should be introduced, countries where the species are being traded such as Ukraine and Canada should crack down on the traders, and regulatory approaches to reduce the impact of wildlife trade should be explored, including CITES listing. TRAFFIC North America will continue to assess the trade in this species and alert authorities in countries where the trade is occurring.

(contributed by Ernie Cooper, TRAFFIC North America-Canada)

**WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORK EMERGES IN ASIA WITH U.S. SUPPORT**

In Southeast Asia, increased networking on wildlife trade law enforcement through improved co-operation between national authorities and their counterparts in law enforcement agencies, such as Customs, police and quarantine, has been identified by ASEAN (Association for Southeast Asian Nations) as a key component of building efficient networks at national and regional levels. Discussion of how to operationalize such a regional network began in October 2005 with the inaugural ASEAN Wildlife Law Enforcement Network Workshop, which was hosted by Thailand. The ASEAN Member Country delegates, along with representatives from the Secretariats of ASEAN and CITES, and the governments of the United States and the People's Republic of China, expressed their full support towards formalizing what will be the world's largest wildlife law enforcement network, the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN). The representatives of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for CITES released an official Statement on the Launching of the ASEAN-WEN in December 2005, recognizing that "concerted and coordinated joint actions are required to address the illegal exploitation and trade of wild plants and animals".

The United States government is committed to tackling illegal wildlife trade through a global initiative by the Department of State — the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT). Significant funding has been allocated through this initiative by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of State to assist with the development of ASEAN-WEN. This is vital to provide the support required to develop long-term capacity and to tackle poaching and illegal wildlife trade. In partnership with WildAid, the TRAFFIC network is playing a role in implementing activities including needs assessments, training and capacity building over the next three years to assist the ASEAN Member Countries and their trading partners in making this regional wildlife enforcement network a success.

(contributed by Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC North America-U.S.)

CITES UPDATE

**TURTLES ADDED TO APPENDIX III OF CITES**

The alligator snapping turtle (*Macrolemys temminckii*) and all species of map turtles (*Graptemys* spp.), which are native to the United States, are being given international protection by their addition to Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The listing, which is effective 14 June 2006, will allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to work with States to regulate exports, and is significant as it is the first time the United States has used Appendix III to protect native species. A CITES member country may include a native species in Appendix III if it determines that cooperation of other CITES countries is needed to monitor and control trade.

The Appendix III listing of these species requires a CITES export permit issued by FWS for all shipments of live specimens or products containing the turtle species. An export permit may be issued only for turtles collected in accordance with all Federal, State and



©KEVIN SCHAFER/WWF

Map turtles and alligator snapping turtles, such as this, will be protected under CITES Appendix III as of 14 June 2006. This is the first native species that the United States has listed on Appendix III.

local laws. Other CITES countries will only allow imports from the United States when shipments are accompanied by a valid U.S. export permit, and will only allow re-export of certified shipments. The CITES listing has no direct effect on any activities taking place within a State.

(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service News Release, 16 December 2005)

**COUNTDOWN TO CITES COP 14**

On the following page are some dates and events that may be helpful to watch for as the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14) to CITES draws near. Please consult the official published deadlines from the CITES Secretariat or relevant Management/Scientific Authority for exact dates.

