

# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## CACTUS CONUNDRUM: Traffic Examines The Trade in Chihuahuan Desert Cacti

**A** new report from TRAFFIC North America, *Prickly Trade: Trade and Conservation of Chihuahuan Desert Cacti*, concludes that some species and localities affected by harvest for the landscaping trade or collectors' market merit closer conservation attention. The very features that protect Chihuahuan Desert cacti from the extreme desert climate also make them desirable among collectors whose curiosity or commercial interest in these plants poses a threat to some species.

Cacti have evolved physical and physiological traits such as spines, water-absorbent tissue, and chemical compounds that facilitate water retention or deter predators. These plants are especially popular among homeowners in arid southwestern U.S. states, where conserving water through the substitution of drought-tolerant plants for water-intensive vegetation (like grass lawns) is increasingly encouraged and practiced. In Mexico, cactus species new to science or restricted to a few known populations are susceptible to national and foreign hobbyists who have been known to collect and export cactus specimens in violation of Mexican and international law.

The Chihuahuan Desert, an ecoregion of outstanding biological diversity that World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is striving to protect, stretches from the Mexican Central Plateau to



J. ATCHLEY

Some Chihuahuan Desert cactus species are becoming vulnerable to overexploitation. TRAFFIC's report, *Prickly Trade*, offers recommendations for the conservation of these species.

the southwestern U.S. states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. The ecoregion is comprised of a mosaic of terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species, including fish, reptiles, and plants that occur nowhere else in the world. Symbolic of this world-class biodiversity are cacti, of which 350 species—or nearly a quarter of the 1,500 species in the cactus family (Cactaceae)—are distributed in the Chihuahuan Desert.

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**TRAFFIC**  
—NORTH AMERICA—



WWF commissioned TRAFFIC to examine the trade in cacti from the Chihuahuan Desert, assess the conservation impacts of this trade, identify species potentially at risk from trade



J. ATCHLEY

The Chihuahuan Desert Ecoregion, home to 350 cactus species, stretches from the Mexican Central Plateau to the southwestern U.S. states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

(legal and illegal), and recommend strategies for improving the management of priority species or sites of conservation significance. Cactus species of the Chihuahuan Desert Ecoregion (CDE) face different sets of exploitation and trade issues in Mexico and the United States, although some of the pressures (development, livestock grazing) contributing to the loss of cactus habitat are present in both countries. Thus, fostering the sustainable management and trade in cactus species native to the Chihuahuan Desert requires different prescriptions in Mexico and the United States.

Mexico contains about 85 percent of the Chihuahuan Desert and harbors the richest diversity of rare, endemic, and recently discovered cactus species, yet ranks fifth in terms of number of CDE species offered for sale worldwide. According to an international review of cactus markets, the variety of commercially available CDE species within Mexico is modest relative to other countries because the majority of cactus collectors and purveyors reside outside of that country, particularly in Europe and North America. The United States is far and away the leading market for CDE cactus species, with 315 species advertised by U.S. vendors and 54 identified for sale exclusively in the United States. The United Kingdom is the second largest market for CDE species (197), followed by Germany (185),

Sweden (115), Spain (86), Mexico (81), Italy (80), and Canada (5).

A substantial trade-related threat to Mexico's rarest and most endangered cactus species is foreign hobbyists who visit the country in search of highly prized cacti, including newly discovered species. During the past decade, species endemic to Mexico that were new to science have appeared for sale in foreign advertisements, suggesting specimens (probably seeds) had been illegally exported from Mexico. The illegal collection of cacti is not only a problem among unscrupulous foreign collectors but involves Mexican nationals who may or may not understand that harvesting or commercializing wild plants without government authorization is a violation of Mexican law.

Uninformed tourists also unknowingly encourage the harvest of Mexican CDE cacti from the wild by purchasing specimens from vendors as take-home souvenirs. Between 1996 and 2000, Mexican authorities seized nearly 8,000 cactus specimens, 5,000 of which were species native to the Chihuahuan Desert. Illegal harvest and export of wild-collected cactus species from Mexico may be partly attributed to an insufficient supply of artificially propagated specimens for international markets. In lieu of propagated specimens, collectors may be tempted to obtain wild specimens.

TRAFFIC identified several localities in the Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico that are high priorities for cactus conservation. A considerable number of the species available in trade today are likely descended from wild specimens originally collected from these localities. Given their botanical importance to collectors in the past, these localities may be prone to further

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## The NEW TRAFFIC Report

We have a new title and a new look, and we've added new content. Based on feedback from our readers, TRAFFIC North America has redesigned our newsletter and added more information on our work, as well as the work of our TRAFFIC colleagues around the world. We think it's a big improvement, and hope you'll agree.

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

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# TRAFFIC NORTH AMERICA HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ TRAFFIC North America participated in the second meeting of the Wider Caribbean Hawksbill Turtle Range State Dialogue, 21-23 May in Grand Cayman. The meeting was attended by 32 states and territories and facilitated by the CITES Secretariat with the assistance of IUCN. Discussions at the meeting focused on the principal elements of a regional conservation strategy, and on the preparation of a draft resolution for submission to the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES.

The resolution will include the principal elements of the conservation strategy and emphasize the importance of linkages with other multilateral environmental agreements, relevant institutions, and potential funding sources. Working groups also discussed issues related to development of standardized monitoring protocols for population trends and for legal and illegal use of and trade in hawksbills.



ANJA G. BURNS

TRAFFIC helped draft a resolution on hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) conservation for the November 2002 Conference of the Parties to CITES.

- ✓ At the Eighteenth Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee, held 8-12 April in San Jose, Costa Rica, TRAFFIC played a key role in moving forward a number of conservation issues. TRAFFIC representatives presented significant trade studies for several sturgeon species, and played a key role in developing a draft

resolution on caviar labeling and conservation measures to address the Asian turtle trade. The results of the meeting can be found at <http://www.cites.org/eng/cttee/animals/index.shtml>.

- ✓ TRAFFIC North America also contributed to the Suitcase for Survival—Wildlife Trade Training Course at the Denver Zoo in April by providing presentations on U.S. wildlife laws and emerging issues in wildlife trade. The course, part of a partnership among WWF, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, provides educators with tools to teach students about the complex social issues and conservation impacts of legal and illegal wildlife trade. For more information on this and other WWF education efforts, please click on the education link at <http://www.worldwildlife.org>.

- ✓ The Justice Institute of British Columbia recently made a unique offer to provide formal enforcement training to TRAFFIC staff. The institute provides enforcement training throughout Canada and in a number of countries around the world.

An accredited training module was developed for a weeklong training workshop for TRAFFIC staff to equip them with the skills they need to provide enforcement assistance in their respective regions. The workshop was held 24-28 June, and 16 TRAFFIC staff from around the world participated, including 4 from North America. The attendees received training in running investigations, analyzing intelligence information, communicating and cooperating with enforcement agencies, computer encryption, and covert photography.

With this training and accreditation from a foremost enforcement training institute, TRAFFIC can further its work to ensure that governments, particularly in the developing world, can perform their enforcement roles more effectively.



## MORE SNOW PLOW INDICTMENTS

Eight indictments were announced in Illinois on 1 May 2002 for the trafficking and killing of endangered species. Six suburban Chicago residents, a Wisconsin man, and the owner of a Lockport, Illinois, market were all nabbed in Operation Snow Plow, a multistate crackdown on big game trafficking led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The defendants include exotic animal exhibitors, taxidermists, trophy collectors, and an exotic meat dealer. In total, 19 tigers (*Panthera tigris*), 7 leopards (*Panthera pardus*), 1 snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), and 1 Asian swamp deer, or barasingha (*Cervus duvauceli*), were traded or killed during the late 1990s. Each of these species is currently protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. According to federal officials, the animals were purchased from licensed dealers, small zoos, and wildlife refuges in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas.

William R. Kapp, of Tinley Park, and Steven Galecki, of Crete, were responsible for the majority of the trafficking, bringing the animals into Illinois and killing them or arranging to have them killed. According to the indictment, the pair killed some of the animals while they were still confined to cages or trailers, then sold the skulls, hides, and other parts to local collectors. The meat was sold to Czimer's Game and Sea Foods in Lockport, where it was sold labeled as "lion," which can be legally marketed in the United States.



WWF/BRUCE BUNTING

Operation Snow Plow uncovered the trade or killing of several species protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act and CITES, including an endangered snow leopard.

Also charged were Richard Czimer of Lockport, Timothy Laurie of Elgin, Robert Martinez of Palos Heights, David Woldman of Lombard, and Kevin W.

Ramsey of Wisconsin. Ramsey and Laurie have both pleaded guilty to the charges against them. If convicted, those indicted face up to 5 years in prison and fines of up to US\$250,000 for each count.

(*Chicago Tribune*, 2 May 2002; *Environmental News Service*, 2 May 2002)

## PLOWING ON...

On 20 May, Freddy Wilmoth, operator of Wild Wilderness Safari animal park in Gentry, Arkansas, was sentenced for aiding and abetting the illegal transport and sale of endangered tigers (*Panthera tigris*), a misdemeanor violation of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Wilmoth received six months home confinement and two weekends in jail, was ordered to pay a US\$25 special assessment, will be on probation for three years, and must pay the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Save the Tiger Fund US\$10,000. Wilmoth was charged last November with brokering the illegal sale with buyers in Missouri and pleaded guilty in February. He was the second person to be sentenced as a result of Operation Snow Plow.

(*Environmental News Service*, 23 May 2002)

## TOOTHFISH CRACKDOWN

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. State Department announced at the end of March that they will aggressively enforce import regulations and cooperate with the international community to prevent illegal overfishing of Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), also known as Chilean sea bass. The species is a deepwater fish that can grow to over 200 pounds and 50 years in age, and is in great demand for the world's specialty markets and fine restaurants. The United States alone imports about 10,000 tons of Chilean sea bass each year, which is 15 to 20 percent of the worldwide catch. While the fish is not an endangered species, continued poaching could quickly put it at serious risk.

The United States is one of 24 member nations of CCAMLR, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, that have agreed to catch limits and documentation for the species. U.S. Customs and NOAA Fisheries regulations do not allow Chilean sea bass imports without this documentation, as well as a valid dealer permit issued by NOAA. The agencies are directing restaurants to verify the source of Chilean sea bass with their brokers and to buy the fish only with the proper documentation.

(*Environmental News Service*, 28 March 2002; NOAA press release 25 March 2002)





## MAHOGANY LOG JAM

On 6 May 2002, the U.S. government reversed a decision to release 18 shipments of Brazilian mahogany imported into the United States for the fine furniture market. Approximately 7,000 cubic meters of big-leafed mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), worth an estimated US\$8-10 million, has been impounded at six U.S. ports since early February to allow time for confirmation that CITES export permits were valid and that the wood was legally acquired. Brazil lists the species in CITES Appendix III, under which export permits may be issued by the government only if specimens were not harvested in violation of national law.

In late April, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved the release of the mahogany based on a document from an official at Brazil's environmental agency declaring the timber legal. When this was brought to the attention of Brazil's minister of the environment and other top officials, emergency calls were made to the White House rescinding the document and requesting that the shipments be detained until further notice. The U.S. government is waiting to hear from the Brazilian government as to whether any of the detained mahogany was illegally harvested or exported from that country.

(*Environmental News Service, 6 May 2002*)

## ILLEGAL COD FISHING

Canadian officials announced in early April that a Russian fishing trawler holding an illegal cargo of cod was allowed to leave Canada and will have its fishing license revoked by the Russian government upon return to its home port. Russia sent a letter to the Canadian government assuring them that their complaints would be investigated and the license of the trawler *Olga* suspended. *Olga's* captain and first officer had been arrested on charges of pollution in Newfoundland after allegedly discharging oil on the Grand Banks. While the ship was docked near St. John's, Canadian officials also stumbled upon the 49 tons of illegal cod in her hold.

(*National Post, 5 April 2002*)

## IVORY SMUGGLER PLEADS GUILTY

In mid-February, Mohamed Doost, a German jeweler living in Toronto, pleaded guilty to charges of illegally importing products made from endangered species and agreed to make a CA\$10,000 (US\$6,490) contribution toward an environmental damages fund. In exchange, Doost was discharged, but had to forfeit the CA\$75,000

(US\$48,675) worth of elephant ivory he was charged with smuggling from Germany to Canada.

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency discovered the cache during a random search last September. The ivory consisted of over 4,000 pieces of jewelry and carvings, and was Canada's largest-ever ivory seizure. Environment Canada said Doost's donation will likely be put into an elephant protection fund and the ivory will be used for museum displays and for training inspectors in identification.

(*The Halifax Herald, 13 February 2002*)

## LORD OF THE POACHING RINGS

The final defendant in a nine-month undercover investigation by Michigan's Wildlife Resource Protection Unit was sentenced in late January 2002. Tony Lee Linton was sentenced to one year in jail plus monetary penalties of US\$11,330, and had his hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges in Michigan suspended for 12 years.

Linton was originally charged in February 2001 with killing a sow black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and her two cubs as they were hibernating, then selling them. In a plea agreement, Linton pleaded guilty to conspiracy to sell three black bears and the sale of three black bears. He will serve 180 days of his jail sentence, with the remainder suspended upon successful completion of a one-year probation.

The same investigation led to the arrest of four other Michigan residents — also sentenced were David A. McDonald, Kenneth E. Watson, Lionel Jefferson, and Daniel D. Vance. A Wildlife Resource Protection Unit detective received a tip that Linton and Vance were illegally hunting and killing. The



HOWARD BUFFET

The trade in black bear parts is lucrative, which influences illegal hunting of the species. Bear parts are in demand for many uses: traditional Asian medicine, food, souvenirs, jewelry, and trophies.

detective established a relationship with the men, and witnessed numerous illegal hunts and sales transactions over an eight-month period. The five



defendants were charged with a total of 54 counts of illegally killing and selling protected species, including bear, bobcat, badger, and turkey.

*(Michigan Department of Natural Resources press release, 30 January 2002)*

## RARE FALCON EGGS CONFISCATED

Two British nationals posing as South African wildlife photographers were arrested in late May in northern Quebec for possessing seven rare falcon eggs. The men were carrying the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) eggs in a portable incubator and were intending to hatch them and sell the chicks in the Middle East, where falconry is a popular sport with the upper class.



CRAIG KOPPIE/USFWS

The peregrine falcon, prized by falconers for its precision and speed, is listed on CITES Appendix I.

According to a wildlife spokesman, the falcons can be worth as much as CA\$30,000 (US\$19,470) each on the black market. Quebec officials said that the men immediately paid their CA\$7,200 (US\$4,670) fine and have since left Canada. The eggs were transported to a bird of prey recovery center, where the chicks will be hatched, raised, and later released back into the wild.

*(National Post, 18 May 2002)*

## ROLLING STONE GATHERS COD

As a result of a yearlong investigation (dubbed "Operation Codfish Saver") by the National Marine Fisheries Service, five fishermen have been prosecuted for illegal transport and sale of codfish fillets in violation of the U.S. Lacey Act. In early February, James Hayward, captain of the

fishing vessel *Rolling Stone*, was sentenced to one year in prison and one year supervised release, and was fined US\$3,000. Hayward was the principal player in hauling in around 24,000 pounds beyond the allowable catch of cod and selling it across state lines.

Also prosecuted in the case were Hayward's crew, including Paul Kuncho, Stephen M. Beote, Joshua Brindamour, and Boden Hughes. Charges are pending against Hayward's wife, Jolyn Waring, for allegedly transporting and selling the cod fillets across state lines.

State and federal regulations prohibit the sale of fillets, but allow up to 25 pounds of fillet per crew member for personal consumption. The *Rolling Stone's* crew kept their fillets, then proceeded to sell over 8,200 pounds of them to dealers over an 18-month period. The fillets sold for US\$21,573. It is estimated that the fillets were derived from about 24,000 pounds of whole fish.

*(Seacoastonline.com, 6 February 2002)*

## JUMBO IVORY SEIZURE

In April 2001, two shipments containing 36 whole elephant ivory tusks and numerous other pieces of tusk were seized. It was the largest ivory seizure in the United States since the 1980s, and exposed the largest ivory smuggling operation ever on the West Coast. Bahoreh Kabba, a Gambian national, was found guilty of violating CITES and sentenced on 4 March to a year and a day in federal prison for conspiring to smuggle the ivory.

The ivory was discovered by the U.S. Customs Service at Los Angeles International Airport when they conducted an x-ray screening of a shipment originating in Nigeria. The x-rays indicated that elephant tusks were concealed in several chairs. Two days later, another shipment from Nigeria was discovered to contain ivory concealed in several wooden statues. In both instances, the shipments were resealed and then placed under surveillance. Ebrima Marigo, who was indicted with Kabba, picked up the first shipment and Kabba picked up the second. Marigo pleaded guilty to smuggling and was sentenced in January to four months in a community corrections center and two years supervised release, and was ordered to pay a fine of US\$3,000.

Kabba's shipment contained approximately 30 pounds of ivory. Further stashes found in a van parked at Kabba's residence and in a storage unit yielded almost 65 pounds of ivory, consisting of 14 tusks and 200 sections of tusks. The estimated value of this ivory is between US\$30,000 and US\$145,000.

*(Environment News Service, 6 March 2002)*



## U.S. EXPANDS SHARK FINNING BAN



WWF/SIVIA EARLE

Intense demand for shark fins and other shark products is propelling a massive increase in shark fishing around the world.

As of 13 March 2002, the United States ban on shark finning, in effect in federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea since 1993, will also take effect in the Pacific Ocean. The new regulations implement the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000, which was passed by Congress to address concerns about the status of shark populations and the effects of heavy shark fishing. The intent of the act is to eliminate the wasteful practice of shark finning; to that end, it prohibits any federally regulated fishing vessel from carrying or landing shark fins without the entire shark carcass.

(NOAA press release, 7 February 2002)

## FEDS AID STATE ENFORCEMENT

The National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Office for Law Enforcement is providing funding to the states of Washington and Oregon as part of a joint enforcement agreement that is benefiting 23 states and territories to the tune of US\$14.6 million.

Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife will receive US\$900,000 to increase enforcement of fisheries regulations at sea, dockside, and on land over the next three years. It will conduct nearly 13,000 hours of marine patrols, fishing vessel monitoring, and at-sea inspections of catches and fishing gear; will conduct additional patrols to protect endangered salmon; and will purchase a patrol boat for North Puget Sound.

Oregon's police and Department of Fish and Wildlife will receive US\$100,000 for one year to the same ends. They will conduct more than 600 hours of patrols to monitor compliance with state and

federal environmental regulations and will purchase two patrol vessels for use in both inland and offshore waters. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), of which NMFS is a part, hopes these joint enforcement efforts will broaden the reach of its fisheries enforcement capabilities and build cooperative understandings between all levels of government.

(NOAA press releases, 6 March 2002)

## ALBERTA BUST

Alberta Fish and Wildlife recently closed its one-and-a-half-year undercover investigation into illegal hunting and sale of substantial numbers of moose, deer, and caribou. In total, 27 people pleaded guilty to 106 of 173 charges. The remaining charges were stayed or withdrawn in favor of the guilty pleas. In total, the accused were assessed a total of just under CA\$255,000 (US\$165,490) in fines, almost 10 years in prison, and 69 years in hunting license suspensions. Charges against a 28th individual were stayed.



STEVEN MORELLO

Alberta residents' concern about poaching of moose, deer, and caribou led to 173 charges against 28 individuals.

"Operation Tamarack" was launched in response to nearly 100 complaints from Alberta residents concerned about poaching over the last several years. Undercover officers established that the poachers traveled across the province to illegally hunt wildlife for the purpose of trafficking. The operation resulted in 28 suspects being charged with violations such as hunting for the purpose of trafficking, hunting at night with a spotlight, hunting during closed season, and trafficking in wildlife. The penalties resulting from the operation were precedent-setting in Canadian resource law enforcement and showed equal culpability between buyers and sellers in the illegal wildlife trade.

(Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Update, 23 May 2002)



## ILLEGAL CAVIAR OPERATION EXPOSED

Franklin and Carolyn Hale, operators of Royaloff Caviar in Tennessee, were found guilty of six felony violations of the Lacey Act and conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act on 16 May 2002. The Hales were charged with purchasing paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) caviar harvested during closed Tennessee seasons and in closed waters; selling illegally taken caviar in interstate commerce; purchasing fish without being properly licensed as wholesalers in the state of Tennessee; and forging documents to conceal the identities of fishermen and the locations where the paddlefish eggs were taken.

The joint investigation by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that over 8,400 pounds of paddlefish caviar, valued at US\$483,000, were taken illegally and sold in interstate commerce by the Hales.

Also found guilty of conspiracy was Wendy Haney-Melson, daughter of the Hales, for her role in creating false documents and purchasing caviar taken during closed seasons and from closed waters. Sentencing is scheduled for 12 August 2002. Penalties for violations of the Lacey Act include up to 6 years imprisonment and a US\$250,000 fine for individuals or US\$500,000 for an organization. (*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service press release, May 2002*)

## DRAGON FISH SMUGGLER SENTENCED

On 28 March, Stanley Sun Kit Choi was sentenced to one year in prison for smuggling 80 Asian Arowanas (*Scleropages formosus*), or dragon fish, into the United States. The dragon fish is listed in CITES Appendix I and as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). Choi was the owner/operator of a wholesale tropical fish business in California and, in 1998, accepted a shipment of 2,700 fish, including the 80 dragon fish. The dragon fish were mixed in the same containers as the nonprotected fish and were not listed on any of the shipping documents, and the required export or import permits had not been obtained.

Choi pleaded guilty to one count of importing wildlife into the United States in violation of the ESA and one count of mislabeling a shipment of fish from Malaysia in violation of the Lacey Act. The Choi investigation was conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Customs Service.

(*U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney, Northern District of California press release, 28 March 2002*)

## TROPHY HUNT

A two-year cooperative investigation by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and New Mexico Game and Fish uncovered evidence of illegal sale of wildlife and trafficking of trophy heads and antlers in both states. Colorado officials seized several trophy bighorn sheep, elk, deer, and a bear cub from an Estes Park taxidermy shop, along with a computer, documents, and records. Related evidence was also seized in New Mexico. Charges have not yet been filed in either case.



AMOS EHO

Hunting of bighorn sheep has been prohibited or closely controlled since the early 1900s, but poaching for their meat and horns remains a threat to their continued survival.

The owner of the Colorado shop allegedly received and sold illegally killed wildlife and transported it across state lines. The New Mexico suspect allegedly killed wildlife illegally and traded, received, and sold illegally killed or possessed wildlife. It is likely that the investigation will lead to additional charges and arrests in other states.

(*Colorado Department of Natural Resources press release, 6 February 2002*)

## BREAKING NEWS

CITES proposals are in! In early June, 54 proposals to amend Appendices I and II were submitted to the CITES Secretariat. Included were 1 toothfish, 1 seahorse, 2 whale, 6 elephant, and 12 Asian freshwater turtle proposals. These and other proposals will be decided on at the Twelfth Conference of the Parties, to be held in Chile in November. You can access the proposals via TRAFFIC's COP12 Conference Room at [www.traffic.org/cop12](http://www.traffic.org/cop12) by clicking on "Resources" and "Links."



## LITHUANIA, IRELAND & YUGOSLAVIA ACCEDE TO CITES

On 10 December 2001, Lithuania became the 156th party to CITES. The Convention entered into force in Lithuania on 9 March 2002. Ireland signed the treaty in 1974, but has only now become the 157th party, with CITES entering into force there on 8 April 2002. Yugoslavia acceded on 27 February 2002, with the treaty entering into force on 28 May 2002.

(CITES Web site at [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org))

## CITES INCENTIVES SPUR REFORM

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Fiji, Vietnam, and Yemen have all responded to trade measures imposed by CITES for inadequate implementation of the treaty.

The CITES Standing Committee has agreed to lift or modify imposed trade measures in response to UAE's pledge to reform wildlife management and trade practices. Noncommercial trade other than movements of live birds of prey will be permitted immediately. Next, the prohibition on cross-border movement of live falcons for noncommercial purposes will be lifted once a domestic registry of birds and owners is completed and confirmed by the Secretariat. Last, commercial trade in CITES-listed species will be reconsidered at the next Standing Committee meeting in November, when UAE's status will be thoroughly reviewed.

Fiji has also had its trade suspension lifted, in response to its pledge to introduce CITES legislation in June 2002 and to have it enacted before the end of the year. Fiji also agreed to set trade quotas for coral species at half of its 2001 exports and will not authorize further exports until this quota takes effect. If Fiji fails to enact its legislation before the end of 2002, its trade will once again be suspended.

Vietnam had its trade suspension lifted following enactment of its CITES legislation in February 2002. Yemen's trade, however, remains suspended. CITES is working closely with authorities there to develop legislation and train enforcement officers.

(CITES press release, 15 March 2002)

## CITES LISTING RECOMMENDED FOR TOOTHFISH

In early April, TRAFFIC released *Uncharted Waters: Implementation Issues and Potential Benefits of Listing Toothfish in Appendix II of CITES*, a report that outlines the benefits of a CITES Appendix II listing for toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), marketed in the United States as Chilean sea bass. Toothfish have come under increased pressure from illegal fishing in recent years

and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), which is responsible for conservation of toothfish in the southern oceans, has stated that stocks could soon be reduced to levels from which they cannot recover.

Over 90 percent of toothfish products enter international trade, with the United States and Japan being the top two importing countries. TRAFFIC's report concluded that a CITES listing could help to curb illegal fishing by requiring its 158 member countries to regulate and track imports and exports of the fish. *Uncharted Waters* builds on a 2001 TRAFFIC report that showed that illegal catch accounted for half of the Patagonian toothfish traded in 2000.

In a groundbreaking alliance, Austral Fisheries Pty. Ltd., the Humane Society International, World Wildlife Fund, and TRAFFIC Oceania combined forces to ask the Australian government to propose the toothfish for listing in Appendix II when the 12th Conference of the Parties to CITES meets this November; Australia submitted just such a proposal in June. Because toothfish are targeted by a large-scale, commercial fishery, a toothfish listing is likely to be highly controversial. A successful listing will require a two-thirds majority vote.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of *Uncharted Waters*, please contact TRAFFIC Oceania at [traffic@traffico.org](mailto:traffic@traffico.org).

(TRAFFIC and WWF-US press releases, 19 April 2002)

## EURASIAN TROPHY HUNTING

TRAFFIC Europe released their report, *The Lion's Share of the Hunt - Trophy Hunting and Conservation: A Review of the Legal Eurasian Tourist Hunting Market and Trophy Trade under CITES*, in early April. The report reveals that an increasing number of European sport hunters hunt in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. It is estimated that the hunters spend anywhere from US\$111 million to US\$167 million in the region each year, but that only a third of that income remains in the supply countries, so it contributes very little to the gross national products of the region.

The report urges that tourist hunting be integrated into conservation programs and encourages increased dialogue among tourist hunting stakeholders. More facts are needed to fuel this dialogue, and to create a better understanding of the potential benefits of hunting to conservation and the economy of the region.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of *The Lion's Share*, please contact TRAFFIC Europe at [traffic@traffic-europe.com](mailto:traffic@traffic-europe.com).

(TRAFFIC Europe press release, 4 April 2002)

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

collection and therefore should be considered higher priorities for conservation than sites that have historically yielded fewer species for the trade. In addition, 40 species were also highlighted for conservation attention given their precarious biological status, potentially high commercial demand, or vulnerability to illegal trade.

The market forces driving the trade in cactus species harvested from the Chihuahuan Desert of the United States differ from those behind the collection of CDE species in Mexico. While Mexico's diversity of endemic and rare cactus species from the Chihuahuan Desert makes that country a likely target for collectors, the U.S. Chihuahuan Desert,



J. ATCHLEY

Cacti are popular among homeowners in arid southwestern U.S. states, where conserving water through the substitution of drought-tolerant plants for water-intensive plants (like grass lawns) is increasing.

particularly west Texas, is a key commercial source of wild-collected cacti for regional landscaping markets. Cities and homeowners in the southwestern United States are embracing desert gardening, called xeriscaping, in an effort to conserve water. Local governments encourage or even require public spaces and private yards to landscape with drought-resistant plants, thereby increasing demand for such desert flora as cacti, ocotillo, yucca, agave, and other native species from the Chihuahuan Desert.

West Texas, an area the size of South Carolina, comprises the largest swath of Chihuahuan Desert in the United States and is a significant source of wild plants used in landscaping throughout the desert Southwest. A major market for CDE plants is Arizona, into which more than 22,000 live CDE cacti were imported from Texas between 1998 and

2001. An additional 67,000 ocotillo, 5,500 yucca, and 2,500 agave originating in the Chihuahuan Desert of west Texas entered Arizona during this period.

While most of the CDE species documented in commerce between Texas and Arizona are not imperiled, the large quantity of plants traded raises questions about the long-term sustainability and biological impacts of this trade. Moreover, the absence of management measures for exploited species on private lands, the primary source of wild plants harvested in west Texas, could result in the depletion of some species, which could undermine their ecological role or commercial viability. TRAFFIC has identified Hudspeth, Culberson, and Brewster counties as priorities for additional trade monitoring, as the majority of plants destined for regional markets originate from these counties. Several species were also selected as strong candidates for conservation attention owing to their prominence in Texas-Arizona trade, questionable population status, or inherent biological constraints.

In its forthcoming report, *Prickly Trade: Trade and Conservation of Chihuahuan Desert Cacti*, TRAFFIC makes a number of recommendations aimed at improving the conservation of CDE species that are vulnerable to trade or could become so if certain concerns are left unaddressed.

In Mexico, for instance, there is an urgent need to reduce demand for wild specimens of endemic, rare, or otherwise highly collectable species by increasing the availability of plants grown by nurseries. To this end, the Mexican government should streamline the process by which nurseries apply for licenses to grow, sell, and export cactus specimens and facilitate the exchange of technical assistance and technology from university greenhouses to local nurseries. The current system for licensing growers in Mexico is financially and administratively burdensome, creating disincentives among nurseries to breed plants or seeds for domestic or international markets.

In the CDE of the United States, public and private landowners should consider the ecological and economic benefits of conserving cactus species and populations through sustainable harvest. Pending funding, TRAFFIC, in close partnership with WWF's Chihuahuan Desert Program, will develop a pilot program for the sustainable harvest and propagation of desert plants in west Texas that would aim to give local landowners and communities an economic incentive to conserve the resource base.

— C. Robbins

*If you would like to obtain a copy of Prickly Trade, please contact TRAFFIC North America by mail (1250 24th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037), email (tna@wwfus.org) or telephone (202-778-9699).*



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*The Gardener's Guide to Plant Conservation* (1993), 187 pp.

*Prescription for Extinction: Endangered Species and Patented Oriental Medicines in Trade* (1994), 300 pp.

*Status, Management, and Commercialization of the American Black Bear (Ursus americanus)* (1995), 132 pp.

*Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on the Trade of Bear Parts* (1997), 239 pp.

*An Overview of World Trade in Cervid Antler with an Emphasis on the United States and Canada* (1997), 98 pp.

*American Ginseng: The Root of North America's Medicinal Herb Trade* (1998), 94 pp.

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*A World Apart? Attitudes Toward Traditional Chinese Medicine and Endangered Species in Hong Kong and the United States* (1998), 80 pp.

*A Review of State Bear Trade Laws: U.S. State Statutes and Regulations Regarding the American Black Bear (Ursus americanus)* (1999), 171 pp.

"Comparative analysis of management regimes and medicinal plant trade monitoring mechanisms for American ginseng and goldenseal" (1999), 14 pp. Article reprinted from *Conservation Biology* (14/5/1422-34)

*Asian Turtle Trade: Proceedings of a Workshop on Conservation and Trade of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in Asia* (2000), 164 pp.

*Mahogany Matters: The U.S. Market for Big-Leafed Mahogany and Its Implications for the Conservation of the Species* (2000), 58 pp.

*Swimming Against the Tide: Recent Surveys of Exploitation, Trade, and Management of Marine Turtles in the Northern Caribbean* (2001), 161 pp.

*In the Black: Status, Management, and Trade of the American Black Bear (Ursus americanus) in North America* (2002), 161 pp.

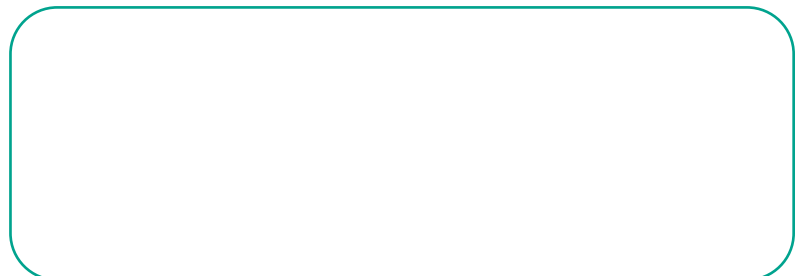
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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## CITES Tackles Fish and Timber

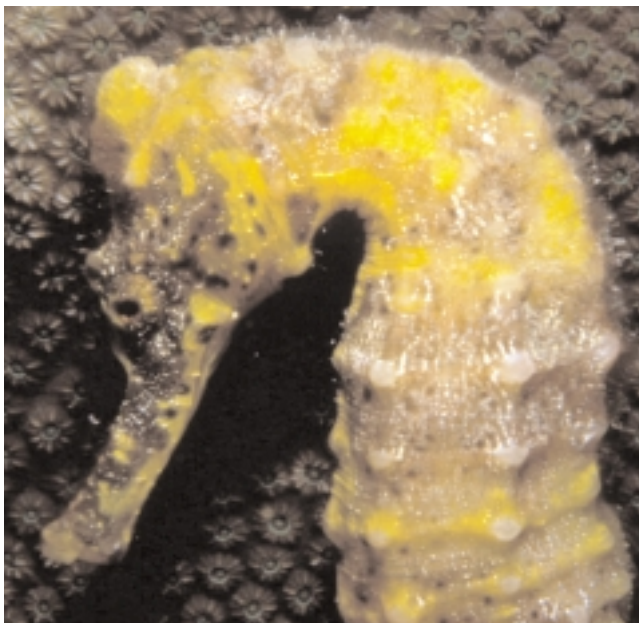
**B**ig-leaf mahogany, whale sharks, basking sharks, and seahorses were voted new levels of trade protection at the 12th Conference of the Parties to CITES, COP 12, held in Santiago, Chile, 3-15 November 2002. Actions taken at the meeting marked a major advance in the historical scope of the convention and its conservation impact, and saw 49 species proposals considered and about 100 species added to CITES appendices.

International trade in species listed on CITES Appendix I is prohibited, except in very special circumstances, and trade in Appendix II species is strictly controlled through a system of permits. CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, was enacted in 1973, and currently claims 160 member countries. The treaty helps to ensure the sustainable international trade of more than 30,000 plant and animal species.

For the first time, CITES parties moved firmly into the realm of regulating the international timber and fisheries trades. Big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*), basking sharks (*Cetorhinus maximus*), and seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.)

were all added to Appendix II. The listing of big-leaf mahogany, which produces extremely valuable timber, came some 10 years after it was first proposed for listing, and only after intense debate and a close vote. The proposals to list the basking shark and the whale shark, which are threatened by demand for their meat and fins, were initially defeated in committee. In the last minutes of the COP, however, the proposals were reopened for consideration and the sharks gained the two-thirds majority vote needed for Appendix II listings. Thirty-two species of seahorses that are threatened by demand for traditional medicines, curios, and the

*continued on page 2*



ANJA G. BURNS

Seahorses have been used for generations in traditional Asian medicines to treat a variety of ailments, including respiratory disorders such as asthma, sexual dysfunctions such as impotence, and general lethargy and pain.



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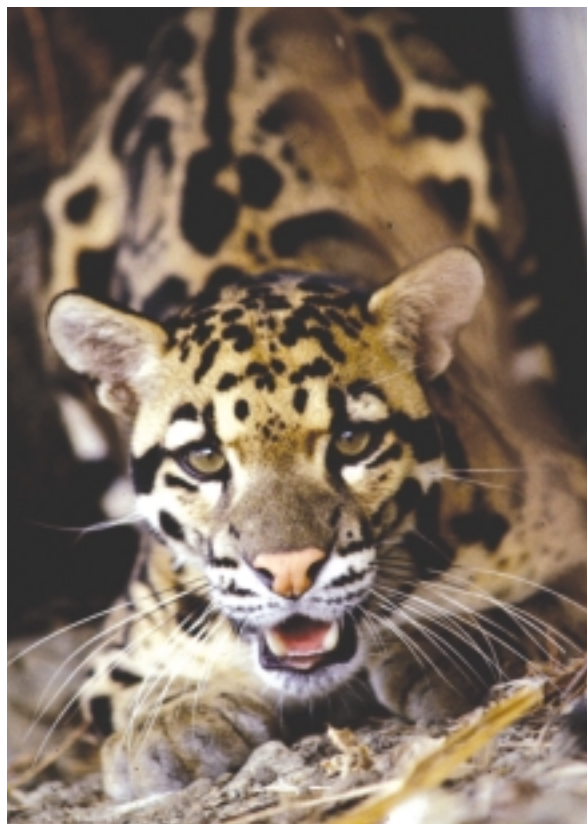
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**TRAFFIC**  
—NORTH AMERICA—



**IUCN**  
The World Conservation Union

aquarium trade were also approved for Appendix II listing.



BRUCE BUFFETT

Though tiger conservation efforts have shown some gains, particularly with regard to curbing the use of tiger parts in traditional medicines, demand for their parts is now shifting to include other Asian big cats, such as the clouded leopard.

The Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), widely marketed as Chilean sea bass, was one commercial fish species that failed to gain a CITES listing. Australia had proposed the species for Appendix II listing, but withdrew its proposal under pressure from other nations involved in toothfish trade. The CITES parties did, however, adopt a resolution urging all CITES parties to voluntarily implement the catch documentation scheme adopted by CCAMLR, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The resolution also requires all CITES parties to report on their use of the catch documentation scheme to the CITES Secretariat. The resolution is not as strong a measure as an Appendix II listing, but it has the potential to help decrease illegal fishing and it represents an important step forward in using CITES to ensure the sustainability of commercially important marine species.

Always a controversial issue, and no exception at COP 12, was the resumption of trade in African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)

ivory. Five countries — Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe — submitted proposals to allow limited sales of existing ivory stockpiles. CITES delegates, however, found that only Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa had sufficient controls in place to oversee the trade and adequately monitor their elephant populations. These three countries will be allowed one-off sales of 20, 10, and 30 tons of ivory, respectively, once certain conditions are met. To allow time for collection of baseline data on elephant population and poaching levels, the sales will not take place before at least May 2004. In addition, the CITES Secretariat can suspend the trade at any time, if they find that either an exporting or importing country is in noncompliance, or if there is evidence that the trade is negatively affecting African elephant populations.

In addition to these developments, 26 species of Asian freshwater turtles, traded in significant quantities for regional food markets, traditional medicines, and the international pet trade, were added to Appendix II. The yellow-naped Amazon parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*), yellow-headed Amazon parrot (*Amazona oratrix*), and blue-headed macaw (*Ara couloni*) were transferred from Appendix II to Appendix I, as their populations have continued to decline in recent years. Added protection will also be provided for Asian big cats, including the leopard (*Panthera pardus*), snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), and clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), as a result of a resolution calling on CITES parties to take further action to control poaching and illegal trade in these species.

Overall, COP 12 made huge strides in insuring the continued sustainability of Earth's living resources, and TRAFFIC North America will continue to build on these successes.

For complete results of COP 12, visit [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org), the CITES Web site.

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

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## INSPECTOR TURNS SMUGGLER

In early October 2002, Wahab Omotayo Alaga was arrested for illegally importing protected birds. Alaga was arrested at his job as a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. Alaga imported six African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) into the United States in March without the required export permit. The African grey parrot is protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Wild Bird Conservation Act, and CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).



© WWF-Canon / Michel Gunther

Despite the fact that they are frequently bred in captivity in the United States, African greys continue to be taken from their natural habitat in equatorial Africa to supply the international demand for pet birds.

Alaga acquired the birds from his family in Nigeria, who took them from their nest in the wild. He also illegally imported nine gray singing finches (*Serinus leucopygius*) in 1998. Alaga has been charged with violations of the Lacey Act and with making false statements to a law enforcement officer. Both charges carry maximum penalties of five years in prison and a US\$250,000 fine for a felony conviction.

(*Environment News Service, 14 October 2002*)

## SNAKEHEAD BAN

On 4 October 2002, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) added all species of snakehead fish (family Channidae) to its list of injurious wildlife, and banned the import or interstate transport of live fish or their eggs anywhere in the United States. Snakeheads are not native to the United States, but have been imported for ethnic markets and restaurants, and also for pet stores. Snakeheads have

been found in the wild recently in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maryland, Florida, California, and Hawaii, but have been known to reproduce only in Maryland, Florida, and Hawaii.

The fish are aggressive and highly predatory and can wreak havoc on an ecosystem, as they eat almost anything in their path, from fish to amphibians to mammals. In addition, snakeheads can survive out of water for up to three days, sometimes even moving from one body of water to another. Therefore, USFWS felt the new ban was necessary to protect native wildlife and wildlife resources. Any live snakeheads or their eggs discovered at U.S. ports of entry will be returned to the originating country or destroyed at the owner's expense unless they have the proper permits indicating that they are for scientific, medical, educational, or zoological purposes.

(*67 Fed. Reg. 62193; Environment News Service, 4 October 2002*)

## BLUEFIN TUNA SEIZURE

On 3 August 2002, a Virginia Marine Patrol officer boarded the commercial scallop vessel *Kimberly and Kathryn* to monitor the offload of scallops and found that the vessel carried a large number of tuna. The skipper, John P. Jones, identified the tuna as yellowfin, but a U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) special agent positively identified the 71 offloaded tuna as Atlantic bluefin (*Thunnus thynnus*), all under the minimum commercial size limit of 73 inches curved fork length. The vessel also exceeded the commercial landing limit of two bluefin tuna per vessel. *Kimberly and Kathryn's* owner faces civil penalties between US\$1,000 and US\$40,000 and/or permit sanctions of between 10 and 30 days. The 3,824 pounds of bluefin tuna were donated to a local food bank.

(*NOAA press release, August 2002*)

## CAVIAR SMUGGLER PLEADS GUILTY

In late August 2002, the former president and owner of Miami-based Beluga Caviar, Inc., admitted to smuggling large amounts of caviar into the United States. Viktor Tsimbal, a Russian national who had hired couriers to smuggle caviar into the United States in contravention of CITES, pleaded guilty to conspiracy, smuggling, and money laundering. Tsimbal also confessed to using false documents to smuggle more beluga (*Huso huso*) caviar from Russia in 1999 than the entire Russian export quota for that year.