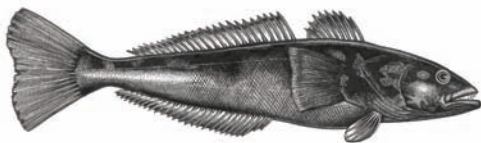
To obtain information on specific CITES notifications, please contact the CITES Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme, 15, chemin des Anemones, Case Postale 456, 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland. Email: [cites@unep.ch](mailto:cites@unep.ch) Web Site: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
April 3-7 2006	22nd Canadian National CITES Authorities Meeting	Meeting to review issues related to the roles of the Scientific, Management and Enforcement Authorities in Canada as well as Canada's international obligations, including preparations for CITES COP 14
April 5-6 2006	Mexico Species Review	National Workshop on the Wild population Status, Use and Trade of the Central American River Turtle ( <i>Dermatemys mawii</i> ) and Revision of its Status in CITES Appendices (Tabasco, Mexico)
April 25-27 2006	Mexico Species Review	2nd Tri-national Guatemala-Mexico-Belize Workshop for the Management and Conservation of the Morelet's Crocodile ( <i>Crocodylus moreletii</i> ) and Revision of its status in CITES Appendices
May 3 2006	Plants Committee Deadline	Deadline to submit documents to be revised by the 16th Plants Committee
May 5 2006	Animal Committee Deadline	Deadline to submit documents to be revised by the 22nd Animals Committee
May 15-20 2006	Trilateral Meeting	XI Annual meeting of the Trilateral Committee on Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management Canada-USA-Mexico: CITES section, San Diego, California
June 18 2006	Canada Proposals	Proposals from public invited/Canada proposals sent to Canadian Authorities
July 3-8 2006	Plants Committee Meeting	16th Meeting of the Plants Committee (Lima, Peru)
July 7-8 2006	Joint Committee Meeting	AC22-PC16 Committees Joint Meeting (Lima, Peru)
July 7-13 2006	Animals Committee Meeting	22nd Meeting of the Animals Committee (Lima, Peru)
July 8 2006	CITES Submission Deadline	Deadline for Parties to submit to the Secretariat proposals to amend Appendices I and II at COP14: without the prior consultation of range States of the species concerned (see Resolution Conf. 8.21 on Consultation with range States on proposals to amend Appendices I and II); and pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.16 on Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II
July 18 2006	Canada Proposals Reviewed	Comments from CITES Authorities due (to MA) on public proposals/CITES Authorities proposals due (to MA)/Translation of Canadian proposals
July 31 2006	Mexico Proposal Deadline	Deadline for reception of proposals derived from the call for Amendment Proposals for CITES Appendices
Aug 2006	USFWS Federal Register Notice	USFWS plans to publish a Federal Register notice approximately 10 months prior to COP14 announcing tentative species proposals, draft resolutions, draft decisions and agenda items to be submitted by the United States
Aug 3 2006	Standing Committee Deadline for Documents	Deadline for receiving documents for revision for the 54th Meeting of the Standing Committee
Aug 31 2006	Mexico Announcement of Proposals	Public announcement (through SEMARNAT's and CONABIO's websites) of selected proposals (derived from the call for proposals) to be submitted by the Mexican Government to COP14
Sept 16 2006	Canada MA Proposals made public	Canada MA mails proposals to public for comments
Sept 2006	USFWS Public Meeting	Approximately 9 months prior to COP14, USFWS will tentatively hold a public meeting to allow for additional public input
Oct 2-6 2006	CITES Standing Committee Meeting	54th Meeting of CITES Standing Committee (Geneva, Switzerland)
Oct. 28 2006	Canadian Public Consultation	Public consultation on Canadian proposals/MA recommendations on Canadian proposals/Proposals and recommendations sent to all Canadian Authorities
Dec 14 2006	Canada CITES Authorities Final Review of Proposals	Final comments due from Canadian CITES Authorities/MA decides if proposals will go to Secretariat/Final editing of proposals to go to Secretariat
Jan 4 2007	CITES Submission Deadline	Deadline for the submission of draft resolutions and other documents, and of proposals to amend Appendices I and II. These documents should not exceed 12 pages
Feb 2007	USFWS Web Announcements	Approximately 4 months prior to COP14, USFWS will post on their Web site an announcement of the species proposals, draft resolutions, draft decisions and agenda items submitted by the United States to the CITES Secretariat for consideration at COP14
Jan 4 to May 4 2007	Canada Review of Foreign Proposals	Foreign proposals Received: SA reviews Species Proposals; MA reviews proposals for Resolutions/SA & MA determine tentative Canadian positions/Copies of foreign proposals and tentative positions sent to Canadian Authorities/List of proposals and tentative position sent to public/Public and Canadian Authorities invited to public hearing
April 2007	USFWS Public Meetings	USFWS will also publish announcements of public meetings approximately 2 months prior to COP14, to receive public input on positions regarding COP14 issues
~1 month prior to NAR Meeting	Canada Public Consultation on Foreign Proposals	Public consultation on Foreign Proposals/Proposed Canadian position on each proposal announced/Summary of proceedings to public
April/May 2007	North America Regional Meeting	North American Regional meeting
May 1 2007	CITES COP Registration	Approved observer registrations must be sent to Secretariat one month prior to COP14.
June 3-15 2007	COP 14	The Hague, Netherlands