Tsimbal forfeited the US\$36,000 found in his possession at the time of his arrest, and more than US\$500,000 worth of caviar, falsely labeled "Atlantic



Lumpfish Roe,” was seized from his company under a search warrant. Tsimbal admitted that the false labels were yet another component of the smuggling scheme. Tsimbal faced up to five years in prison for each of the four counts of conspiracy and smuggling, and 10 years for money laundering, as well as fines of up to US\$1 million. On November 6, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida sentenced Tsimbal to 41 months in federal prison and two years of supervised release.

*(U.S. Department of Justice press release, 26 August 2002)*

## VICUÑA DOWNLISTING

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has downlisted the vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) populations in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru from endangered to threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The vicuña is the smallest



WWF

While efforts to conserve wild vicuña populations have achieved great success, poaching continues. It is estimated that subsistence poaching by locals, most of whom live in extreme poverty, accounts for the deaths of just over 2% of the wild vicuña population annually.

member of the camel family and lives in the Andes Mountains. Vicuñas are prized for their wool, which became so popular and valuable that, by the early-to-mid 1970s, only about 8,000 individuals remained in the wild.

USFWS decided to downlist these populations based on the conservation measures in place and the increase in vicuña numbers in these four countries. USFWS will monitor the trade in vicuña products to determine the continued effectiveness of conservation measures and will restrict or suspend vicuña imports from any country whose vicuña population is not continuing to grow.

*(Environment News Service, 26 June 2002)*

## SHARK FIN FIASCO

On 13 August 2002, the U.S. Coast Guard boarded the Honolulu-based fishing vessel *King Diamond II* and discovered 12 tons of illegal shark fins. Shark finning was banned in 2000 by the U.S. Shark Finning Prohibition Act (SFPA), which prohibits the purchasing, landing, or possession of shark fins without shark carcasses. The vessel, which was about 350 miles southeast of Acapulco, Mexico, was seized and escorted by Coast Guard cutters to San Diego, California. Upon arrival, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agents took possession of the fins, which are being held as evidence, and interviewed the captain and crew. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of General Counsel will determine whether charges should be brought and what penalties may be imposed once they have closed the investigation. Penalties under SFPA can reach US\$120,000 for each violation, along with forfeiture of the fishing vessel and the fins.

*(U.S. Coast Guard press release, 30 July 2002)*

## SEALSKINS SEIZED BY THE SEASHORE

In June 2002, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) law enforcement agents seized an illegal shipment of sealskins in Port Elizabeth, New Jersey. The 5,000 Cape fur seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus*) skins were valued at US\$50,000 and were on route from Namibia to Canada via the United States. The skins were to be processed in Canada before being shipped to their final destination in the markets of Europe and China. The import of marine mammals and their parts into the United States is prohibited under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, and the Cape fur seal is also listed on CITES Appendix II.

*(NOAA press release, 26 June 2002)*



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Fur seals are in demand not only for their skins, but also for their fat, which is used in oils and creams, and for their genitals, which are used in traditional Chinese medicine to treat sexual dysfunction.





## BAD EGG

In July 2002, agents from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission arrested a man for possessing and attempting to sell sea turtle eggs. James O. McGriff sold a dozen of the eggs to an undercover officer for US\$30, and was then discovered to have 27 bags containing a dozen eggs each in his truck. McGriff was charged with possessing and attempting to sell a threatened species.

(CNN.com, 2 August 2002)



In many areas of the tropics, sea turtle eggs have been an important part of the local diet for generations. They are easy prey, and are often dug from their nests as soon as the mother has returned to sea.

## TOOTHFISH PULLED

U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agents seized over 33 tons of illegally imported Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), marketed as Chilean sea bass, in Boston in June 2002. The agents had received information from the Australian government that the US\$275,000 haul was illegally harvested in Antarctic waters. Pending investigation, the owners of the Uruguayan *Arvisa I* could face civil penalties and criminal fines, as well as forfeiture of their catch.

(NOAA press release, 24 June 2002)

## LIZARD SMUGGLER MONITORED

In June 2002, Bruce Alvin Feldhammer of San Francisco pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to smuggle mislabeled and undeclared merchandise from Australia to the United States. Feldhammer had attempted to smuggle in 14 Australian ridge-tailed monitor lizards (*Varanus storri*), which are listed on CITES Appendix II. In addition, Australian law

prohibits the commercial and private export of all of its indigenous wildlife. Feldhammer was sentenced to six months home detention and a US\$10,000 fine. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Australian Customs Service conducted the investigation.

(U.S. Department of Justice press release, 18 June 2002)

## HONOLULU BLUES FOR CORAL SMUGGLER

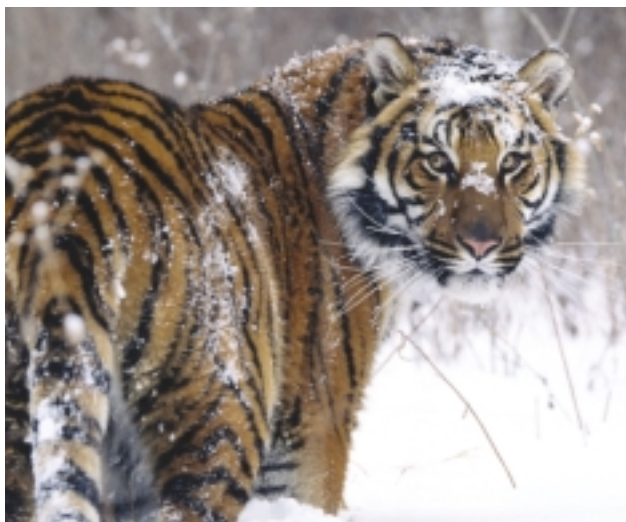
King Wong was fined US\$35,000 and ordered to pay US\$77,740 in restitution to the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources for his part in a coral smuggling scheme. Wong pleaded guilty in September 2000 to one count of conspiring to traffic 100 tons of coral and live rock taken illegally from Hawaiian waters. The value of the coral, smuggled by the conspirators from 1996 to 1998, is estimated at US\$1 million.

Wong, who owns a Honolulu seafood company, packed the coral into boxes marked seafood or ceramics and shipped them to the continental United States, where others then sold and distributed the coral to aquarium suppliers.

(HonoluluAdvertiser.com, 22 June 2002)

## SNOW PLOW SENTENCINGS

Four defendants indicted in Operation Snow Plow, a lengthy undercover investigation by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, were sentenced in October and November 2002.



Thousands of tigers are privately held in the United States, so many that they may actually surpass the world's wild tiger population.

Timothy Laurie, who pleaded guilty to knowingly concealing the hide of a federally protected leopard that was illegally imported into the United States, was sentenced in federal court in Chicago to four months



home detention, four years probation, and 200 hours of community service. Laurie was also ordered to pay US\$10,000 to the National Fish and Wildlife Federation's Save the Tiger Fund.

George Riley was sentenced in Detroit to one year probation and ordered to pay a community service donation of US\$30,000 to the Save the Tiger Fund and the Lacey Reward Fund for receiving the hides of two endangered tigers, a misdemeanor. Riley's plea agreement also requires that he cooperate with federal officers in their ongoing investigations into the illegal wildlife trade.

Stoney Ray Elam, who pleaded guilty to two felony violations of the Lacey Act, was sentenced to one year confinement, two years probation, and ordered to pay a US\$5,000 fine to the Save the Tiger Fund. Elam, former owner of exotic animal farm PowerHouse Wildlife Sanctuary, transported two tigers and three leopards across state lines, sold them to an undercover agent for US\$4,800, and then falsified federal documents declaring the illegal sale a donation.

Timothy Dale Rivers, owner of Animals in Motion Animal Park, was sentenced to six months in prison and one year probation, and was ordered to pay US\$2,500 to the Save the Tiger Fund. Rivers admitted to illegally selling two black leopards in 1998 and to falsifying federal documents to portray the sale as a donation. Rivers also admitted his involvement in the sale of a Bengal tiger in October 1998, for which he also falsified donation forms.

These stiff sentences were handed down with the aid of TRAFFIC, which provided the judge in each case with detailed information on the devastating impacts of illegal trade on the continued survival of these endangered cats.

*(USFWS press releases, October and November 2002)*

## AROWANA SMUGGLER UNLUCKY

A California man was indicted for importing endangered Asian arowana fish (*Scleropages formosus*) in July 2002. Lloyd Gomez conspired with Joe Lian Ho Luah of Alberta, Canada, to import and sell the fish in violation of the U.S. Endangered Species Act and falsified documents to pass them through U.S. Customs as another species. The Asian arowana, popular among collectors for its bright colors and as a symbol of luck, wealth, prosperity, and strength, can sell for up to US\$10,000 each. Gomez faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and US\$250,000 in fines.

*(USFWS press release, 25 July 2002)*

## CYCAD EXPERT TURNS LEAF, ADMITS GUILT

Peter Heibloem, a high profile plant expert and businessman in Queensland, Australia, was sentenced in June 2002 to three years' probation and a US\$25,000 fine for his role in a million-dollar rare plant smuggling ring. Heibloem, after months of proclaiming his innocence, entered into a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to one federal charge of conspiracy to smuggle merchandise into the United States, in exchange for 11 other charges being dropped.



LINDA R. McMAHAN

Part of the allure of the cycad is its ancient origin. Cycads are known to have existed in the Permian era, over 200 million years ago, before the existence of dinosaurs.

Heibloem runs the Eudlo Cycad Gardens and is the author of *The Cycads of Central Africa*. He was charged, along with 11 others from four continents, in one of the largest rare-plant smuggling investigations in U.S. history. The estimated value of the CITES-listed cycads and orchids smuggled in this case was more than US\$840,000.

Others charged in the case include Ernest Bouwere, Donald Joseph Wiener, Jose "Pepe" Portilla, John Baker, Ian Turner, Rolf Kyburz, Rolf Bauer, Jan Van Vuuren, Antonius Juniarto, Iwan Kolopaking, and Terrence Leung. The investigation, which ran from August 1999 through July 2001, was a cooperative effort among the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Office of Inspector General, and their partner agencies in South Africa and Australia.

*(SignOnSanDiego.com, 20 August 2001; Environment News Service, 24 July 2001)*



## BEAR TRAFFICKER FINED

A woman in British Columbia pleaded guilty to one charge of trafficking bear gall bladders in Fort St. John provincial court on 21 October 2002. Kyung Hee Kim was fined CA\$10,000 (US\$6,400). The maximum penalty for this offense under Canada's Wildlife Act is CA\$100,000 (US\$64,000) or one year in jail. Kim's conviction is the result of a year-long investigation and undercover operation by Fort St. John conservation officers and a Victoria-based special investigations unit. In return for Kim's guilty plea, other charges were dropped.

*(British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection press release, 25 October 2002)*

## HUSTLE A BUSTLE

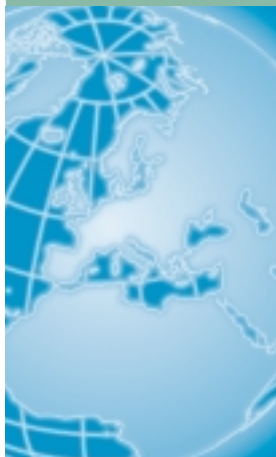
In July 2002, Trevor Roy Davies pleaded guilty to charges of exporting endangered species in violation of CITES in a Calgary provincial court. Davies had shipped a ceremonial dance costume bustle containing 32 bald eagle feathers to a U.S. resident, and the bustle was intercepted by Customs officers at the U.S.-Canada border. The court fined Davies CA\$2,000 (US\$1,275) and the bustle was forfeited to the Crown.

*(Environment Canada press release, 11 July 2002)*



Some Native American tribes believe that the eagle is a messenger to the Creator. Eagle feathers are worn in the hair or in a headdress during ceremonies and rituals in the belief that the Creator will take immediate notice.

## International NEWS



## KUWAIT AND BHUTAN ACCEDE TO CITES

Kuwait became the 159th Party to CITES when it ratified the Convention on 12 August 2002. The Convention entered into force for Kuwait on 10 November 2002. Bhutan became the 160th party when it ratified on 15 August 2002, with the Convention entering into force there on 13 November 2002. Both new Parties were able to attend the 12th meeting of the

Conference of the Parties in Santiago, Chile, and were able to exercise their voting rights during the last days.

*(CITES Web site at [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org))*

## YEMEN TRADE BAN LIFTED

On 14 January 2002, the CITES Secretariat recommended that Parties refuse any import from or export or reexport to Yemen of CITES listed species, due to concerns regarding their implementation of the treaty. In September 2002, however, Yemen informed the Secretariat of its enactment of implementing legislation that addressed these concerns. As of 4 October 2002, the recommendation to suspend trade with Yemen (Notification to the Parties No. 2002/005) was therefore withdrawn.

Similarly, a suspension of trade in CITES listed species with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was recommended to Parties on 20 November 2001 due to UAE's inadequate implementation of the convention. Since that time, UAE has made great progress and on 15 November 2002, the CITES Secretariat withdrew the suspension (Notification to the Parties No. 2002/061).

*(CITES Web site at [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org), 4 October 2002)*

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



## TRAFFIC NORTH AMERICA PUBLICATIONS

*The Gardener's Guide to Plant Conservation* (1993), 187 pp.

*Prescription for Extinction: Endangered Species and Patented Oriental Medicines in Trade* (1994), 300 pp.

*Status, Management, and Commercialization of the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)* (1995), 132 pp.

*Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on the Trade of Bear Parts* (1997), 239 pp.

*An Overview of World Trade in Cervid Antler with an Emphasis on the United States and Canada* (1997), 98 pp.

*American Ginseng: The Root of North America's Medicinal Herb Trade* (1998), 94 pp.

*While Supplies Last: The Sale of Tiger and Other Endangered Species Medicines in North America* (1998), 57 pp.

*Shark Fisheries and Trade in the Americas, Volume I: North America* (1998), 201 pp.

*The U.S. Role in the International Live Reptile Trade: Amazon Tree Boas to Zululand Dwarf Chameleons* (1998), 59 pp.

*A World Apart? Attitudes Toward Traditional Chinese Medicine and Endangered Species in Hong Kong and the United States* (1998), 80 pp.

*A Review of State Bear Trade Laws: U.S. State Statutes and Regulations Regarding the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)* (1999), 171 pp.

"Comparative analysis of management regimes and medicinal plant trade monitoring mechanisms for American ginseng and goldenseal" (1999), 14 pp. Article reprinted from *Conservation Biology* (14/5/1422-34)

*Asian Turtle Trade: Proceedings of a Workshop on Conservation and Trade of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in Asia* (2000), 164 pp.

*Mahogany Matters: The U.S. Market for Big-Leafed Mahogany and Its Implications for the Conservation of the Species* (2000), 58 pp.

*Swimming Against the Tide: Recent Surveys of Exploitation, Trade, and Management of Marine Turtles in the Northern Caribbean* (2001), 161 pp.

*In the Black: Status, Management, and Trade of the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) in North America* (2002), 161 pp.

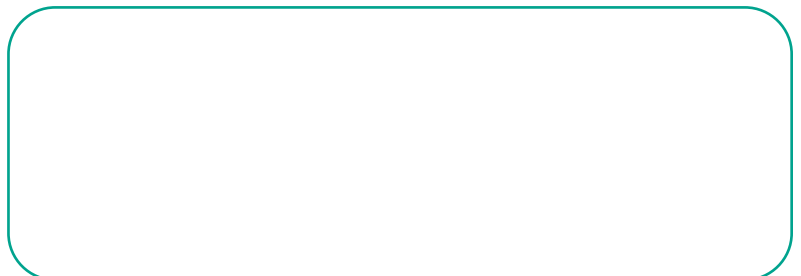
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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## La CITES Aborda Los Temas de La Pesca Y La Madera

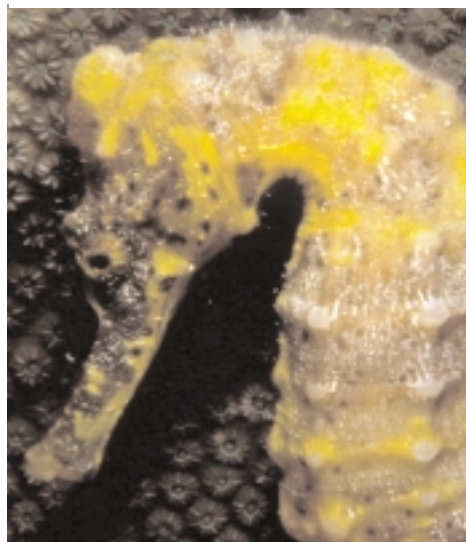
En la Decimosegunda Conferencia de las Partes de CITES, COP 12, celebrada en Santiago, Chile, del 3 al 15 de noviembre de 2002, se establecieron, por votación, nuevos niveles de protección comercial para la caoba, el tiburón ballena, el tiburón peregrino y los caballitos de mar. Las acciones emprendidas en la reunión marcaron un importante avance en el alcance histórico de la convención y su impacto sobre la conservación, considerándose 49 propuestas para especies y agregándose unas 100 especies a los apéndices de la CITES (Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestres).

El comercio internacional de especies incluidas en el Apéndice I de la CITES está prohibido, excepto en circunstancias muy especiales, y el comercio de las especies incluidas en el Apéndice II se controla estrictamente mediante un sistema de permisos. La Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestres, fue establecida en 1973, y cuenta actualmente con 160 países miembros. El tratado ayuda a asegurar el comercio internacional sostenible de más de 30.000 especies de plantas y animales.

Por primera vez, las partes de la CITES emprendieron de lleno la labor de reglamentar el comercio internacional de madera y pescado. Se agregaron al Apéndice II de la CITES la caoba de hoja ancha (*Swietenia macrophylla*), el tiburón ballena

(*Rhincodon typus*), el tiburón peregrino (*Cetorhinus maximus*) y los caballitos de mar (*Hippocampus spp.*). La inclusión en la lista de la caoba de hoja ancha, de la que se obtiene madera sumamente valiosa, llegó unos diez años después de ser propuesta inicialmente para inclusión, y sólo después de un intenso debate y una votación muy peleada. Las propuestas para el tiburón peregrino y el tiburón ballena, especies amenazadas por la demanda de su carne y aletas, fueron rechazadas inicialmente; no obstante, en las últimas actas de la COP (Conferencia de las Partes), las propuestas se

*este informe se continuá en la página 2*



ANJA G. BURNS

Los caballitos de mar se han utilizado por generaciones como medicina asiática tradicional para tratar toda una serie de enfermedades, entre ellas, los trastornos respiratorios, tales como el asma, las disfunciones sexuales como la impotencia, el letargo y dolor general.



Volúmen 2 • Número 1 • Enero de 2003

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BRUCE BUNTING



Si bien las actividades de conservación del tigre han obtenido algunos avances, en particular con respecto a reducir el uso de partes de tigre en la medicina tradicional, la demanda de partes está ahora cambiando e incluye a otros grandes felinos asiáticos, como el leopardo moteado.

reabrieron para consideración y los tiburones obtuvieron una mayoría de dos tercios de los votos para así ser incluidos en el Apéndice II. Treinta y dos especies de caballitos de mar, amenazados por la demanda para medicinas tradicionales, curiosidades y el mercado de los acuarios, fueron también aprobados para su inclusión en el Apéndice II.

La merluza negra o bacalao de profundidad (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), comercializado ampliamente como perca chilena de mar, fue una especie de pez comercial que no logró su inclusión en una lista de la CITES. Australia había propuesto que la especie se incluyera en el Apéndice II, pero retiró su propuesta bajo presión de otros países que practican el comercio de este pez. Sin embargo, las partes de la CITES sí adoptaron una resolución en la que se insta a todas las partes de la CITES a que ejecuten voluntariamente el plan de documentación de capturas adoptado por la CCAMLR, Convención sobre Conservación de Recursos Vivos Marinos de la Antártida. La resolución también requiere que todas las partes de la CITES den cuenta sobre el uso que hacen del esquema de documentación de capturas a la Secretaría de la CITES. La resolución no es una medida tan fuerte como la inclusión en el Apéndice II, pero tiene la posibilidad de ayudar a reducir la pesca ilegal y representa un avance importante en el uso de la CITES para garantizar la sostenibilidad de especies marinas con importancia comercial.

Siempre una cuestión controvertida, y sin ser una excepción en la COP 12, tenemos la reanudación del comercio de marfil de elefante

africano (*Loxodonta africana*). Cinco países-Botsuana, Namibia, Sudáfrica, Zambia y Zimbabwe-presentaron propuestas para permitir una venta limitada de sus reservas existentes de marfil. Los delegados de la CITES, no obstante, hallaron que sólo Botsuana, Namibia y Sudáfrica tenían suficientes controles instituidos para supervisar el comercio y vigilar adecuadamente sus poblaciones de elefantes. A estos tres países se les permitirá una venta única de 20, 10 y 30 toneladas de marfil, respectivamente, una vez que se satisfagan ciertas condiciones. Con el fin de dar tiempo para recopilar datos de referencia sobre los niveles poblacionales de elefantes y el grado de furtivismo, las ventas no se llevarán a cabo antes de mayo de 2004. Además, la Secretaría de la CITES puede suspender el comercio en cualquier fecha si encuentra que un país exportador o importador no cumple las disposiciones, o si existen pruebas de que el comercio está afectando negativamente a las poblaciones silvestres de elefantes africanos.

Además de estos acontecimientos, 26 especies de tortugas de agua dulce de Asia, comercializadas en cantidades importantes para los mercados regionales de alimentos, medicinas tradicionales y el comercio internacional de mascotas, fueron agregadas al Apéndice II. El loro de nuca amarilla (*Amazona auropalliata*), el loro de cabeza amarilla (*Amazona oratrix*) y la guacamaya cabeciazul (*Ara couloni*) fueron transferidos del Apéndice II al Apéndice I por considerar que sus poblaciones han seguido disminuyendo en años recientes. También se dará una protección adicional para los grandes felinos de Asia, entre ellos, el leopardo (*Panthera pardus*), el leopardo de las nieves (*Uncia uncia*) y el leopardo nebuloso (*Neofelis nebulosa*) como resultado de una resolución por la que se insta a las partes de la CITES a que emprendan acción adicional para controlar el furtivismo y el comercio ilegal de estas especies.

En general, la COP 12 hizo grandes avances en asegurar la sostenibilidad de los recursos vivos de la tierra y TRAFFIC North America seguirá construyendo con base en estos éxitos.

Para mayor información sobre los resultados de la COP 12 puede consultar el sitio web de CITES [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org).

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## INSPECTOR RESULTA CONTRABANDISTA

A principios de octubre de 2002, Wahab Omotayo Alaga fue detenido por importar ilegalmente aves protegidas. Alaga fue detenido en su puesto de trabajo como inspector del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos en el Aeropuerto Internacional John F. Kennedy en Nueva York. Alaga importó seis loros grises africanos (*Psittacus erithacus*) a los Estados Unidos en marzo sin el permiso de importación requerido. El loro gris africano está protegido por la Ley de Especies en Peligro de los Estados Unidos, la Ley de Conservación de Aves Silvestres de los Estados Unidos y la CITES (Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestres).



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A pesar del hecho de que se crían con frecuencia en cautiverio en los Estados Unidos, los loros grises africanos siguen siendo extraídos de su hábitat natural en el África Ecuatorial para atender la demanda internacional de aves mascota.

Alaga adquirió las aves de su familia en Nigeria, quienes las tomaron de su nido en el campo. También importó ilegalmente nueve pinzones grises (*Serinus leucopygius*) en 1998. Alaga ha sido acusado de infracciones de la Ley Lacey y de hacer declaraciones falsas a un agente de aplicación de la ley. Ambos cargos llevan penas máximas de cinco años en prisión y una multa de US\$250.000 por condena de delito mayor.

(*Environment News Service, 14 de octubre de 2002*)

## PROHIBICIÓN DE "CABEZAS DE VIBORA"

El 4 de octubre de 2002, el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos (USFWS) agregó todas las especies de peces de cabeza de víbora (familia Channidae) a su lista de vida silvestre dañina y prohibió la importación o transporte

interestatal de peces vivos o sus huevos en cualquier lugar de los Estados Unidos. Los peces de cabeza de víbora no son nativos de los Estados Unidos, pero han sido importados para los mercados y restaurantes étnicos así como para las tiendas de mascotas. Los peces de cabeza de víbora se han encontrado en fechas recientes en el entorno silvestre de Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maryland, Florida, California y Hawai, pero sólo se tiene constancia de su reproducción en Maryland, Florida y Hawai.

Estos peces son depredadores muy agresivos, y pueden causar grandes perturbaciones en un ecosistema ya que se comen casi todo lo que encuentran a su paso, desde peces hasta anfibios y mamíferos. Además, los peces de cabeza de víbora pueden sobrevivir fuera del agua por espacio de hasta tres días, a veces incluso pasando de una masa de agua a otra. Por tanto, el USFWS consideró que esta nueva prohibición era necesaria para proteger la fauna y recursos silvestres autóctonos. Todo pez de cabeza de víbora vivo o sus huevos que se descubran en los puertos de entrada a los Estados Unidos serán devueltos al país de origen o destruidos a expensas del propietario a menos que tengan permisos apropiados que indiquen que su destino es para fines científicos, médicos, educativos o zoológicos.

(67 Disposición Federal 62193, *Environment News Service, 4 de octubre de 2002*)

## DECOMISO DE ATÚN DE ALETA AZUL

El 3 de agosto de 2002, un agente de la Patrulla Marina de Virginia abordó el buque de pesca comercial de escalopos *Kimberly and Kathryn* para supervisar la descarga de escalopos y encontró que dicho buque transportaba un gran número de atunes. El capitán del barco, John P. Jones, identificó el atún como atún amarillo, pero un agente especial del Servicio Nacional de Pesquerías Marinas de los Estados Unidos (NMFS) identificó positivamente los 71 atunes descargados como atún de aleta azul (*Thunnus thynnus*), todos por debajo del límite del tamaño comercial mínimo de 73 pulgadas de longitud CFL (desde la punta de la mandíbula superior hasta la base de la cola) "medida con el sistema de tenedor curvado". Asimismo, el buque también excedió el límite de capturas comerciales de dos atunes de aleta azul por embarcación. El propietario del *Kimberly and Kathryn* hace frente a multas civiles de entre US\$1.000 y US\$40.000 y sanciones relativas al permiso entre 10 y 30 días de prohibición. Las 3.824 libras de atún de aleta azul fueron donadas a un banco local de alimentos.

(*Comunicado de prensa de NOAA, agosto de 2002*)



## CAMBIO EN LA CLASIFICACIÓN DE LA VICUÑA EN LA LISTA DE ESPECIES AMENAZADAS DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

El Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos (USFWS) ha recategorizado las poblaciones de vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*) en Argentina, Bolivia, Chile y Perú de especie en peligro a especie amenazada en el marco de la ley de especies en peligro de los Estados Unidos. La vicuña es el miembro más pequeño de la familia de los camélidos y vive en las montañas de los Andes. Las vicuñas son apreciadas por su lana, que se hizo tan popular y valiosa que, para principios-medios de la década de 1970, sólo permanecían en el entorno silvestre unos 8.000 de estos animales.

El USFWS decidió reclasificar estas poblaciones de vicuña, basándose en las medidas de conservación existentes y en el incremento del



WWF

Si bien los esfuerzos encaminados a conservar las poblaciones de vicuñas silvestres han logrado un gran éxito, el furtivismo continúa. Se estima que el furtivismo para subsistencia es practicado por la población local, la mayoría de la cual vive en extrema pobreza, y ocasiona muertes de algo más del 2% de las poblaciones de vicuña silvestres cada año.

número de vicuñas en estos cuatro países. El USFWS vigilará el comercio de productos de vicuña para determinar si las medidas de conservación continúan siendo eficaces y limitará o suspenderá las importaciones de vicuña de cualquier país cuya población de estos animales no siga en aumento.

(*Environment News Service, 26 de junio de 2002*)

## CONTRABANDISTA DE CAVIAR SE DECLARA CULPABLE

A fines de agosto de 2002, el ex presidente y propietario de la empresa radicada en Miami Beluga Caviar Inc. admitió introducir clandestinamente grandes cantidades de caviar a los Estados Unidos. Viktor Tsimbal, ciudadano ruso que había contratado a mensajeros para introducir clandestinamente caviar a los Estados Unidos en contravención de la CITES, se declaró culpable de conspiración, contrabando y lavado de dinero. Tsimbal también confesó utilizar documentos falsos para introducir

clandestinamente más caviar beluga (*Huso huso*) de Rusia en 1999 que toda la cuota de exportación rusa para ese año.

A Tsimbal le fueron confiscados los US\$36.000 que se encontraron en su posesión en el momento de su detención y más de US\$500.000 de caviar, falsamente rotulado como "huevo de lompo" (caviar barato), confiscados de su empresa tras la ejecución de una orden de cateo a su compañía. Tsimbal admitió que las etiquetas falsas eran otro componente más del plan de contrabando. Tsimbal se arriesgó a la pena de hasta cinco años de prisión por cada uno de los cuatro cargos de conspiración y contrabando, y diez años por lavado de dinero, así como a multas de hasta un millón de dólares. El 6 de noviembre, el Tribunal de Distrito de los Estados Unidos para el Distrito Meridional de Florida sentenció a Tsimbal a 41 meses en una prisión federal y a dos años de libertad supervisada.

(*Comunicado de prensa del Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos, 26 de agosto de 2002*)

## DECOMISO DE ALETAS DE TIBURÓN

El 13 de agosto de 2002, el Servicio de Guardacostas de los Estados Unidos abordó la embarcación pesquera *King Diamond II* de Honolulu y descubrió 12 toneladas de aletas de tiburón ilegales. La práctica de utilización de las aletas de tiburón fue prohibida en el año 2000 por la Ley de Prohibición de la Utilización de las Aletas de Tiburón de los Estados Unidos (SFPA), que prohíbe la compra, descarga en tierra o posesión de aletas de tiburón sin la canal de tiburón. El pesquero, que se hallaba a unas 350 millas al sudeste de Acapulco, México, fue confiscado y escoltado por las embarcaciones del Servicio de Guardacostas a San Diego, California. A su llegada, agentes del Servicio Nacional de Pesquerías Marinas (NMFS) tomaron posesión de las aletas, que se mantienen como prueba, y entrevistaron al capitán y a la tripulación. La Oficina del Asesor General de la Administración Nacional Oceánica y Atmosférica (NOAA) determinará si deberán presentarse cargos y qué sanciones deberán aplicarse una vez que se cierre la investigación. Las sanciones impuestas por la SFPA pueden alcanzar la cifra de US\$120,000 por cada infracción, junto con el decomiso de la embarcación pesquera y de las aletas.

(*Comunicado de prensa del Servicio de Guardacostas de los Estados Unidos, 30 de julio de 2002*)

## DECOMISO DE BACALAO DE PROFUNDIDAD

En junio de 2002, Agentes del Servicio Nacional de Pesquerías Marinas de los Estados Unidos (NMFS) decomisaron en Boston más de 33 toneladas de





bacalao de profundidad (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), comercializado como róbalo chileno. Los agentes habían recibido información del gobierno australiano según la cual se había extraído ilegalmente de aguas del Antártico una captura por valor de US\$275.000. Mientras esté pendiente la investigación, los propietarios de la embarcación uruguaya *Arvisa I* podrían enfrentar sanciones civiles y multas penales, así como el decomiso de su captura.

(Comunicado de prensa de NOAA, 24 de junio de 2002)

## PIELES DE FOCA DECOMISADAS EN NEW JERSEY

En junio de 2002, agentes de la Administración Nacional Oceánica y Atmosférica (NOAA) decomisaron una embarcación cargada ilegalmente con pieles de foca en Port Elizabeth, New Jersey. Las 5.000 pieles de foca de sudáfrica (*Arctocephalus pusillus*) fueron valoradas en US\$50,000 e iban en ruta desde Namibia a Canadá vía los Estados Unidos. Las pieles iban a ser procesadas en Canadá antes de ser enviadas a su destino final en los mercados de Europa y China. La importación de mamíferos marinos y sus piezas a los Estados Unidos está prohibida en virtud de la Ley de Protección de Mamíferos Marinos de 1972, y esta especie de foca también está incluida en el Apéndice II de la CITES.

(Comunicado de prensa de NOAA, 26 de junio de 2002)



Las focas siguen experimentando demanda no sólo por sus pieles sino también por su grasa que se utiliza en aceites y cremas, así como por sus genitales que se utilizan en la medicina tradicional china para tratar la disfunción sexual.

## HUEVOS MALEADOS

En julio de 2002, agentes de la Comisión de Conservación de Peces y Fauna y Flora Silvestres detuvo a un hombre por posesión e intento de vender huevos de tortuga marina. James O. McGriff vendió a un agente secreto una docena de huevos por US\$30 y luego se descubrió que guardaba en su camión 27 bolsas que contenían, cada una, una docena de huevos. Se acusó al señor McGriff de posesión e intento de vender una especie amenazada.

(CNN.com, 2 de agosto de 2002)

## CONTRABANDISTA DE LAGARTOS DETENIDO

En junio de 2002, Bruce Alvin Feldhammer de San Francisco se declaró culpable de un cargo de intento de contrabando de mercadería mal etiquetada y no declarada proveniente de Australia con destino a los Estados Unidos. Feldhammer había intentado introducir de contrabando 14 lagartos monitor (*Varanus storri*), incluidos en el Apéndice II de la CITES. Además, la ley australiana prohíbe la exportación comercial y privada de toda su flora y fauna silvestre autóctona. Feldhammer fue sentenciado a seis meses de detención domiciliaria y una multa de US\$10.000. La investigación fue realizada por el Servicio de Pesca, Fauna y Flora Silvestres de los Estados Unidos y el Servicio de Aduanas de Australia.

(Comunicado de prensa del Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos, 18 de junio de 2002)

## MULTA A CONTRABANDISTA DE CORALES EN HONOLULÚ

King Wong recibió una multa de US\$35.000 y la orden de pagar US\$77.740 como restitución al Departamento de Tierras y Recursos Naturales de Hawai por su participación en una conspiración de contrabando de corales. En septiembre de 2000, Wong se declaró culpable de un cargo de conspiración para traficar 100 toneladas de coral y roca viva extraídas ilegalmente de aguas hawaianas. El valor del coral, introducido clandestinamente por los conspiradores de 1996 a 1998, se estima en un millón de dólares.

Wong, propietario de una empresa marisquera de Honolulu, empacó el coral en cajas etiquetadas como mariscos o cerámica y las expidió a los Estados Unidos continentales, donde otros vendieron y distribuyeron el coral a suministradores de acuarios.

(HonoluluAdvertiser.com, 22 de junio de 2002)

## SENTENCIAS EN LA OPERACIÓN SNOW PLOW

Cuatro individuos procesados en el marco de la Operación Snow Plow, una larga investigación encubierto realizada por el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos, fueron sentenciados en octubre y noviembre de 2002.

Timothy Laurie, que se declaró culpable de esconder a sabiendas la piel de un leopardo protegido por las leyes federales, ilegalmente importado a los Estados Unidos, fue sentenciado en el tribunal federal de Chicago a cuatro meses de detención domiciliaria, cuatro años de libertad condicional y 200 horas de servicio a la comunidad. También se ordenó a Laurie el pago de US\$10.000 al



Fondo Save the Tiger de la Federación Nacional de Pesca y Vida Silvestre.

George Riley fue sentenciado en Detroit a un año de libertad condicional y se le ordenó el pago de US\$30.000 al Fondo Save the Tiger y al Lacey Reward Fund como donación para servicio a la comunidad por el delito menor de recibir la piel de dos tigres en peligro de extinción. El acuerdo de culpabilidad de Riley también le exige cooperar con los agentes federales en sus investigaciones en curso sobre el comercio ilegal de fauna y flora silvestres.

Stoney Ray Elam, que se declaró culpable de dos contravenciones delictivas graves de la Ley Lacey, fue sentenciado a un año de confinamiento, dos años de libertad condicional y el pago de una multa de US\$5.000 al Fondo Save the Tiger. Elam, ex propietario de la Reserva de Vida Silvestre PowerHouse para animales exóticos, transportó dos tigres y tres leopardos a través de las fronteras estatales, los vendió a un agente secreto por US\$4.800 y, luego, falsificó documentos federales en los que declaraba la venta ilegal como una donación.

Timothy Dale Rivers, propietario del Parque de Animales Animals in Motion, fue sentenciado a seis meses de prisión, un año de libertad condicional y el pago de US\$2.500 al Fondo Save the Tiger. Rivers admitió haber vendido ilegalmente dos leopardos negros en 1998 y falsificado documentos federales en los que declaraba la venta como una donación. Rivers también admitió su participación en la venta de un tigre de Bengala en octubre de 1998, para la que también falsificó formularios de donación.

Estas sentencias estrictas se dictaron con la ayuda de TRAFFIC, que proporcionó al juez en cada caso información detallada sobre los efectos devastadores que causa el comercio ilegal en la supervivencia de estos felinos en peligro de extinción.

*(Comunicado de Prensa de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos)*

## **MALA SUERTE PARA TRAFICANTE DE PECES DE BUENA SUERTE**

En julio de 2002, un californiano fue acusado de importar peces lengüihueso malayos (*Scleropages formosus*). Lloyd Gómez conspiró con Jow Lian Ho Luah de Alberta, Canadá, para importar y vender estos peces en contravención de la Ley de Especies en Peligro de Extinción de los Estados Unidos y falsificó documentos con el fin de hacerlos pasar por el Servicio de Aduanas de los Estados Unidos como otra especie. El pez lengüihueso malayo, apreciado por los coleccionistas por sus brillantes colores y como símbolo de buena suerte, fortuna, prosperidad y fuerza, puede venderse por hasta US\$10.000 cada uno. Gómez se arriesga a ser sometido a una pena máxima de cinco años de prisión y multas de US\$250.000.

*(Comunicado de prensa de USFWS, 25 de julio de 2002)*

## **ESPECIALISTA EN CICADAS DA VUELTA A LA HOJA, ADMITE CULPABILIDAD**

Peter Heibloem, conocido especialista en plantas y hombre de negocios de Queensland, Australia, fue sentenciado en junio de 2002 a tres años de libertad condicional y al pago de una multa de US\$25.000 por su participación en una banda de traficantes de plantas raras valoradas en millones de dólares. Después de meses de proclamar su inocencia, Heibloem concertó un acuerdo de culpabilidad de un cargo federal de conspiración para introducir clandestinamente mercancía en los Estados Unidos a cambio de 11 otros cargos que se retirarían.



LINDA R. MCMILLAN

Parte del encanto de la cicada radica en su antiguo origen. Se sabe que las cicadas existían ya en el Pérmico, hace más de 200 millones de años, antes de que existieran los dinosaurios.

Heibloem administra los Jardines de Cicadas Eudlo y es autor de *The Cycads of Central Africa* (Las Cicadas de África Central). Junto con otras 11 personas de cuatro continentes, se le acusó de una de las más grandes operaciones de contrabando de plantas raras que se han investigado en la historia de los Estados Unidos. Se estima que el valor de las cicadas y orquídeas introducidas clandestinamente en este caso ascendía a más de US\$840.000.

Entre las otras personas acusadas en este caso figuran Ernest Bouwere, Donald Joseph Wiener, José "Pepe" Portilla, John Baker, Ian Turner, Rolf Kyburz, Rolf Bauer, Jan Van Vuuren, Antonius Juniarto, Iwan Kolopaking y Terrence Leung. La investigación fue realizada conjuntamente por el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos, el Servicio de Inspección de Salud Veterinaria y Fitosanitaria del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos y la Oficina del Inspector General de Sanidad, y sus departamentos asociados en Sudáfrica y Australia, llevándose a cabo desde agosto de 1999 hasta julio de 2001.

*(SignOnSanDiego.com, 20 de agosto de 2001; Environment News Service, 24 de julio de 2001)*



## MULTA A TRAFICANTE DE OSOS

El 21 de octubre de 2002, una mujer de British Columbia se declaró culpable de un cargo de tráfico de vesículas biliares de oso en el tribunal provincial de Fort St. John. Kyung Hee Kim fue sancionada con una multa de CA\$10.000 (US\$6.400). La sanción máxima por este delito según la Ley de Vida Silvestre de Canadá asciende a CA\$10.000 (US\$6.400) o un año de prisión. La condena de Kim se produjo al cabo de una investigación y operación secreta realizadas durante un año por agentes de conservación de Fort St. John y una unidad de investigaciones especiales de Victoria. A cambio de la declaración de culpabilidad de Kim, se le retiraron otros cargos.

*(Comunicado de prensa del Ministerio de Protección de Aguas, Tierras y Aire de British Columbia, 25 de octubre de 2002)*

## DECOMISO DE UN TOCADO TRADICIONAL

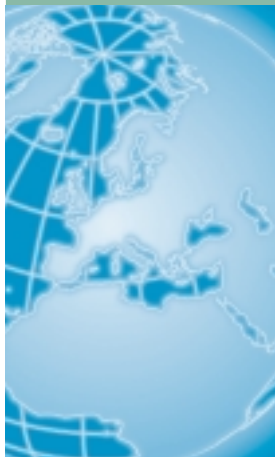
En julio de 2002, Trevor Roy Davis se declaró culpable en un tribunal provincial de Calgary de cargos de exportación de especies en peligro de extinción en infracción de la CITES. Davies había expedido a un residente estadounidense un tocado para un traje de danza ceremonial que contenía 32 plumas de águila calva, y éste fue interceptado por agentes de aduanas en la frontera de Estados Unidos y Canadá. El tribunal impuso a Davies una multa de CA\$2.000 (US\$1.275) y la pieza fue confiscada para la Corona.

*(Comunicado de prensa de Environment Canada, Julio 11, 2002)*



Según la creencia de algunas tribus nativas americanas, el águila es un mensajero del creador. Las plumas de las águilas se llevan en la cabeza o como parte del atuendo durante las ceremonias y rituales puesto que se considera que el creador las percibirá de inmediato.

## NOTICIAS INTERNACIONALES



### KUWAIT Y BUTÁN ACCEDEN A LAS CITES

Al ratificar la Convención el 12 de agosto de 2002, Kuwait se convirtió en la 159ava parte de las CITES. La Convención entró en vigor en el caso de Kuwait el 10 de Noviembre de 2002. Bután llegó a ser la 160ava parte de las CITES al ratificar la Convención el 15 de agosto de 2002, la cual entró en vigor para ese país el 13 de noviembre de 2002. Estas dos nuevas partes pudieron asistir a la

decimosegunda reunión de la conferencia de las partes realizada en Santiago, Chile, y pidieron ejercer sus derechos de votación durante los últimos días.