# Enforcement Successes in the NEWS

During the past several months, domestic and international wildlife law enforcement cases and prosecutions have included issues as wide ranging as the tiger fur trade in South Asia to Patagonian toothfish imports. Media reports and the increasing public attention regarding wild bird trade, given the rapid spread of avian flu, have also featured widely in recent months. TRAFFIC North America has been involved in a number of enforcement successes and highlights these as well as others in an effort to inform our partners of emerging trends in trade and wildlife conservation.

## PATAGONIAN TOOTHFISH IMPORTS DON'T PAY



Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), stocks are managed internationally by the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention. Drawing by Bruce Mahalski, 2001.

A federal grand jury in Florida handed down indictments on charges of importing and conspiring to sell illegally possessed Patagonian toothfish, also known in trade as Chilean seabass. Each defendant was also charged with false labeling and obstructing justice. According to the four count indictment, in May 2004, Antonio Vidal Pego, a Spanish national, and Fadilur, S.A., a Uruguayan corporation, attempted to

import approximately 53,000 pounds of toothfish from Singapore into Miami, knowing that the fish was taken and transported in violation of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention and U.S. regulations. Patagonian toothfish has been the subject of international conservation efforts in the face of increased fishing pressure from both legal and "pirate" fishing.

The grand jury also approved a criminal forfeiture count, seeking to forfeit the 53,000+ pounds of toothfish, or \$314,397.30, representing the proceeds from the sale of the fish. Antonio Vidal Pego faces a maximum penalty of twenty years in prison for the charge of obstruction of justice, and up to five years in prison on each of the three remaining charges. He is also subject to a fine of upwards of \$250,000, while the company Fadilur, S.A. faces a criminal fine of \$500,000 or more.

(U.S. Department of Justice press release, 28 September 2005)

## LEOPARD SHARK SMUGGLING STOPPED



Monterey Bay Aquarium staff release juvenile leopard sharks (*Triakis semifasciata*) that had been seized by federal agents investigating a wildlife poaching ring.

Six men were indicted on 24 January 2006 for conspiring to harvest thousands of undersized California leopard sharks (*Triakis semifasciata*) from the San Francisco Bay. The indictment specifically charges that approximately 465 juvenile leopard sharks were sold to companies in



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Leopard sharks (*Triakis semifasciata*) commercially harvested in California waters must be at least 36 inches long.

Miami; Chicago; Houston; Romulus, Michigan; Milford, Connecticut; the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The indictment alleges that the pastor of a San Leandro church, four individuals involved in the aquarium industry and a fisherman violated the Lacey Act, which makes it a federal offense to knowingly sell or purchase fish, wildlife or plants that were captured in violation of any underlying law. These Lacey Act charges specifically incorporate California State law, which places a minimum size limit of 36 inches on any commercial harvest of California leopard sharks.

TRAFFIC North America provided enforcement officers with information that supported the nearly two-year long investigation conducted by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement, in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, the United Kingdom's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Fish Health Inspectorate and The Netherlands General Inspection Service (AID). The maximum statutory penalty for violating or conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act is five years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 and restitution if appropriate.