*(Sitio web de las CITES: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org))*

### SE LEVANTA PROHIBICIÓN DEL COMERCIO EN YEMEN

El 14 de enero de 2002, la secretaría de las CITES recomendó que las partes se negaran a importar, exportar o reexportar a Yemen cualquier especie incluida en una lista de las CITES, debido a preocupaciones relacionadas con la implementación del tratado. Sin embargo, en septiembre de 2002, Yemen informó a la Secretaría de la aprobación de leyes de ejecución que abordaban estas preocupaciones. El 4 de octubre de 2002 la recomendación de suspender el comercio con Yemen fue retirada (notificación a las partes No.2002/005).

De igual manera, el 20 de noviembre de 2001 se recomendó a las partes una suspensión del comercio de especies CITES con los Emiratos Árabes Unidos (EAU) debido a la implementación inadecuada de la Convención por parte de los Emiratos. Desde esa fecha, los Emiratos han hecho grandes progresos y el 15 de noviembre de 2002, la Secretaría de las CITES retiró la suspensión (notificación a las partes No.2002/061).

*(Sitio web de las CITES: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org), 4 de octubre de 2002)*

Para obtener información sobre notificaciones específicas de las CITES, diríjase a CITES Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme, 15, chemin de Anemones, Case Postale 456, 1219 Chateleine, Geneva, Switzerland. Correo electrónico: [cities@dunep.ch](mailto:cities@dunep.ch) Sitio web: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)



## PUBLICACIONES DE TRAFFIC NORTH AMERICA

*The Gardener's Guide to Plant Conservation* (1993), 187 páginas.

*Prescription for Extinction: Endangered Species and Patented Oriental Medicines in Trade* (1994), 300 páginas.

*Status, Management, and Commercialization of the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)* (1995), 132 páginas.

*Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on the Trade of Bear Parts* (1997), 239 páginas.

*An Overview of World Trade in Cervid Antler with an Emphasis on the United States and Canada* (1997), 98 páginas.

*American Ginseng: The Root of North America's Medicinal Herb Trade* (1998), 94 páginas.

*While Supplies Last: The Sale of Tiger and Other Endangered Species Medicines in North America* (1998), 57 páginas.

*Shark Fisheries and Trade in the Americas, Volume I: North America* (1998), 201 páginas.

*The U.S. Role in the International Live Reptile Trade: Amazon Tree Boas to Zululand Dwarf Chameleons* (1998), 59 páginas.

*A World Apart? Attitudes Toward Traditional Chinese Medicine and Endangered Species in Hong Kong and the United States* (1998), 80 páginas.

*A Review of State Bear Trade Laws: U.S. State Statutes and Regulations Regarding the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)* (1999), 171 páginas.

"Comparative analysis of management regimes and medicinal plant trade monitoring mechanisms for American ginseng and goldenseal" (1999), 14 páginas. Article reprinted from *Conservation Biology* (14/5/1422-34)

*Asian Turtle Trade: Proceedings of a Workshop on Conservation and Trade of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in Asia* (2000), 164 páginas.

*Mahogany Matters: The U.S. Market for Big-Leafed Mahogany and Its Implications for the Conservation of the Species* (2000), 58 páginas.

*Swimming Against the Tide: Recent Surveys of Exploitation, Trade, and Management of Marine Turtles in the Northern Caribbean* (2001), 161 páginas.

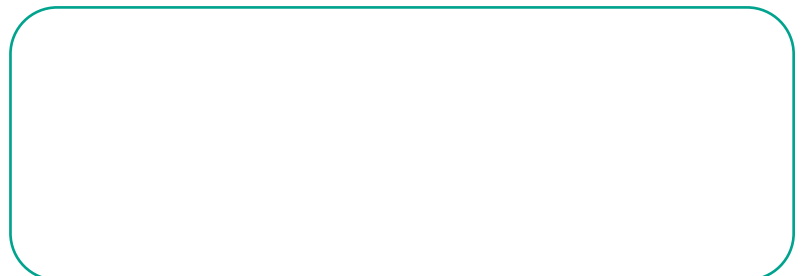
*In the Black: Status, Management, and Trade of the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) in North America* (2002), 161 páginas.

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*TRAFFIC trabaja por garantizar que el comercio de plantas y animales silvestres no presente una amenaza para la conservación de la naturaleza.*





# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## CITES, Eh?

### TRAFFIC Examines Canada's Implementation of CITES

A new TRAFFIC report, *CITES, Eh? A Review of Canada's Implementation of CITES Under WAPPRIITA*, provides an overview and evaluation of Canada's implementation of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). It explores whether Canada's current legislative, administrative and enforcement systems comply with its CITES obligations, highlights successes and failures, and offers constructive recommendations for improvement.

In 1973, 21 countries formally recognized the conservation implications of international markets for wildlife and the need for international cooperation to regulate cross-border flows of wildlife by signing CITES.

Canada was the 10th nation to ratify CITES, bringing the treaty into force on 9 July 1975.

International trade is very important to Canada, with exports of goods and services accounting for 43 percent of the country's gross domestic product. Rich in natural resources, Canada exports many wild

animals and plants and their products, such as furs, fish and timber. It is also an importer of wild animals and plants as well as a huge diversity of products made from or containing wildlife.

Canada, like all Parties to CITES, is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Convention domestically. The fact that Canada has signed an international agreement does not automatically make all the provisions of that agreement part of its domestic legal system. The government must incorporate the measures into its domestic law. This law then must be enforced and the

*continued on page 2*



STEVE MORELLO

The walrus was listed on CITES Appendix III by Canada in 1975, and commercial hunting of the species is prohibited in Canada and the United States. Despite these protections, walrus tusk ivory continues to be carved and traded.

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

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requirements of the Convention must be administered.

Canada has the advantage of being a prosperous nation with resources to implement its international commitments. In addition, because of the importance of international trade to the Canadian economy, there is already a strong border infrastructure for monitoring trade in drugs, tobacco, firearms and other potential contraband. These factors place Canada in a good position to successfully monitor trade in wildlife.

TRAFFIC's report shows that most, but not all of the basic needs of the Convention are being met in Canada. In particular, Canada has developed comprehensive and effective domestic legislation for the enforcement of CITES—the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA). WAPPRIITA received Royal Assent in 1992 although it did not come into force until 14 May 1996, when the enabling regulations—the Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations (WAPTR)—were passed.

WAPPRIITA prohibits the import and export of CITES specimens except with a permit or where permitted by the regulations. In addition, the Act prohibits the import into Canada of an animal or plant, or any part thereof, that was taken or possessed in contravention of any foreign law, making it an offense to possess specimens which have been imported in contravention of the legislation or to offer CITES Appendix I specimens for sale.

WAPPRIITA imposes significant penalties for violating the act. Contraventions of the act may be prosecuted as either summary or indictable offences. An individual may be fined up to CA\$25,000, and face imprisonment for up to six months or both for summary violations of the act. For indictable offences, fines can reach up to CA\$150,000 or



STEVE MORELLO

Sixty percent of the world's polar bears reside in Canada, the only range country that allows trophy hunting of the species.

imprisonment for up to five years. Fines for corporations are even higher—up to CA\$50,000 for summary convictions or CA\$300,000 for the more serious indictable offenses. A fine equal to profits gained by the illegal activity may also be imposed.

Altogether, WAPPRIITA provides a legislative basis for the regulation of trade in specimens covered by CITES which goes beyond the basic obligation of prohibiting trade contrary to CITES and surpasses the provisions of CITES which require domestic legislation. Furthermore, the penalty and enforcement structure in WAPPRIITA provides a model approach that other Parties could be encouraged to follow.

Despite Canada's early ratification of the Convention and development of strong legislation, CITES does not appear to be a priority for the Canadian government as a whole or for Environment Canada, the department charged with ensuring that the Convention is effectively implemented. Insufficient human and financial resources have been directed at administering and enforcing the convention and, as a result, significant gaps remain.

The most significant gaps in Canada's administration of CITES relate to the collection and publication of trade data. CITES requires

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each Party to maintain records of trade in specimens of species included in the Appendices. CITES also requires each Party to prepare reports on its implementation of the Convention including a report on the trade data collected. These annual reports are critically important as they provide the best means of monitoring the implementation of the Convention and the level of international trade in CITES-listed species.

Unfortunately, it is not clear if data from Canadian permits are being compiled consistently, and a significant quantity of data from foreign permits is not making its way to the National CITES Management Authority. Furthermore, Canada has repeatedly failed to meet the deadlines for submitting CITES annual reports. The country's continued failure to submit annual reports on time negatively affects international efforts to evaluate wildlife trade concerns.

Other significant gaps in Canada's administration of CITES include the lack of a policy for implementing CITES Decisions and Resolutions, and Environment Canada's inconsistent record for meeting the requirement in WAPPRIITA to amend the WAPTR within 90 days after any changes to the CITES appendices.

This lack of sufficient human and financial resources directed at implementing CITES in Canada is especially critical when it comes to enforcement of the Convention. Environment Canada has designated 45 to 50 full-time wildlife enforcement officers across Canada. Some of these officers work primarily on CITES issues, and others do not work on CITES enforcement at all. Overall, there are only the equivalent of 18 full-time Federal Game Officers enforcing CITES in all of Canada and, of these, only 8 conduct inspections of wildlife imports and exports.

In addition, these officers are not receiving comprehensive and consistent training on CITES, permit validation, live animal transport regulations, and species and product identification. Thus they are not receiving the training they need to meet their responsibilities for monitoring wildlife trade, and for providing advice and training to other government departments and agencies.

The report highlights the complexities of CITES administration and enforcement and makes a number of recommendations aimed at improving these activities in Canada. We hope that it will assist Canadian authorities in filling the existing gaps in CITES implementation and thereby regaining the role Canada established in 1975 as a leader in the international CITES community.

TRAFFIC North America would like to express its gratitude to AGF Management Limited and the Schad Foundation, whose generous support made this report possible. The full report will be available on [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org) or upon request in late May.

- *Ernie Cooper*

## BELUGA STURGEON LISTED AS THREATENED

On 21 April 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that it is listing beluga sturgeon (*Huso huso*) as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA); the listing will take effect six months from that day. Beluga sturgeon are widely considered the world's most economically valuable fish, as they are the source of beluga caviar, a highly prized delicacy. Unregulated overfishing, loss of spawning habitat, and poaching have all contributed to the drastic decrease in wild beluga sturgeon populations.

The "threatened" listing allows USFWS to develop a Special Rule that could call for specific requirements such as those already being mandated for the species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The listing will provide beluga sturgeon with specific protections under the ESA and will allow USFWS to issue the regulations necessary to ensure its conservation.

*(USFWS press release, 21 April 2004)*

## WILDLIFE FOR SALE

### An Educator's Guide to Wildlife Trade

"Wildlife for Sale" is World Wildlife Fund's new interdisciplinary module designed to educate middle-school students about the international trade in wildlife and wildlife products. It explains how illegal wildlife trade can decimate species while legal trade and captive breeding programs can at once assist local economies as well as promote conservation. Fifteen modules include background information for educators, a comprehensive list of resources, and unit plans that help educators incorporate the modules into their own curriculum. Over 100 slides that highlight the issues in each of the activities are included. To order the guide for \$49.95, contact Acorn Naturalists at [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com) or 1-800-422-8886.

## A Guide to the Identification of Seahorses

### TRAFFIC leads a collaborative effort to develop a guide to the identification of the world's seahorses.

At the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in November 2002, member countries voted to include all seahorses (genus *Hippocampus*) in Appendix II of the Convention, effective 15 May 2004.

In order for the CITES listing of seahorses to be effectively implemented, government authorities and other stakeholders need to be able to identify more than 30 recognized seahorse species. In response to this need, TRAFFIC, Project Seahorse, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. NOAA Fisheries, and the CITES Secretariat have collaborated on the development of an identification guide to seahorses.

The goal of the guide is to provide technically accurate but user-friendly information — useful to specialists and non-specialists alike. This is no simple task as many species are similar in appearance and their identification can be challenging.

The species descriptions in the guide are based on a 1999 publication by Project Seahorse entitled, *Seahorses: An Identification*

Guide to the World's Species and their Conservation. Materials from the earlier publication have been revised and re-formatted and additional content has been added.

The guide includes descriptions, range maps, line drawings and color illustrations of each of the 32 species of seahorse identified in the original proposal to list seahorses in CITES (Prop. 12.37). One species, *H. denise*, has been added based on recent research.

The morphological characteristics that are used to identify seahorses are explained and defined in both text and line drawings. Also included is a step by step methodology for identifying seahorses using a species checklist and tables that summarize the key identifying characteristics. A copy of the species checklist is provided and may be photocopied as a tool to assist in identifying specimens.

The guide will be published and made available to the Parties before the listing takes effect in May 2004.

TRAFFIC North America would like to express its gratitude to the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program and the Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation, whose generous support made this guide possible.



WOLCOTT HENRY

An estimated 24 million seahorses are taken from the wild every year, dried and sold for use in traditional Chinese medicine, to treat everything from asthma to sexual dysfunction. Hundreds of thousands more are sold live for the aquarium trade.

### TRAFFIC North America gratefully acknowledges the generous support of

Francois and Sheila Brutsch  
CGMK Foundation  
The Walt Disney Company Foundation  
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The Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation  
NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
Save The Tiger Fund  
John M. Simpson Foundation  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service





## U.S. CAPTIVE WILDLIFE SAFETY ACT

On 19 December 2003, President Bush signed into law the Captive Wildlife Safety Act (Public Law No. 108-191). The law is designed to discourage individuals from keeping dangerous exotic animals as pets and bars interstate commerce of lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and cougars for use as pets. The law exempts such licensed institutions as wildlife sanctuaries, universities, and individuals licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



EDWARD MENDELL

Estimates of the number of big cats, including cougars, held in private ownership in the United States range from 5,000 to 20,000.

## IT WAS A ROCK LOBSTER

On 12 December 2003, Pedro Alejandro Pereira of Nicaragua and Peter L. Silver of Canada were sentenced in Florida for their role in a conspiracy that imported over \$2.8 million worth of undersized spiny lobster (*Panulirus* spp.) into the United States from Nicaragua, in violation of the Lacey Act. Under Nicaraguan law, it is illegal to harvest or sell spiny, or "rock", lobster weighing less than five ounces.

Pereira admitted that he and others had illegally exported almost 200,000 pounds of spiny lobster into the United States over a five year period and was sentenced to 37 months in prison, followed by two years of supervised release. Silver received one year and one day in prison, also followed by two years of supervised release. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, the U.S. Customs Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, and Nicaraguan authorities coordinated in prosecuting this case.

(U.S. Department of Justice press release, 12 December 2003)

## TRUONG WRONG

Tuc Truong, owner of a traditional medicine shop in Oakland, California, was sentenced on 26 February 2003, in U.S. District Court in the Northern District of California. Truong was charged with conspiracy to violate the Endangered Species Act and the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act, among others, for selling medicines containing legally protected species in his shop, Hong Kong Chinese Trading Herbs. Truong was ordered to serve four months in prison and pay a \$10,000 fine.

(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pers. comm., 18 December 2003)

## OPERATION SNOW PLOW DRIVEN HOME

On 14 November 2003, William R. Kapp was sentenced to 4 years and three months in prison, 3 years probation, 300 hours of community service, and was fined \$5,000 and ordered to pay \$1,600 in court costs for conspiracy to violate the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). Kapp was found guilty by a federal jury in Chicago in April for orchestrating a wildlife trafficking ring that bought and killed endangered tigers (*Panthera tigris*) and leopards (*Panthera pardus*) in order to sell their hides, parts and meat. The only person of 17 charged in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's undercover investigation "Operation Snow Plow" (see Vol. 2 No. 1; Vol. 2 No. 2) to plead not guilty and stand trial, Kapp claimed the animals involved in the trade ring were not protected by the ESA because they were hybrids. Despite his claim, Kapp was found guilty of conspiracy to violate the ESA, as well as 16 counts of violating the ESA and the Lacey Act. Evidence during the trial, including the testimony of six of his co-defendants, showed that Kapp was, in fact, the central figure in the trade ring and that he brokered the sale of 18 tigers and leopards since 1997 and participated in killing some while they were still confined in cages or trailers.

Richard Czimer was the last to be sentenced as a result of Operation Snow Plow on 18 December 2003. Czimer, owner of Czimer's Game and Seafood, Inc., a suburban Chicago exotic meat market, was sentenced to six months in prison, two years probation upon release, a \$5,000 fine, and 300 hours of community service. The business itself was sentenced to five years probation and a \$24,000 fine.

Czimer pleaded guilty in February 2003 to purchasing the meat of a federally protected black leopard and to purchasing the carcasses of 16 tigers, four lions (*Panthera leo*), two mountain lions (*Felis concolor*), and one lion-tiger hybrid, which were then butchered and sold in his market as "lion" meat. As part of a plea agreement, Czimer



also agreed to pay \$116,000 in restitution to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Save the Tiger Fund.

*(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service press releases, 14 November 2003 and 18 December 2003)*

## THE ORCHID THIEVES

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Inc. and Wesley E. Higgins, one of the garden's premier orchid experts, were charged on 18 December 2003 for violating the Endangered Species Act for possessing a rare orchid smuggled into the United States. The orchid was a new species of tropical lady's slipper (*Phragmipedium kovachii*) that was recently discovered in Peru. All species of *Phragmipedium* are prohibited in international trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and, therefore, the importation was illegal.



MIKE MARSHALL

The flowers of the popular tropical lady slippers are recognizable by their pouch, a modified petal which functions as a trap for pollinators.

Selby's board of directors, along with Higgins, have worked out a plea bargain with federal prosecutors for which they will pay a \$5,000 fine, instead of the potential penalty of up to \$100,000, and will be put on probation for three years. Selby has also changed its procedures for handling orchids from other countries and will encourage other institutions to do the same. Higgins was sentenced to two years probation and fined \$2,000.

Martin Kovach, the collector who allegedly smuggled the orchid into the United States and took it to Selby, was indicted in November 2003.

The investigation was a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Customs Service, CITES Management Authority of Peru, and the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia.

*(U.S. Department of Justice press release, 18 December 2003; The Associated Press, 19 December 2003)*

## FINNING NOT FINE, FINNERS FINED

The Taiwanese fishing vessel *Yu Gye Fa No. 66* and Polar International, a Guam seafood company, were charged in December 2003 for offloading and receiving 3,000 pounds of shark fins, respectively. U.S. law prohibits offloading shark fins without offloading the corresponding shark carcasses in order to promote a more humane taking process, rather than allowing the fins to be removed and the often still-living shark to be dumped back into the ocean. Shark fins are enormously more profitable than the carcasses, selling for up to \$200 a pound, compared to about \$.10 a pound, respectively. It is estimated that the weight of the fins in this case represents thousands of sharks. *Yu Gye Fa No. 66* was fined \$10,000 and Polar International was fined \$20,000 for the offenses.

*(Pacific Daily News, 11 December 2003)*

## SLIPPER ORCHID SLIP UP

Ever Spring Orchid Nursery Ltd. of Manitoba, Canada, was fined CA\$15,000 in Provincial Court in Winnipeg on 31 July 2003 for illegally importing Asian tropical lady slipper orchids (*Paphiopedilum* spp.). In addition, the corporation will direct CA\$5,000 of the fine to Friends of the Assiniboine Park Plant Conservatory for the construction of an educational display to house the seized endangered orchids, must display pamphlets on endangered orchids at their place of business for three years, and must contact Environment Canada three days in advance of any future orchid importations. The charges were the result of a joint investigation by Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Division and the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, with assistance from the TRAFFIC Network. The investigation produced evidence that the nursery was importing the endangered orchids by describing them as hybrids on import documents. The orchids did not have the necessary export permits from Taiwan, nor the necessary Canadian import permits to verify they were traded in compliance with CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

*(Environment Canada press release, 31 July 2003)*

## CAVIAR POACHERS SENTENCED

As reported in the last *TRAFFIC Report* (Vol. 2 No. 2), eight people were arrested in May 2003 as part of a three-state crackdown on illegal take of white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) from the Sacramento River. The ringleaders, Tamara



Andreyevna Bugriyev and Yuriy Stanislavovich Bugriyev, marketed the white sturgeon roe as caviar, mostly to members of the Russian-American community in California, Oregon, and Washington, and recruited as many as 20 fishermen to poach and sell the sturgeon.

The Russian mother and son were charged with felony conspiracy to illegally take sturgeon and were sentenced on 28 October 2003. Yuriy received a \$15,000 fine and 150 day jail sentence, 60 days to be served in jail and 90 to be served in the Sacramento County Sheriff's work project program. Tamara received a \$3,000 fine and 150 day jail sentence, suspended to 540 hours of alternate work service. Both of the Bugriyevs also received 5 years formal probation; 5 years loss of sport fishing license; are prohibited from possessing sturgeon, sturgeon parts, sturgeon roe, or sturgeon caviar; are subject to warrantless search on person, property, vehicle and residence; and must stay 100 feet away from the San Francisco Bay, California Delta and all associated waterways, Sacramento River, and San Joaquin River.

(*Associated Press, 9 May 2003; pers. comm., 30 October 2003*)

## POLISH AIRLINE EMPLOYEES SMUGGLE CAVIAR

On 10 October 2003, two employees of LOT Polish Airlines were arrested upon arrival at Canada's Pearson International Airport for illegally importing Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedti*) caviar. Russian sturgeon are listed on Appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and require an accompanying export permit. Marek Sikorzak pled guilty to importing 12.5 kg of undeclared caviar, was sentenced to 23 days in prison, and forfeited caviar valued at CA\$25,000. Malgortzata Zabierzowska pled guilty to importing 4 kg of undeclared caviar, was sentenced to 13 days in prison, and forfeited caviar valued at CA\$8,000.