(U.S. Department of Justice press release, 8 February 2006)

## BIRDS SEIZED AT MEXICAN BORDER

More than forty birds have been intercepted at the Nogales port of entry by U.S. Customs agents since the beginning of 2006, with fines totaling more than \$5,000. Twenty separate incidents have uncovered a variety of different species including parrots, parakeets, ducks and canaries, among

others, that were hidden in coat pockets, luggage and in vehicles. The birds are protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Protection Act. (*Arizona Daily Star, 20 January 2006*)

### TURTLES IN GLOVE BOX

On 25 October 2005, a Canadian, Kenneth Grant Howard, pleaded guilty to three counts of importing animals without permits in violation of the Canadian Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act, as well as the Customs Act. In 2004, Grant was stopped at the Pacific Highway Crossing where 12 baby *Kinosternidae* turtles were found in the glove box of his car. Several months later he was stopped again and agents found live crickets, two Florida box turtles and a large Burmese mountain tortoise in his car. The majority of the CA\$8,000 fine was allocated to the Environmental Damages Fund, which will pay for the care of these animals as well as support public education about wildlife trade. (*Chilliwack Times, 15 November 2005*)



Canadian officials unpack turtles that had been hidden in various locations in a car as the owner attempted to bring them into Canada without the necessary permits.

### CHICAGO ART GALLERY FULL OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE ITEMS

Artwork and handicrafts worth almost a quarter of a million dollars were seized by U.S. officials when they discovered that the owner of a Chicago gallery, Primitive Art Works, and his girlfriend did not possess the proper permits to sell the items. U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald announced the 20-count indictment on 10 January 2006.

The items, including ivory, feathers, fur and shells, came from all over the world, including Asia, Africa and South America. A search by federal officials of the couple's home, gallery and warehouse produced items made from hippopotamus, leopard, tiger, lion, jaguar, crocodile, macaw, parrot, harpy eagle, great white egret and wood stork, among others, which violates CITES and the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Officials expect the couple to plead guilty to the charges. (*Chicago Tribune and Sun-Times, 11 January 2006*)



Products from hippopotami, elephants, birds and other animals are subject to international and domestic regulations. Consumers should be aware of these regulations when purchasing wildlife products, both when at home and abroad.

### PROFEPA CAPTURES 19 POACHERS IN MEXICO

The Federal Attorney's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) in Mexico reported that they captured 19 poachers who had been operating in the Biosphere Reserve Sierra de Huautla, in the State of Morelos. The PROFEPA representative in Morelos said that the arrested persons were found carrying 14 firearms and some dead animals. This protected area is characterized by abundant wildlife such as pumas and many species of birds and reptiles. (*www.profepa.gob.mx, 19 January 2006*)

### AUSTRALIA HANDS DOWN STIFF SENTENCE TO REPTILE SMUGGLER

A 40-year-old Japanese man has been sentenced to three and a half years imprisonment by the Brisbane District Court for attempting to import reptiles. Mr. Katsuhide Naito pleaded guilty after being charged by Australian Customs with importing regulated live specimens without a permit under the Environment



Customs officers in airports and ports around the world are confronted by a myriad of ways that people try to smuggle wildlife. Shown here is the wide range of illegal wildlife products seized by Australian Customs during the first half of 2003.

Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and importing endangered specimens. Customs officers at Brisbane International Airport found the 39 exotic reptiles when they examined the bags of a man arriving from Singapore via Thailand on 22 August 2005. On opening the man's bag, Customs officers were surprised to see something wriggling - six snakes, four in clear plastic containers and two in shampoo bottles. Customs found a further 33 reptiles, including green tree pythons, albino pythons, iguanas, frilled-neck dragons, slider turtles and tree monitors concealed in speaker boxes and food containers. Several of the animals did not survive and the remainder were later destroyed by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service.