(*Environment Canada press release, 20 October 2003*)

## FEATHER IN USFWS CAP

A Gainesville, Florida, man received 40 months in prison and three years probation on 20 June 2003 for smuggling protected wildlife into the United States. Milan Hrabovsky specialized in selling Amazonian tribal artifacts from Brazil, such as head dresses and masks made with feathers and other parts from endangered species including blue and yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*), red and green macaws (*Ara chloroptera*), scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*) and jaguar (*Panthera onca*). As part of a plea agreement, Hrabovsky pleaded guilty in March

to a Lacey Act smuggling count, a U.S. Customs Service smuggling account, and obstruction of justice, all felony charges.



STEVE MORELLO

Despite the fact that they are frequently bred in captivity, scarlet macaws continue to be taken from the wild to supply the international demand for pet birds and feathers.

Another defendant, Jeffrey Sadofsky of Cleveland, Ohio, entered into a plea agreement, providing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with information that allowed the initial investigation to expand. Other individuals throughout the United States have been investigated and are awaiting charges in connection with this case, which is being investigated by Brazilian authorities as well.

(*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service press release, 17 July 2003*)

## U.S. AND THAI REPTILE SMUGGLERS PLEAD GUILTY

Two men were indicted on 22 July 2003 on charges related to smuggling live, protected and endangered wildlife into the United States from Thailand. Reid Turkowski, owner of Captive Bred Specialties, in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and Leong Tian Kum, a citizen of Singapore and resident of Bangkok, Thailand, were charged with money laundering, making false statements to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents, and falsely labeling wildlife, a violation of the Lacey Act. Turkowski and Kum were also charged with conspiring to smuggle and falsely label wildlife, trade in endangered species, and launder money. According to the indictment, the two shipped protected wildlife from Thailand to the United States in packages labeled to contain wooden arts and crafts, and did not obtain permits required under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The wildlife shipped included 6 radiated tortoises (*Geochelone radiata*), 22 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*), 2 emerald tree



monitors (*Varanus prasinus*), 7 Burmese star tortoises (*Geochelone platynota*), 4 pancake tortoises (*Malacochersus tornieri*), 8 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*), 67 snake-necked turtles (*Chelodina* spp.), a green tree python (*Morelia viridis*), 48 Chinese water dragons (*Physignathus cocincinus*), and 8 Fly River turtles (*Carettochelys insculpta*).



MARTIN HARVEY/WWF CANON

Green tree pythons, popular in the exotic pet trade, are arboreal and rest saddle-fashion over a branch, anchoring themselves with their prehensile tail and cradling their head in the middle of their coils.

Kum pleaded guilty 26 November 2003 to conspiracy and money laundering charges and was sentenced 5 March 2003. Kum will serve 41 months in federal prison and will be deported to his native Singapore upon his release. In addition, the U.S. District Court Judge in the case, Lynn Adelman, ordered Kum to repay the government \$8,120, the amount federal agents spend on making undercover purchases from him. Adelman exceeded sentencing guidelines in this case, citing evidence provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service investigators that Kum also conspired to smuggle women from Thailand to Singapore to work as prostitutes.

Turowski pleaded guilty 23 December 2003 to conspiracy to smuggle, falsely label wildlife, and trade in endangered species and is scheduled to be sentenced 16 April 2003.

(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service press release, 24 July 2003 and 5 March 2003)

## CANADIAN CLAMS

On 21 November 2003, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) announced that a Vancouver, British Columbia, man had received a CA\$10,000 fine and 18 month conditional sentence for illegally buying and selling clams. In early 2002, DFO investigated complaints of a large-scale illegal harvest and sale of clams, and witnessed the man illegally purchasing and then selling clams to a fish processing facility.

The man also placed false tags on the clams, indicating that they had been legally harvested. In addition to the fine and sentence, he was also ordered to pay CA\$50,000 to promote the proper management and monitoring of clam fisheries and is prohibited from buying, selling, trading or possessing any shellfish for five years.

(Vancouver Aquarium News, 21 November 2003)

## REPTILE SMUGGLER SENTENCED

“Lawrence” Wee Soon Chye was sentenced on 11 December 2003 to 37 months incarceration for his role in smuggling hundreds of protected reptiles into and out of the United States in 2002 and 2003. In addition, Wee also forfeited over \$11,300, a camera and a computer. Wee, a resident of Singapore, pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy, smuggling and false-labeling charges in September 2003 after admitting to conspiring to smuggle Endangered Species Act and CITES-protected reptiles by sending them in express mail packages labeled to contain magazines or books. A package shipped by Wee from Singapore to Florida in January 2003, and intercepted by U.S. Customs, contained 198 Fly River turtles (*Carettochelys insculpta*), 25 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*), and three monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp.).

This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Customs Enforcement, and the Orange County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with authorities in Singapore. The TRAFFIC Network also assisted in the investigation.

(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service press release, 11 December 2003)

## BIG FISH HOOKED

On 2 March 2004, Arnold Bengis and Jeffrey Noll pleaded guilty in New York City federal court in a scheme to illegally over-harvest massive quantities of South African rock lobster (*Jasus lalandii*) and Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), and to then illegally import the fish into the United States from South Africa. Each party pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act and to commit smuggling, and three separate counts of violating the Lacey Act.

The scheme was conducted through Hout Bay Fishing Industries Ltd., out of Cape Town, South Africa, and three U.S. affiliates: Icebrand Seafoods, Associated Sea Fisheries in New York City, and Icebrand Seafoods Maine in Portland, Maine. Bengis, Noll, and their coconspirators allegedly ran the illegal over-harvesting and exporting scheme since at least 1987 and up through August 2001. It is





alleged that to carry out this scheme, they under-reported seafood harvest, bribed South African fisheries inspectors, submitted false export documents to South African authorities, altered and destroyed documents indicating the actual quantity of seafood harvested, concealed vast amounts of rock lobster from authorities, and diverted an illegal shipment originally intended for New York City to Singapore and Hong Kong to avoid seizure by U.S. authorities.

As part of their guilty pleas, Bengis and Noll agreed to forfeit at least \$5 million to the U.S. government and are scheduled to be sentenced on 28 May 2004.

This case was investigated by U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the Newark, New Jersey Office of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, with the cooperation of the South African government.

(NOAA Fisheries press release, 2 March 2004)

## ILLEGAL SHRIMPERS PEELED

On 9 September 2003, U.S. Coast Guard Officers boarded the *Palacious*, Texas, fishing vessel, *Christian G*, 52 miles southeast of Freeport, Texas. All four of the vessel's turtle excluder devices had been sewn shut and the crew had failed to properly employ By-Catch Reduction Devices. Authorities seized the 41,733 pounds of shrimp aboard the vessel after it was escorted into port for violations of the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The boarding came as part of a four day joint law enforcement marine operation with the Immigration and Customs Agency and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) officers that targeted commercial fishing vessels.

(Department of Homeland Security press release, 12 September 2003)

## YES SIYAM AN IVORY SMUGGLER

On 3 March 2004, Tania Siyam, a Canadian citizen and resident of Cameroon, was indicted by a U.S. federal grand jury with two counts of violations of the Lacey Act and two counts of aiding and abetting the smuggling of goods into the United States. In November 2002 and December 2003, Siyam, an operator of several internet-based wildlife and West African art businesses, allegedly smuggled raw elephant ivory into the United States from Cameroon. According to the indictment, the first shipment contained two raw elephant tusks in a package falsely labeled to contain wood terra cotta

sculptures and the second shipment contained 125 pounds of raw elephant ivory in three parcels labeled to contain terra cotta flower pots. The importation and commercialization of raw elephant ivory are violations of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The maximum statutory penalty is five years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service press release, 3 March 2004)

## OPERATION VIPER



HOWARD BUFFETT

The gall bladders of bears are used in traditional medicines to treat symptoms ranging from high fever and convulsions to swelling and pain. It is also a common ingredient in traditional treatments for hemorrhoids.

A three-year undercover investigation by the U.S. National Park Service and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, dubbed "Operation Viper," has documented nearly 700 violations, with more than 100 people in seven states charged with illegal trafficking of black bear (*Ursus americanus*) parts and wild ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) taken from the mountains of Virginia, including Shenandoah National Park. As part of the sting, authorities set up a sporting goods store in Elkton, Virginia, from where they could infiltrate the black market and videotape illegal transactions. They found that whole bears, gall bladders, paws and other parts were being trafficked primarily to Asian markets in Washington, D.C., Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, and California, as well as overseas, primarily South Korea. The demand for these products is thriving, with bear gall bladders fetching up to \$3,000 and wild ginseng selling for \$260 to \$365 a pound, compared to \$8 to \$10 a pound for cultivated ginseng. Authorities said that further indictments are pending.

(Richmond Times-Dispatch, 8 January 2004)



## JUMPING THE SHARK

On 22 January 2004, Rickinato Hindra pled guilty in federal court in Miami, Florida, in connection with a scheme to market leopard sharks (*Triakis semifiate*) in violation of the U.S. Lacey Act. Hindra was indicted on charges of selling 48 undersized leopard sharks taken from California waters to seven separate South Florida businesses between April 2000 and May 2003. The California Fish and Game Code prohibits the take, possession, sale or purchase of leopard sharks less than 36 inches in total length for commercial purposes.

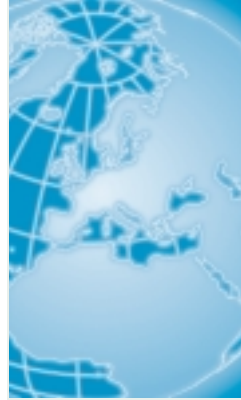
Hindra admitted to selling 17 leopard sharks to a Pompano Beach aquarium shop in April 2003 and is scheduled to be sentenced on 2 April 2004. Hindra faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. (U.S. Department of Justice press release, 22 January 2004)

### CITES NOTIFICATIONS

- *Notification to the Parties No. 2003/075* — On 18 November 2003, the CITES Secretariat withdrew its recommendation to suspend trade of CITES-listed species with Fiji. The Secretariat has determined that Fiji now has adequate legislation for implementing CITES.
- *Notification to the Parties No. 2003/073* — On 12 November 2003, the CITES Secretariat sent to Parties CD-ROMs, produced in English, French and Spanish, with training presentations on CITES. The presentations include definitions, roles of CITES Authorities, role and function of the Scientific Authority, permits and certificates, special procedures, using the Appendices, reading the Appendices, non-detriment findings and data, role of quotas in CITES, trade with non-Parties, permit management systems, filling in permit forms, reservations and plants. Additional copies are available on request from the Secretariat.
- *Notification to the Parties No. 2003/046* — The Government of Thailand will host the 13th Conference of the Parties to CITES in Bangkok, from 2-14 October 2004. The text of any draft resolution, proposal to amend Appendix I or II, or any document submitted for consideration at the meeting should be communicated to the Secretariat by 5 May 2004.

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)

## International **NEWS**



## INTERNATIONAL MAHOGANY TRADE REGULATED

As of 15 November 2003, big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) will be regulated in international trade according to Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), on which it was listed at the 12th Conference of the Parties to CITES in November

2002. An Appendix II listing requires that any shipments of big-leaf mahogany be accompanied by export permits, which are only to be issued if government appointed Management Authorities have confirmed the timber was legally harvested and an independent Scientific Authority has certified that the harvest was not detrimental to the survival of the species. The listing will provide controls and information for exporting countries to sustainably manage their mahogany resources, and will allow importing nations to better assist them in insuring legality of shipments and a fully transparent trade.

(CITES Secretariat press release, 11 November 2003)



Big leaf mahogany, of which the United States is the largest consumer, is highly prized for making fine furniture, musical instruments, and coffins.



## HIGH SEAS PURSUIT

The crew of the Uruguayan-flagged fishing vessel, *Viarsa*, was arrested on 27 August 2003 after being boarded by the Australian patrol vessel, *Southern Supporter*, some 2,000 nautical miles southwest of Cape Town, South Africa. The arrests concluded a record-breaking 20 day, 4,300 mile pursuit by Australian, British, and South African ships after the *Viarsa* was detected illegally fishing for Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) inside the Australian Fishing Zone near Heard Island and McDonald Islands in early August. The *Viarsa*'s illegal haul was estimated at 150 metric tons.

Patagonian toothfish, often marketed as Chilean seabass, has become extremely popular in restaurants around the world, particularly in Japan and the United States, and is rapidly becoming endangered due to over-fishing.

(*The Guardian*, 28 August 2003)

## BABOON NOSES SHOCK THE SENSES



SYEN OLOF LINBLAD/LINBLAD EXPEDITIONS

Baboons in the international market are most often traded live, generally destined for research laboratories.

In September 2003, baggage handlers at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport noticed a putrid smell coming from a suitcase, which had apparently come from Nigeria and was bound for the United States. Two thousand rotting baboon (*Papio* spp.) noses were found inside. The noses, which were destroyed, were most likely intended for use in traditional medicine. Some species of baboon are considered threatened, and the slaughter here was enormous. The owner of the suitcase has yet to be found.

(*Independent.co.uk*, 4 September 2003)

## HUNDREDS OF SKINS SEIZED IN TIBET

On 9 October 2003, police and customs officers discovered hundreds of skins of endangered species in a truck passing from Nepal into China, through mountainous Ngamring County. Three Tibetans and two Nepalese were arrested when the 1,276 furs, including 32 tiger skins (*Panthera tigris*), 579 leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*), and 665 otter pelts, were found. According to customs officers, most of the animals had been shot and this was the largest single seizure of endangered wildlife products in the region

since 1951.

Tibet has spent around US\$7.23 million since 1999 on protecting endangered wildlife and has been cooperating with wildlife protection groups to cut down on illegal hunting. Since that time, they have tried 346 poaching cases and sentenced 18 poachers to prison.

(*Environment News Service*, 13 October 2003)

## THAI CRACKDOWN

Thailand is well-known as a major gateway for the international wildlife trade, but the Thai government has recently taken dramatic steps to discourage it. After a recent 90-day government amnesty which allowed citizens to register any legally protected birds or animals in their possession, the government of Thailand has cracked down on illegal possession of and trade in protected species. In October 2003, police raided a home crammed with tiger (*Panthera tigris*) carcasses, bear paws, six starving tigers, five bears, and four baby orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*). This spurred further raids on an open wildlife market, another house, a private zoo, a tiger sanctuary, and a zoo-entertainment complex. Thai police have recovered more than 33,000 animals during this operation, and now have a network of more than 70,000 informants as well as a wildlife trade hotline. However, officials are frustrated by the weak penalties allowed for those involved in illegal wildlife trade-up to only four years in jail and fines of only US\$1,000; not a strong deterrent for such a lucrative business.

Thailand will host the Thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in October 2004.

(*Washington Post*, 10 December 2003)



EDWARD MENDELL

Orangutans are endangered, owing to loss of habitat to deforestation and the killing of females for their young, which are traded as pets or for zoo exhibits.



*The Gardener's Guide to Plant Conservation* (1993), 187 pp.

*Prescription for Extinction: Endangered Species and Patented Oriental Medicines in Trade* (1994), 300 pp.

*Status, Management, and Commercialization of the American Black Bear (Ursus americanus)* (1995), 132 pp.

*Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on the Trade of Bear Parts* (1997), 239 pp.

*An Overview of World Trade in Cervid Antler with an Emphasis on the United States and Canada* (1997), 98 pp.

*American Ginseng: The Root of North America's Medicinal Herb Trade* (1998), 94 pp.

*While Supplies Last: The Sale of Tiger and Other Endangered Species Medicines in North America* (1998), 57 pp.

*Shark Fisheries and Trade in the Americas, Volume I: North America* (1998), 201 pp.

*The U.S. Role in the International Live Reptile Trade: Amazon Tree Boas to Zululand Dwarf Chameleons* (1998), 59 pp.

*A World Apart? Attitudes Toward Traditional Chinese Medicine and Endangered Species in Hong Kong and the United States* (1998), 80 pp.

*A Review of State Bear Trade Laws: U.S. State Statutes and Regulations Regarding the American Black Bear (Ursus americanus)* (1999), 171 pp.

"Comparative analysis of management regimes and medicinal plant trade monitoring mechanisms for American ginseng and goldenseal" (1999), 14 pp. Article reprinted from *Conservation Biology* (14/5/1422-34)

*Asian Turtle Trade: Proceedings of a Workshop on Conservation and Trade of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in Asia* (2000), 164 pp.

*Mahogany Matters: The U.S. Market for Big-Leafed Mahogany and Its Implications for the Conservation of the Species* (2000), 58 pp.

*Swimming Against the Tide: Recent Surveys of Exploitation, Trade, and Management of Marine Turtles in the Northern Caribbean* (2001), 161 pp.

*In the Black: Status, Management, and Trade of the American Black Bear (Ursus americanus) in North America* (2002), 161 pp.

*Prickly Trade: Trade and Conservation of Chihuahuan Desert Cacti* (2003), 122pp.

*Caviar and Conservation: Status, Management, and Trade of North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish* (2003), 224 pp.

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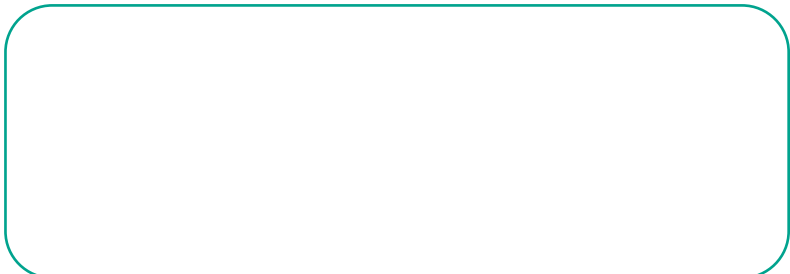
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*TRAFFIC works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.*





# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## IMPLEMENTACIÓN DE CITES EN MÉXICO

**M**éxico ha sido, desde 1991, signatario de la Convención Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestres (CITES). Un nuevo estudio comisionado por TRAFFIC North America a Ramón Pérez-Gil S.<sup>1</sup> e Inés Arroyo Quiroz<sup>2</sup> es la primera evaluación integral sobre la implementación de CITES en México. Esta evaluación tuvo como objetivo discutir con las autoridades mexicanas el contexto de la operación de CITES en México, considerando el ambiente político, las bases legales, las estructuras administrativas, así como las políticas operativas. La meta de esta iniciativa fue la de sumarse a los esfuerzos que las autoridades mexicanas están llevando a cabo para mejorar la implementación de CITES en México.

El estudio, desarrollado en el periodo 2002-2003, evaluó críticamente la evolución y la cobertura de instrumentos legales relativos al comercio internacional de vida silvestre y CITES; el desempeño de las autoridades mexicanas responsables de la implementación de la

Convención; la coordinación entre dichas autoridades y sus niveles de interacción; el grado de participación del sector académico en asuntos CITES; y la participación de México ante la Conferencia de las Partes (CoP) de CITES así como ante los Comités Técnicos de la Convención. El estudio también ahondó en la percepción de aquellos usuarios que, directa o indirectamente, tienen que ver con la aplicación cotidiana de los procedimientos asociados a CITES.

Con el fin de discutir con las autoridades que viven día a día la

*continued on page 2*



Las especies comercializadas ilegalmente, como la zorra y las serpientes mostradas en la imagen ofrecidas para su venta en San Luis Potosí, México, algunas veces son traficadas internacionalmente en contravención de CITES.



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operación de CITES in situ, se realizó trabajo de campo en las siguientes localidades consideradas estratégicas en función de su ubicación y del volumen de los movimientos de vida silvestre:

- Puertos Fronterizos
  - Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua
  - Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
  - Tijuana, Baja California
- Delegaciones de PROFEPA
  - Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
  - Tijuana, Baja California
  - Guanajuato, Guanajuato
- Inspectorías de PROFEPA
  - Aduana de Carga del Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México
  - Aduana de Pasajeros Sala E del Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México
  - Aduana de Pasajeros del Aeropuerto Internacional de El Bajío, Silao, Guanajuato
  - Aduana de Carga del Aeropuerto Internacional de El Bajío, León, Guanajuato

Se formularon recomendaciones específicas dirigidas a las autoridades responsables de la implementación de CITES en México. Entre estas se incluyeron acciones de índole operativa, normativa y de política, con el único ánimo de ayudar a que México optimice su desempeño como Parte de CITES.

La oficina regional de TRAFFIC Norte América en México, presentó los resultados de este estudio en Noviembre del 2003 en presencia de las autoridades que integran el Comité de Seguimiento de CITES en México, que son: Autoridad Científica (Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, CONABIO); Autoridad Administrativa (Dirección General de Vida Silvestre, SEMARNAT); Aplicación de la Ley (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente, PROFEPA); y, la Unidad Coordinadora de Asuntos Internacionales (UCAI, SEMARNAT). Un representante de la Administración General de Aduanas (SHCP) también estuvo presente.

Los resultados del estudio fueron bien recibidos por las autoridades mexicanas.

Si bien el Comité de Seguimiento de CITES en México está comprometido y espera atender las carencias y dificultades identificadas en el estudio, aún persisten problemas que requieren de acciones concretas que van más allá del ámbito de acción de estas autoridades. Las autoridades aduanales, por ejemplo, han tenido históricamente y tienen actualmente, una importancia crítica que no ha sido reconocida por las autoridades ambientales y por tanto, las atribuciones de las autoridades aduanales no han sido cabalmente aprovechadas para ayudar en la correcta implementación de CITES. Un caso concreto, es la prerrogativa que tienen los oficiales de aduanas, en el área de pasajeros en los aeropuertos internacionales, de llamar a los inspectores de PROFEPA cuando juzgan, a su discreción y sin conocimientos profundos en materia de vida silvestre, si es necesaria la presencia de PROFEPA para una inspección ocular. El papel potencial de las autoridades aduanales en el control del comercio de vida silvestre ha sido definitivamente subestimado.

Si bien es un hecho que los avances en cuanto al cumplimiento de CITES en México son significativos, y el contraste con años anteriores evidente, el estudio concluye que el gobierno Mexicano todavía necesita invertir más, dado que existen carencias en cuanto a recursos humanos, materiales y financieros. Entre otras cosas, México requiere oficiales con mayor conocimiento y experiencia en la regulación y control del comercio de vida silvestre; cuadros de especialistas en comercio de vida silvestre; desarrollo de estudios de mercado para vida silvestre; implementación de esquemas éticos y sustentables para el uso de especies nativas; sistematización y análisis de datos sobre comercio de vida silvestre; y, campañas de comunicación y educación encaminadas a explicar las virtudes del comercio sustentable de especies como una herramienta para la conservación.

No obstante, el estudio mostró que México tiene hoy día una presencia permanente en las discusiones de CITES y se mantiene actualizado, proactivo y participativo. El estudio reveló una mayor coordinación interna entre las autoridades mexicanas así como de éstas con

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instituciones académicas y organizaciones de la sociedad civil, hecho que contrasta con lo que ocurría en el pasado. De manera particular, desde la conformación del Comité de Seguimiento de CITES, las autoridades comparten metas y retos. La cobertura legal y las estructuras administrativas han evolucionado y como resultado México ha podido incrementar su habilidad y voluntad para conseguir una posición más prominente dentro de CITES. Es evidente que hay numerosas iniciativas en curso, que de forma eficiente, inciden en mejorar la implementación y cumplimiento de los compromisos que México adquirió al adherirse a esta Convención.

Sin embargo, aún hay mucho por hacer. México no ha destinado los recursos suficientes para llevar a cabo los estudios definidos por CITES como “dictámenes de efectos no perjudiciales” (*non detriment findings*) y por lo tanto, México aún no puede asegurar categóricamente que el comercio legal no esté poniendo en riesgo la sobrevivencia de las poblaciones silvestres de especies nativas enlistadas en CITES. México tampoco coadyuva en prevenir el impacto

negativo del comercio sobre aquellas especies no nativas que está importando en grandes cantidades. Estos asuntos fundamentales relativos a CITES, y no las tareas administrativas de expedir certificados y verificar la autenticidad de los expedidos por las autoridades administrativas de otros países, constituyen los verdaderos retos para una cabal implementación de CITES por parte de México.

A pesar de estas dificultades, los avances son notables. La pertenencia a CITES ha estimulado a México a perfeccionar y alinear sus procedimientos, así como a revisar sus políticas, normas, e incluso el marco legal para la conservación de la vida silvestre. Aún cuando los beneficios que México podría obtener por ser miembro de CITES son mayores, el solo hecho de pertenecer a la Convención ha demostrado ser benéfico para el país.

*Ramón Pérez-Gil & Inés Arroyo Quiroz*

<sup>1</sup> FAUNAM AC

<sup>2</sup> Centro de Investigaciones sobre Ecosistemas (CIEco, UNAM)

## ESTURIÓN BELUGA CLASIFICADO COMO AMENAZADO

El 21 de abril de 2004, el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — USFWS) anunció que está clasificando al esturión beluga (*Huso huso*), como amenazado bajo la Ley de Especies en Peligro de Estados Unidos (U.S. Endangered Species Act — ESA); la clasificación entrará en vigor seis meses después de ese día. Los esturiones beluga son considerados por lo general como los peces económicamente más valiosos, por ser la fuente de caviar beluga, una exquisitez de muy alto precio. La sobrepesca no regulada, la pérdida de hábitat para el desove y la pesca furtiva han contribuido a la drástica disminución de la población silvestre de este esturión.

La clasificación de “amenazado” permite al USFWS desarrollar una Regla Especial que podría exigir requerimientos específicos como aquellos ya obligados para las especies incluidas en la Convención sobre Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestre. La clasificación proporcionará a los esturiones beluga protecciones específicas bajo la ESA y permitirá al USFWS emitir las regulaciones necesarias para asegurar su conservación.

*(Comunicado de prensa de USFWS, 21 de abril del 2004)*

## ESPECIES SILVESTRES EN VENTA

### Guía para educadores sobre el comercio de flora y fauna silvestre

“Especies silvestres en venta” es un nuevo módulo interdisciplinario del Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza diseñado para educar a los estudiantes de la escuela intermedia sobre el comercio internacional de vida silvestre y los productos derivados de la fauna y flora. Esta guía explica cómo el comercio ilegal de especies silvestres puede diezmar especies mientras que el comercio legal y los programas de reproducción en cautividad pueden ayudar a las economías locales al mismo tiempo que promueven la conservación. Los quince módulos incluyen información de base para educadores, una lista completa de recursos y planes por unidad que ayudan a los educadores a incorporar los módulos en sus propios currículos. Se incluyen más de 100 diapositivas que resaltan los temas de las actividades incluidas. Para encargar la guía a un costo de US\$49.95, contacte a Acorn Naturalists en [www.acornnaturalists.com](http://www.acornnaturalists.com), o llame al 1-800-422-8886.

## Guía para la identificación de caballitos de mar

### TRAFFIC encabeza esfuerzo común en el desarrollo de una guía para la identificación de caballitos de mar del mundo.

En la duodécima reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes de la CITES (Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestre), en noviembre de 2002, los países miembros votaron para incluir todos los caballitos de mar (género *Hippocampus*) en el Apéndice II de la Convención, decisión que entró en vigor el 15 de mayo de 2004.

Con el propósito de implementar de manera efectiva la clasificación de CITES de caballitos de mar, las autoridades gubernamentales y otros grupos interesados necesitan ser capaces de identificar las más de 30 especies reconocidas. Respondiendo a esta necesidad, el Proyecto Caballito de Mar de TRAFFIC, el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos, la Pesquería NOAA de Estados Unidos y la Secretaría de CITES han colaborado en el desarrollo de una guía para la identificación de caballitos de mar.

La meta de la guía es proporcionar información técnica precisa pero fácil de utilizar, ventajosa tanto para los especialistas como para los que no lo son. Ésta no es una tarea simple, ya que muchas especies son similares en apariencia y su identificación puede ser problemática.

Las descripciones de las especies en la guía se basan en una publicación de 1999 por el Proyecto Caballitos de Mar titulada *Caballitos de mar: una*

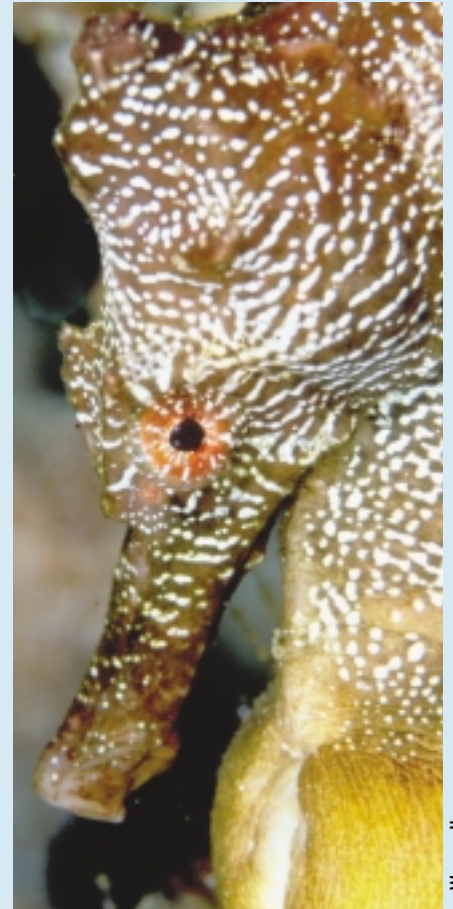
*guía de identificación de las especies del mundo y su conservación*. Los materiales de la publicación anterior fueron revisados y reformateados, añadiéndose contenido adicional.

La guía incluye descripciones, mapas de áreas de distribución, dibujos lineales e ilustraciones a color de cada una de las 32 especies de caballitos de mar identificados en la propuesta original para inclusión en CITES (Prop. 12.37). Una de las especies, *H. denise*, ha sido añadida basándose en investigaciones recientes.

Las características morfológicas que se usan para identificar caballitos de mar se explican y definen tanto en el texto como en los dibujos lineales. También se incluye una metodología paso a paso para identificar caballitos de mar usando una lista de control de especies y tablas que resumen las características clave de identificación. Se proporciona una copia de la lista de control de especies que puede ser fotocopiada como una herramienta de ayuda para la identificación de los especímenes.

La guía será publicada y estará disponible a las Partes antes de que el listado entre en vigor en mayo de 2004.

TRAFFIC Norteamérica desea expresar su gratitud al Programa NOAA de Subvención para la Conservación del Arrecife de Coral y a la Fundación Curtis y Edith Munson, cuyo generoso apoyo hizo posible la preparación de esta guía.



WOLCOTT HENRY

Todos los años, se sacan de su ambiente silvestre aproximadamente 24 millones de caballitos de mar, se secan y venden para usarse en la medicina tradicional china, para tratar todo tipo de enfermedades, desde asma hasta trastornos sexuales. Cientos de miles más se venden vivos para el comercio de acuarios.

### TRAFFIC de Norteamérica reconoce con gratitud el apoyo generoso proporcionado por

Francois y Sheila Brutsch  
Fundación CGMK  
Fundación The Walt Disney Company  
El Fideicomiso Hendrickson  
Eugene Linden  
Fundación Curtis y Edith Munson  
Subvención NOAA para la Conservación del Arrecife de Coral  
Fundación David y Lucile Packard  
Fondo para el Tigre  
Fundación John M. Simpson  
Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos





## LEY DE EE.UU. PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DE LA VIDA SILVESTRE EN CAUTIVERIO

El 19 de diciembre de 2003, el Presidente Bush promulgó la Ley de Seguridad de la Vida Silvestre en Cautiverio (Ley Pública n.º 108-191). La ley se diseñó para desanimar a individuos de mantener animales exóticos como mascotas, y prohibir el comercio interestatal de leones, tigres, leopardos, guepardos, jaguares y pumas para ser utilizados con este fin. La ley exonera a instituciones con licencia como los santuarios de vida silvestre, universidades e individuos autorizados por el Departamento de Agricultura de EE.UU.



El cálculo del número de gatos grandes, incluyendo los pumas, que son de propiedad privada en los Estados Unidos, fluctúa entre los 5,000 y los 20,000.

## NEGOCIO ENTRE ESPINAS

El 12 de diciembre de 2003, Pedro Alejandro Pereira de Nicaragua y Peter L. Silver de Canadá, fueron sentenciados en Florida por su rol en una conspiración que importó más de US\$2.8 millones en langostas espinosas (*Panulirus* spp.) de talla menor a la autorizada de Nicaragua a los Estados Unidos, violando así la Ley Lacey. Bajo la ley nicaragüense, es ilegal recolectar o vender langostas espinosas o "de roca", que pesen menos de cinco onzas.

Pereira admitió que él y otros habían exportado ilegalmente casi 200,000 libras de langostas espinosas a los Estados Unidos en el transcurso de un período de cinco años, y fue sentenciado a 37 meses en prisión, seguidos de dos años de libertad supervisada. Silver recibió como sanción un año y un día en prisión, también seguidos por dos años de libertad supervisada. La Comisión de Peces y Vida Silvestre de Florida, el Servicio de Aduana de los EE.UU., la Administración de Pesquerías Nacionales Oceánicas y Atmosféricas y las autoridades nicaragüenses se coordinaron entre sí para procesar este caso.

*(Comunicado de prensa del Departamento de Justicia de EE.UU., 12 de diciembre de 2003)*

## UNA SOPA DE SU PROPIA MEDICINA

Tuc Truong, propietario de una tienda de medicina tradicional en Oakland, California, fue sentenciado en el distrito norte de California el 26 de febrero de 2003 por el tribunal federal de distrito de EE.UU. Truong fue acusado de conspiración por violar la Ley de Especies en Peligro y la Ley de Etiquetado de Productos de Rinocerontes y Tigres entre otros, al vender medicinas que contienen especies legalmente protegidas en su tienda, Hong Kong Chinese Trading Herbs. Truong fue sentenciado a cuatro meses en prisión y a pagar una multa de US\$10,000.

*(Comunicado personal del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos, 18 de diciembre de 2003)*

## EXITO DE LA OPERACIÓN QUITANIEVE

El 14 de noviembre de 2003, William R. Kapp fue sentenciado a pasar cuatro años y tres meses en prisión, a tres años de libertad condicional y a 300 horas de servicio en la comunidad, y recibió una multa de US\$5,000 y ordenándosele pagar US\$1,600 en costos de corte por conspiración para violar la Ley de Especies en Peligro de Estados Unidos (ESA). En abril, Kapp fue hallado culpable por un tribunal federal en Chicago, de organizar una red que traficaba comprando y matando tigres (*Panthera tigris*) en peligro y leopardos (*Panthera pardus*) para vender su piel, partes y carne. Kapp, la única persona de las 17 acusadas en la investigación secreta "Operación Quitanieve" del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos (ver Vol. 2, N.º 1; Vol. 2, N.º 2), se declaró inocente y se sometió a juicio, aduciendo que los animales involucrados en la red de comercio no estaban protegidos por la ESA por ser híbridos. A pesar de su alegato, Kapp fue hallado culpable de conspiración para violar el ESA, así como de 16 cargos de violación al ESA y la Ley Lacey. La evidencia durante el juicio, incluyendo el testimonio de seis de sus co-demandados, mostró que Kapp era, en efecto, la figura central de la red comercial, y que gestionó la venta de 18 tigres y leopardos desde 1997, participando en la matanza de algunos mientras que se encontraban aún confinados en sus jaulas y remolques.

Richard Czimer fue el último en ser sentenciado como resultado de la Operación Quitanieve, el 18 de diciembre de 2003. Czimer, propietario de Czimer's Game and Seafood, Inc., un mercado de carne exótico en los suburbios de Chicago, fue sentenciado a seis meses de prisión, dos años de libertad condicional al ser liberado, una multa de US\$5,000 y 300 horas de servicio comunitario. El negocio mismo fue sentenciado a un período de prueba de cinco años y a una multa de US\$24,000.00.



En febrero de 2003, Czimer se declaró culpable de haber obtenido la carne de un leopardo negro protegido federalmente, y de comprar los despojos de 16 tigres, cuatro leones (*Panthera leo*), dos pumas (*Felis concolor*), y un híbrido león-tigre, que luego se descuartizaron y vendieron en su mercado como carne "de león". Como parte del acuerdo final, Czimer también acordó pagar US\$116,000 como restitución al Fondo Save the Tiger de la Fundación Nacional de Pesca y Vida Silvestre.

(Comunicado de prensa del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los EE.UU., 14 de noviembre de 2003 y 18 de diciembre de 2003)

## LOS LADRONES DE ORQUÍDEAS

El 18 de diciembre de 2003 se acusó a los Jardines Botánicos Marie Selby y a Wesley E. Higgins, uno de los principales expertos en orquídeas de los jardines, de violar la Ley de Especies en Peligro por la posesión de una orquídea rara que fue contrabandeada a los Estados Unidos. La orquídea era una nueva especie de "zapatito" (*Phragmipedium kovachii*) que recientemente fue descubierta en el Perú. Todas las especies de *Phragmipedium* están prohibidas en el comercio internacional por la Convención sobre Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestre (CITES) y, por lo tanto, su importación fue ilegal.



NINA MARSHALL

Las flores de la popular orquídea "zapatito" se reconocen por su bolsa, un pétalo modificado que funciona como trampa para los polinizadores.

La junta directiva de Selby, junto con Higgins, han elaborado una sentencia de conformidad con los fiscales federales, a través de la cual pagarán una multa de US\$5,000, en lugar de una posible penalidad de hasta US\$100,000, y serán puestos en libertad condicional por tres años. Selby también ha cambiado sus procedimientos para comerciar orquídeas de otros países y animará a otras instituciones a hacer lo mismo. Higgins fue sentenciado a dos años de libertad condicional y a pagar una multa de US\$2,000.

Martin Kovach, el coleccionista que supuestamente pasó de contrabando la orquídea a los Estados Unidos y la entregó a Selby, fue procesado en noviembre del 2003.

La investigación fue un esfuerzo conjunto entre el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados

Unidos, el Departamento de Caza y Pesquerías del Interior de Virginia, la Autoridad Administrativa de CITES del Perú y la Oficina del Fiscal de EE.UU., Distrito Este de Virginia.

(Comunicado de prensa del Departamento de Justicia de EE.UU., 18 de diciembre de 2003; The Associated Press, 19 de diciembre de 2003)

## COMERCIANTES DE ALETAS DE TIBURÓN MULTADOS

En diciembre de 2003, la nave pesquera taiwanesa *Yu Gye Fa No. 66*, y Polar Internacional, una compañía de mariscos de Guam, fueron acusados de descargar y recibir 3,000 libras de aletas de tiburón, respectivamente. La ley de los EE.UU. prohíbe descargar aletas de tiburón sin descargar los despojos de los correspondientes tiburones, con el fin de fomentar un proceso más humano de quitarles la vida, en vez de permitir que se corten las aletas y se tire nuevamente al océano al tiburón que muchas veces aún está vivo. Las aletas de tiburón son enormemente más lucrativas que el resto del tiburón, vendiéndose por hasta US\$200 la libra, comparadas con aproximadamente US\$0.10 la libra de lo demás. Se calcula que el peso de las aletas en este caso representa miles de tiburones. Se multó a *Yu Gye Fa No. 66* con US\$10,000 y a Polar Internacional con US\$20,000 por las ofensas.

(Pacific Daily News, 11 de diciembre de 2003)

## RESBALÓN CON LA ORQUÍDEA ZAPATILLA

El 31 de julio del 2003, se otorgó, en la Corte Provincial de Winnipeg, una multa de \$15,000 dólares canadienses a Ever Spring Orchid Nursery Ltd. de Manitoba, Canadá por importar ilegalmente orquídeas zapatilla de venus asiáticas (*Paphiopedilum* spp.). Adicionalmente, la corporación destinará \$5,000 dólares canadienses de la multa a los Amigos del Conservatorio del Parque de Plantas Assiniboine para la construcción de una instalación de exhibición educativa que albergue las orquídeas amenazadas decomisadas, tendrá que mostrar panfletos sobre orquídeas amenazadas en su lugar de negocio por tres años, y contactar a Environment Canada con tres días de anticipación de cualquier importación futura de orquídeas. Los cargos fueron el resultado de una investigación conjunta realizada por la División Ambiental de la Fiscalía de la Vida Silvestre de Canadá y la Agencia de Aduanas e Ingresos de Canadá, con la ayuda de la Red TRAFFIC. La investigación dio como resultado evidencia de que el vivero estaba importando las orquídeas amenazadas describiéndolas como híbridas en documentos importantes. Las orquídeas no tenían los permisos necesarios de exportación de Taiwán, ni los permisos de importación de Canadá para verificar que fueron comerciadas siguiendo las regulaciones de CITES, la





Convención de Comercio Internacional de Especies en Peligro de la Fauna y Flora Silvestres.

(Comunicado de prensa de Environment Canada, 31 de julio de 2003)

## PESCADORES FURTIVOS DE CAVIAR SENTENCIADOS

Como se reportó en el último *TRAFFIC Report* (Vol. 2, N.º 2), en mayo de 2003 se arrestó a ocho personas como parte de una campaña en tres estados para eliminar la pesca ilegal del esturión blanco (*Acipenser transmontanus*) en el Río Sacramento. Los cabecillas, Tamara Andreyevna Bugriyev y Yuriy Stanislavovich Bugriyev, comercializaron la hueva del esturión blanco como caviar, mayormente a miembros de la comunidad rusa-americana de California, Oregon y Washington, reclutando hasta 20 pescadores para la pesca y venta furtiva del esturión.

Madre e hijo rusos fueron acusados de conspiración criminal por capturar esturiones ilegalmente y el 28 de octubre de 2003 fueron sentenciados. Yurily obtuvo una multa de US\$15,000 y fue sentenciado a 150 días de prisión, de los cuales 60 permanecerá preso y 90 trabajará en el programa de proyecto de trabajo del sheriff del condado de Sacramento. Tamara recibió una multa de US\$3,000 y una sentencia de 150 días de prisión, suspendida por 540 horas de trabajo de servicio alternativo. Ambos Bugriyev recibieron también 5 años de libertad provisional formal; 5 años de pérdida de licencia de caza deportiva; tienen la prohibición de poseer esturiones, partes de esturiones, cría de esturiones o caviar de esturiones; están sujetos a cateos sin orden judicial a su propiedad, persona, vehículo y residencia; y deben permanecer a 100 pies de distancia de la Bahía de San Francisco, el Delta de California y todas las vías de navegación fluvial asociadas, el Río Sacramento y el Río San Joaquín.

(Associated Press, 9 de mayo de 2003; comunicación personal, 30 de octubre de 2003)

## CONTRABANDO DE CAVIAR POR EMPLEADOS DE LÍNEA AÉREA POLACA

El 10 de octubre de 2003, dos empleados de las líneas aéreas polacas LOT fueron arrestados a su llegada al Aeropuerto Internacional Pearson de Canadá por importar ilegalmente caviar de esturión (*Acipenser gueldenstaedti*) ruso. El esturión ruso está incluido en el Apéndice II de la CITES (Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de la Flora y Fauna Silvestre) y requiere un permiso de exportación. Marek Sikorzak se declaró culpable de importar 12.5 kg de caviar no declarado, fue sentenciado a 23 días en prisión y se le confiscó caviar valorado en \$25,000 dólares canadienses. Malgortzata Zabierzowska se declaró culpable de importar 4 kg de caviar no declarado,

fue sentenciada a 13 días en prisión y se le confiscó caviar valorado en \$8,000 dólares canadienses.