(*Australia Customs media release, 25 January 2006*)

### MASSIVE TIGER BONE SEIZURE IN TAIWAN

In the largest ever single seizure of tiger bone in Taiwan, and one of the largest in Asia since 2000, Kaohsiung Customs authorities in Taiwan confiscated over 140 kg of tiger bones, including 24 skulls, on 4 July 2005 in a shipment from Jakarta, Indonesia. The contraband was hidden in a container of deer antlers being exported to Taiwan for use in traditional medicines. Also seized were 400 kg of pangolin scales and five pieces of carved ivory weighing 1kg.

CITES prohibits the international trade in parts and derivatives from tigers, elephants and pangolins and all three are totally protected species in Indonesia. However, a TRAFFIC Southeast Asia report released last year found that despite full protection, poaching of and trade in Indonesia's tigers continues unabated. According to TRAFFIC Southeast Asia regional program officer Chris Shepherd, "assuming that all these tiger parts were sourced from Sumatra, Indonesia is in real danger of losing its last remaining tiger sub-species — the Sumatran tiger — if the widespread illegal trade in tiger parts is not stopped."



A large shipment of tiger parts seized in Taiwan contained more than 140 kg of tiger bones and 24 skulls. Tigers in Asia are facing increasing threats, even though the international trade of the species is prohibited by CITES.

Reports in recent months regarding the decline in tiger populations in some protected areas in India have refocused the attention of the international conservation community on the poaching of tigers, especially in South Asia. However, this seizure has firmly put the global spotlight on Southeast Asia as well. The seizure had also taken place just days after a meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, which requested that all range states of Asian Big Cats report next year on their work in combating illicit trade in specimens of Asian Big Cat species and their implementation of CITES recommendations addressing legislation and enforcement, antipoaching efforts, public education, outreach and other domestic controls.

*(TRAFFIC press release, 8 August 2005)*

## EGGS IN AUSTRALIAN MAN'S UNDERGARMENTS

Customs officers at Sydney Airport have prevented an attempt to smuggle

native Australian birds' eggs out of the country in a passenger's underwear. A 56-year-old Australian national, from Sydney, was stopped and searched by Customs as he was about to board a flight to Bangkok, Thailand, on 13 October 2005. During the search, officers allegedly located six cockatoo eggs wrapped in pantyhose and concealed in the man's underwear. The eggs were provisionally identified as Galah cockatoo eggs. Customs investigators have charged the man with attempting to export a regulated native specimen without permission. Under Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, the maximum penalty for smuggling wildlife is a fine of up to AU\$110,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 10 years.

*(Australian Customs media release, 14 October 2005)*

## ABALONE RUSTLERS APPREHENDED

On 20 February 2006, Fisheries and Oceans Canada officers apprehended three men involved with the biggest bust of illegally caught abalone in British Columbia history. The officers stopped a truck so heavily laden its wheels were nearly touching its body. In the truck was about 1,130 kg of abalone still in the shell, most still alive. They estimated the haul at as many as 11,000 of the mollusks. Following the seizure, a crew of fishery officers and fishery biologists spent two days reseeding the live abalone back into the water to prevent mortalities. Abalone fisheries have been closed since December 1990, due to serious conservation concerns. In 1999, Northern abalone were declared as a threatened species under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

*(Fisheries and Oceans Canada News Release, 23 February 2006)*

## THE TRAFFIC REPORT EXPANDS

As long-time readers of *The TRAFFIC Report* have probably already noticed, this edition of the newsletter is longer than normal. This expanded version of the newsletter contains more staff-contributed articles, including updates on policies, trade trends and projects affecting Mexico, Canada and the United States. We hope that the additional information is useful and relevant to our reader's work. We welcome your feedback.

## STAFF NEWS

Two new staff members have joined TRAFFIC North America in the last several months. Gael Almeida, Program Officer in the Mexico Office, will be assisting with the wildlife enforcement capacity building project and fundraising. She received a B.A. in Political Science from Universidad Iberoamericana of Mexico City, has a Diploma in Management and Conservation of Tropical Biodiversity of UNESCO and a Masters of Science in Conservation from University College London. Jill Hepp, Research Assistant in the Washington, D.C. office, is responsible for coordinating *The TRAFFIC Report* newsletter, and managing research and administrative functions. She received a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Science from the University of San Diego and a Masters of Science in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development from the University of Maryland.



## NEW TRAFFIC NETWORK PUBLICATIONS

The following reports were published in 2005 by the TRAFFIC network.

*Against The Grain: Trade in Musk Deer Products in Singapore and Malaysia.* Debby Ng and Elizabeth A Burgess. April 2005. <http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/Against%20the%20Grain%20-%20Final%20April%202005.pdf>

*Bridging the Gap: Linking timber trade with infrastructural development in Southern Tanzania — Baseline data before completion of Mkapa Bridge.* Simon A.H. Milledge and Bariki K. Kaale. 2005. (Available by contacting [traffic@wwf.org.zw](mailto:traffic@wwf.org.zw))

*CITES, Eh? A Review of Canada's Implementation of CITES Under WAPPRIITA.* Ernest W.T. Cooper and Nathalie Chalifour. May 2005. [http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/Canada\\_CITES.html](http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/Canada_CITES.html)

*Hanging in the Balance: An Assessment of Trade in Orang-utans and Gibbons on Kalimantan, Indonesia.* Vincent Nijman. August 2005. [www.traffic.org/KalimantanOrangUtan.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/KalimantanOrangUtan.pdf)

*In Full Swing: An Assessment of Trade in Orang-utans and Gibbons on Java and Bali, Indonesia.* Vincent Nijman. 2005. [www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/OrangUtan.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/OrangUtan.pdf)

*Japan's Trade in Live Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles as Pets.* Shoko Kameoka and Hisako Kiyono. March 2005. (Japanese edition. Executive Summary in English) (Available by contacting [trafficea@biznetvigator.com](mailto:trafficea@biznetvigator.com))

*Looking under the Veneer—Implementation Manual on EU Timber Trade Control: Focus on CITES-Listed Trees.* Alexandre Affre, Wolfgang Kathe and Caroline Raymakers. March 2005. [http://www.traffic.org/publications/Looking\\_Under\\_the\\_Veneer\\_TEUR04.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/publications/Looking_Under_the_Veneer_TEUR04.pdf)

*No Oasis: Egyptian ivory trade in 2005.* Esmond Martin and Tom Milliken. June 2005. TRAFFIC Online Report Series No.10 [www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/TRAFFIC\\_Egypt.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/TRAFFIC_Egypt.pdf)

*Open Season: An Analysis of the Pet Trade in Medan, Sumatra 1997-2001.* Chris R. Shepherd, Jeet Sukumaran and Serge A Wich. May 2005. <http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/MedanOpenSeason.pdf>

*Rhino Horn Stockpile Management: Minimum Standards and Best Practices from East and Southern Africa.* Simon Milledge. June 2005 [http://www.traffic.org/news/TESA\\_Rhino.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/news/TESA_Rhino.pdf)

*Trapping a Living: Conservation and Socio-Economic Aspects of the Fur Trade in the Russian Far East.* Natalia Dronova and Alexander Shestakov. July 2005. [www.traffic.org/news/TEUR\\_Russia\\_fur\\_trade.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/news/TEUR_Russia_fur_trade.pdf)

Single copies of any TRAFFIC North America publication are available at no charge to wildlife officials and can be ordered by contacting TRAFFIC. Other interested parties should contact Zoo Book Sales, P.O. Box 405, Lanesboro, MN 55949-0405. Telephone: (507) 467-8733. Fax: (507) 467-8735. Email: [zoobooks@acegroup.cc](mailto:zoobooks@acegroup.cc) Web site: [www.zoobooksales.com](http://www.zoobooksales.com)

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