(Comunicado de prensa de Environment Canada, 20 de octubre de 2003)

## ÉXITO DEL USFWS

El 20 de junio de 2003, un hombre de Gainesville, Florida fue sentenciado a 40 meses en prisión y tres años de libertad condicional por pasar de contrabando especies silvestres protegidas a los Estados Unidos. Milan Hrabovsky se especializaba en la venta de artefactos de tribus amazónicas del Brasil, como tocados y máscaras hechos con plumas y otras partes de especies en peligro incluyendo guacamayas azul y amarillo (*Ara ararauna*), guacamayas de ala verde (*Ara chloroptera*), guacamayas escarlatas (*Ara macao*) y jaguares (*Panthera onca*). Como parte de un acuerdo sobre su sentencia, en marzo Hrabovsky se declaró culpable de una instancia de contrabando de la Ley Lacey, de un cargo de contrabando ante el Servicio de Aduana de los EE.UU y de obstrucción a la justicia, todos cargos de felonía.



STEVE MORELLO

A pesar del hecho de que frecuentemente se reproducen en cautiverio, las guacamayas escarlatas continúan siendo capturadas en su hábitat silvestre para cubrir la demanda internacional de aves como mascota y sus plumas.

Otro demandado, Jeffrey Sadofsky de Cleveland, Ohio, logró una sentencia acordada proporcionando al Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos la información que permitió la investigación inicial para expandirse. Otros individuos de varias partes de los Estados Unidos han sido investigados y están a la espera de acusaciones en conexión con este caso, que también está siendo investigado por las autoridades brasileñas.

(Comunicado de prensa del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos, 17 de julio de 2003)

## CONTRABANDISTAS DE REPTILES DE EE.UU. Y TAILANDIA ADMITIERON CULPA

El 33 de julio del 2003, dos hombres fueron procesados por cargos de contrabando de especies silvestres vivas, protegidas y en peligro de Tailandia a los Estados Unidos. Reid Turkowski, propietario de Captive Bred Specialties, en Waukesha, Wisconsin, y



Leona Tian Kum, ciudadano de Singapur y residente de Bangkok, Tailandia, fueron acusados de lavado de dinero, de hacer declaraciones falsas a agentes del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos y de poner etiquetas falsas a especies silvestres, en violación con la Ley Lacey. También se acusó a Turkowski y a Kum de conspirar para contrabandear, y de poner etiquetas falsas en las especies silvestres, comerciar con especies en peligro y de lavado de dinero. De acuerdo a la acusación formal, los dos enviaron especies silvestres protegidas de Tailandia a los Estados Unidos en paquetes etiquetados como conteniendo piezas de arte y artesanías de madera, sin los permisos requeridos por la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestre (CITES). La vida silvestre enviada incluía seis tortugas rayadas (*Geochelone radiata*), 22 tortugas estrelladas de la India (*Geochelone elegans*), dos varanos verdes (*Varanus prasinus*), siete tortugas estrelladas de Birmania (*Geochelone platynota*), cuatro tortugas de cuña (*Malacochersus tornieri*), ocho tortugas mediterráneas (*Testudo hermanni*), 67 tortugas de cuello de serpiente (*Chelodina* spp.), un pitón arborícola verde (*Morelia viridis*), 48 dragones de agua chinos (*Physignathus cocincinus*) y ocho tortugas de concha blanda de Papúa (*Carettochelys insculpta*).



MARTIN HARVEY/WWF CANON

Los pitones arborícolas verdes, populares en el comercio de mascotas exóticas, son arborícolas y descansan montados sobre una rama, sujetándose con su cola prensil y meciendo la cabeza en el medio de su cuerpo enrollado.

El 26 de noviembre del 2003, Kum se declaró culpable de conspiración y cargos de lavado de dinero y fue sentenciado el 5 de marzo del 2003. Kum cumplirá una condena de 41 meses en una prisión federal y será deportado a Singapur, su país de origen, luego de su liberación. Además, Lynn Adelman, juez de distrito de EE.UU. encargado del caso, ordenó que Kum pagara al gobierno US\$8,120, la cantidad que los agentes federales gastaron en realizar compras clandestinas de Kum. Adelman excedió los lineamientos para sentenciar en este caso, citando evidencia proporcionada por investigadores del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos que Kum también conspiró para

traficar con mujeres de Tailandia a Singapur, para trabajar como prostitutas.

El 23 de diciembre de 2003, Turowski se declaró culpable de conspiración de contrabando, etiquetado falso de especies silvestres y comercio de especies en peligro, y fue sentenciado el 16 de abril de 2003.

(Comunicado de prensa del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos, 24 de julio de 2003 y 5 de marzo de 2003)

## ALMEJAS CANADIENSES

El 21 de noviembre de 2003, el Departamento de Pesquerías y Océanos de Canadá (DFO) anunció que un hombre de Vancouver, British Columbia, recibió una multa de \$10,000 dólares canadienses y 18 meses de sentencia condicional por comprar y vender almejas de manera ilegal. A comienzos de 2002, el DFO investigó quejas de pesca ilegal y venta a gran escala de almejas, y fue testigo de la compra y venta ilegal de almejas realizada por este hombre a una instalación de procesamiento de pescado. El hombre también colocó etiquetas falsas en las almejas, indicando que habían sido legalmente pescadas. Además de la multa y la sentencia, se le ordenó también pagar \$50,000 dólares canadienses para promover el manejo y monitoreo apropiado de las pesquerías de almejas y tiene prohibido el comprar, vender, comerciar o procesar cualquier marisco por cinco años.

(Vancouver Aquarium News, 21 de noviembre de 2003)

## CONTRABANDISTA DE REPTILES SENTENCIADO

El 11 de diciembre de 2003 fue sentenciado "Lawrence" Wee Soon Chye a 37 meses de encarcelamiento por su papel en el contrabando de cientos de reptiles protegidos a y fuera de los Estados Unidos en el 2002 y 2003. Adicionalmente, a Wee se le aseguraron más de US\$11,300, una cámara y una computadora. Wee, un residente de Singapur, se declaró culpable del delito de conspiración, contrabando y etiquetado falso en septiembre de 2003, luego de admitir a una conspiración de contrabando de reptiles protegidos por la Ley de Especies en Peligro y la CITES, enviándolos en paquetes por correo expreso con etiquetas indicando un contenido de revistas o libros. Un paquete enviado por Wee de Singapur a Florida en enero de 2003 e interceptado por la Aduana de EE.UU. contenía 198 tortugas de concha blanda de Papúa (*Carettochelys insculpta*), 25 tortugas estrelladas de la India (*Geochelone elegans*) y tres varanos (*Varanus* spp.).

Este caso fue investigado por el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos, el Departamento de Aduanas y la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Orange, con la cooperación de las autoridades de Singapur. La Red TRAFFIC también





ayudó en la investigación.

*(Comunicado de prensa del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos, 11 de diciembre de 2003)*

## PEZ GRANDE MORDIO EL ANZUELO

El 2 de marzo de 2004, Arnold Bengis y Jeffrey Noll se declararon culpables en la corte federal de Nueva York de un plan para sobrepescar ilegalmente cantidades masivas de langosta de roca sudafricana (*Jasus Ialandii*), merluza negra (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), para luego importar los peces ilegalmente a los Estados Unidos de Sudáfrica. Cada parte se declaró culpable de un cargo de conspiración de violar la Ley Lacey y cometer contrabando, y tres cargos separados de violar la Ley Lacey.

El plan se llevó a cabo con la ayuda de las Industrias Pesqueras Hout Bay, desde Ciudad del Cabo, África del Sur, y sus tres afiliados en EE.UU.: Icebrand Seafoods, Associated Sea Fisheries en la Ciudad de Nueva York, y Icebrand Seafoods Maine, en Portland, Maine. Bengis, Noll y sus co-conspiradores supuestamente manejaban una sobrepesca ilegal y un plan de exportación desde por lo menos 1987 hasta agosto de 2001. Se supone que para llevar a cabo este plan, no reportaron la pesca de mariscos, sobornaron a inspectores de pesquerías de Sudáfrica, presentaron documentos de reportes falsos a las autoridades sudafricanas, modificaron y destruyeron documentos indicando la cantidad real de mariscos recolectados, escondieron grandes cantidades de langostas de roca de las autoridades y desviaron un envío ilegal cuyo destino era Nueva York a Singapur y Hong Kong para evitar su incautación por las autoridades de EE.UU.

Como parte de sus declaraciones de culpa, Bengis y Noll acordaron ceder por lo menos US\$5 millones al gobierno de EE.UU. y están programados para ser sentenciados el 28 de mayo de 2004.

Este caso fue investigado por la Administración Nacional Atmosférica y Oceanográfica (NOAA) de Pesquerías de los Estados Unidos y la Oficina del Departamento de Inmigración y Aduanas, con la cooperación del gobierno sudafricano.

*(Comunicado de prensa de las Pesquerías NOAA, 2 de marzo de 2004)*

## PESCADORES ILEGALES DE CAMARON CAPTURADOS

El 9 de septiembre de 2003, oficiales guardacostas de EE.UU. abordaron la nave pesquera Palacios, Christian G, 52 millas al sureste de Freeport, Texas. Los cuatro dispositivos de exclusión de tortugas habían sido completamente cerrados y la tripulación fracasó en usar apropiadamente los Dispositivos para la Reducción de la Captura Incidental. Las autoridades incautaron 41,733 libras de camarones a bordo de la nave luego de ser

escortada a puerto por violaciones de la Ley de Especies en Peligro de EE.UU. y la Ley Magnuson-Stevens de Conservación y Manejo de Pesquerías. El abordaje formó parte de una operación conjunta de cuatro días de aplicación de la ley marina con la Agencia de Inmigración y Aduana y funcionarios de la Administración Nacional Atmosférica y Oceanográfica (NOAA) cuyo objetivo era investigar naves pesqueras comerciales.

*(Comunicado de prensa del Departamento de Seguridad de la Patria, 12 de septiembre de 2003)*

## SIYAM, UNA CONTRABANDISTA DE MARFIL

El 3 de marzo de 2004, Tania Siyam, una ciudadana de Canadá y residente de Camerún, fue procesada por un gran jurado federal de EE.UU. de dos cargos de violaciones a la Ley Lacey y dos cargos de ayudar y ser cómplice en el contrabando de bienes a los Estados Unidos. En noviembre del 2002 y diciembre del 2003, Siyam, una operadora de varios negocios de vida silvestre y arte de África Occidental con base en Internet, presuntamente contrabandearó marfil de elefante a los Estados Unidos desde Camerún. De acuerdo a la acusación, el primer envío contenía dos colmillos en bruto de elefante en un paquete etiquetado falsamente como conteniendo esculturas de terracota de madera, y el segundo envío contenía 125 libras de marfil en bruto de elefante en tres paquetes etiquetados como conteniendo macetas para flores de terracota. La importación y comercialización de marfil no trabajado de elefante son violaciones de la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestre (CITES). La penalidad legal máxima es de cinco años de prisión, una multa de US\$250,000, o ambas.

*(Comunicado de prensa del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de Estados Unidos, 3 de marzo de 2004)*

## OPERACIÓN VÍBORA

Una investigación secreta realizada durante tres años por el Servicio Nacional de Parques de EE.UU. y el Departamento de Caza y Pesquerías del Interior de Virginia, apodada "Operación Víbora" ha documentado casi 700 violaciones, con más de 100 personas en siete estados acusadas del tráfico ilegal de partes de oso negro (*Ursus americanus*) y ginseng silvestre (*Panax quinquefolius*) tomadas de las montañas de Virginia, incluyendo el Parque Nacional Shenandoah. Como parte de la operación, las autoridades establecieron una tienda de artículos deportivos en Elkton, Virginia, desde donde podían infiltrar el mercado negro y grabar en videocinta las transacciones ilegales. Hallaron que osos enteros, vesículas biliares, zarpas y otras partes estaban siendo traficados principalmente a mercados



asiáticos en Washington, D.C., Maryland, West Virginia, Carolina del Norte, Nueva Jersey, Nueva York y California, como también al extranjero, especialmente a Corea del Sur. La demanda por estos productos está creciendo mucho, con las vesículas biliares de osos costando hasta US\$3,000 y el ginseng silvestre vendiéndose entre US\$260 y US\$365 la libra, comparada con entre US\$8 y US\$10 que cuesta el ginseng cultivado. Las autoridades declararon que sentencias futuras están pendientes.

(Comunicado del *Richmond Times*, 8 de enero de 2004)

## ESTAFADOR DE TIBURONES

El 22 de enero del 2004, Rickinato Hindra se declaró culpable en la corte federal de Miami, Florida, en relación plan para comercializar tiburones leopardo (*Triakis semifiate*) en violación de la Ley Lacey de EE.UU. Hindra fue procesado por cargos de venta de 48 tiburones leopardo de tallas pequeñas sacados de aguas de California y llevados a siete negocios distintos al sur de Florida entre abril de 2000 y mayo de 2003. El Código de Pesca y Caza de California prohíbe la toma, posesión, venta o compra de tiburones leopardo de menos de 36 pulgadas de longitud total para propósitos comerciales.

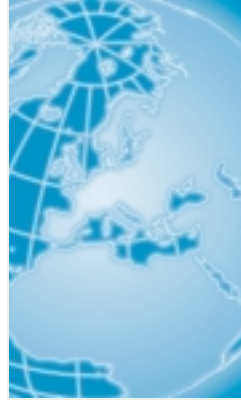
Hindra admitió haber vendido 17 tiburones leopardo a una tienda de un acuario de Pompano Beach en abril del 2003, y fue sentenciado el 2 de abril de 2004. Hindra enfrenta hasta cinco años de prisión y una multa de US\$250,000.

(Comunicado de prensa del Departamento de Justicia de EE.UU., 22 de enero de 2004)

### NOTIFICACIONES DE CITES

- *Notificación a las Partes N° 2003/075* — El 18 de noviembre del 2003, la Secretaría de la CITES retiró sus recomendaciones de suspender el comercio con las Islas Fiji de las especies que aparecen en la lista de la CITES. La Secretaría ha determinado que Fiji tiene ahora legislación adecuada para implementar la CITES.
- *Notificación a las Partes N° 2003/073* — El 12 de noviembre del 2003, la Secretaría de la CITES envió a las Partes los CD-ROM producidos en inglés, francés y español, con presentaciones para capacitación en CITES. Las presentaciones incluyen definiciones, roles de las autoridades de la CITES, roles y funciones de la Autoridad Científica, licencias y certificados, procedimientos especiales, uso de los Apéndices, lectura de los Apéndices, datos y hallazgos no perjudiciales, roles de cupos en la CITES, partes comerciales y no comerciales, sistemas de manejo de los permisos, llenado de los formularios de licencias, reservas, y plantas. Copias adicionales se encuentran disponibles solicitándolas a la Secretaría.
- *Notificación a las Partes N° 2003/046* — El gobierno de Tailandia será anfitrión de la 13.ª Conferencia de las Partes de la CITES en Bangkok, del 2 al 14 de octubre de 2004. El texto de cualquier borrador de resolución, propuesta para enmendar el Apéndice I ó II, o cualquier documento enviado para su consideración en la reunión deberá ser comunicado al Secretariado a más tardar el 5 de mayo de 2004.

Para obtener información sobre notificaciones específicas de la CITES, favor de ponerse en contacto con la Secretaría de CITES, United Nations Environment Programme, 15, chemin des Anémones, Case Postale 456, 1219 Chatelaine, Ginebra, Suiza. Correo electrónico: [cites@unep.ch](mailto:cites@unep.ch) Sitio web: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)



## REGULACIÓN DEL COMERCIO INTERNACIONAL DE CAOBA

A partir del 15 de noviembre de 2003, la caoba de hoja grande (*Swietenia macrophylla*) será regulada en el comercio internacional de acuerdo al Apéndice II de la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestre (CITES), en la que se clasificó

durante la 12.ª Conferencia de las Partes de CITES en noviembre de 2002. La clasificación del Apéndice II requiere que cualquier envío de caoba de hoja grande sea acompañado de permisos de exportación, que deben ser emitidos sólo si las Autoridades Administrativas designadas por el gobierno confirman que la madera que se recolectó no fue perjudicial a la supervivencia de la especie. La clasificación proporcionará control e información a los países exportadores para manejar de manera sostenible sus recursos de caoba, y permitirá a las naciones importadoras asistir mejor en asegurar la legalidad de los envíos y un comercio completamente transparente.

(Comunicado de prensa de la Secretaría de CITES, 11 de noviembre de 2003)



La caoba de hoja grande, de la cual los Estados Unidos es el más grande consumidor, es de alto valor para la fabricación de muebles finos, instrumentos musicales y ataúdes.



## PERSECUSIÓN EN ALTA MAR

La tripulación de la Viarsa, una nave pesquera con bandera uruguaya, fue arrestada el 27 de agosto del 2003 luego de ser abordada por la nave patrulla australiana, Southern Supporter, aproximadamente a 2,000 millas náuticas al suroeste de Ciudad del Cabo, África del Sur. Los arrestos dieron por finalizada una persecución excepcional de 4,300 millas que duró 20 días, por naves australianas, británicas y sudafricanas, luego de que la Viarsa fuera detectada pescando ilegalmente la merluza negra (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) dentro de la Zona Australiana de Pesca cerca de la Isla Heard y las Islas McDonald a principios de agosto. El transporte ilegal de la Viarsa se estimó en 150 toneladas métricas.

La merluza negra, frecuentemente comerciada como corvina chilena, se ha convertido en un pescado muy popular en restaurantes del mundo, especialmente en Japón y los Estados Unidos, y está tornándose rápidamente en una especie amenazada debido a la sobrepesca.

(*The Guardian*, 28 de agosto de 2003)

## ASEGURAMIENTO DE NARICES DE MANDRILES



Los mandriles, en el mercado internacional, frecuentemente se comercian vivos, generalmente destinados a laboratorios de investigación.

En septiembre de 2003, las personas que prestan servicios de transporte del equipaje en el Aeropuerto Schiphol de Ámsterdam se percataron de un olor a podrido que venía de una maleta, aparentemente originaria de Nigeria y que tenía como destino los Estados Unidos. Dentro de la maleta se encontraron dos mil narices podridas de mandriles (*Papio* spp.). Las narices, que fueron destruidas, probablemente estaban destinadas a ser usadas en medicina tradicional. Algunas especies de mandriles se consideran en peligro, y la matanza en este caso fue enorme. El dueño de la maleta no ha sido encontrado todavía.

(*Independent.co.uk*, 4 de septiembre de 2003)

## CIENTOS DE PIELES INCAUTADAS EN TIBET

El 9 de octubre del 2003, la policía y funcionarios de aduanas descubrieron cientos de pieles de especies en peligro en un camión que pasaba de Nepal a China, atravesando el montañoso condado de Ngamring. Tres tibetanos y dos nepaleses fueron arrestados al hallarse 1,276 pieles, incluyendo 32 pellejos de tigre (*Panthera tigris*), 579 pellejos de leopardo (*Panthera pardus*) y 665 pieles de nutria. De acuerdo a agentes de aduana, la mayor parte de

animales fueron matados a tiros. Ésta fue la mayor incautación de productos silvestres de la región desde 1951.

El Tibet ha gastado aproximadamente US\$7.23 millones desde 1999 en la protección de vida silvestre en peligro, y ha estado cooperando con grupos de protección de la vida silvestre para reducir la caza ilegal. Desde esa época, se han procesado 346 casos de caza furtiva y sentenciado a 18 cazadores furtivos a prisión.

(*Environment News Service*, 13 de octubre de 2003)

## TAILANDIA TOMA MEDIDAS ENÉRGICAS

Tailandia es muy conocida como una puerta de acceso importante para el comercio internacional de vida silvestre, pero recientemente el gobierno tailandés ha tomado pasos drásticos para su disminución. Luego de una reciente amnistía gubernamental de 90 días que permitió a los ciudadanos registrar pájaros o animales protegidos que estuvieran en su posesión, el gobierno tailandés ha tomado medidas enérgicas con respecto a la posesión ilegal y el comercio de especies protegidas. En octubre del 2003, la policía llevó a cabo una redada en un hogar que estaba lleno de despojos de tigres (*Panthera tigris*), patas de osos, seis tigres hambrientos, cinco osos y cuatro orangutanes bebés (*Pongo pygmaeus*). Esto ocasionó más redadas en un mercado abierto de vida silvestre, otra casa, un zoológico privado, un santuario de tigres y un complejo zoológico y de entretenimiento. La policía tailandesa ha recuperado más de 33,000 animales durante esta operación, y ahora tiene una red de más de 70,000 informantes así como una línea de emergencia de comercio de vida silvestre. Sin embargo, los funcionarios están frustrados por las penalidades suaves administradas a aquellos involucrados en el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre, hasta cuatro años en prisión y multas de sólo US\$1,000; una medida poco disuasiva para un negocio tan lucrativo.



Los orangutanes están en peligro debido a la pérdida de su hábitat por deforestación y la matanza de hembras para obtener sus crías, que son comerciadas como mascotas o para exhibiciones en zoológicos.

Tailandia será el anfitrión de la Decimotercera Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestre (CITES) en octubre de 2004.

(*Washington Post*, 10 de diciembre de 2003)



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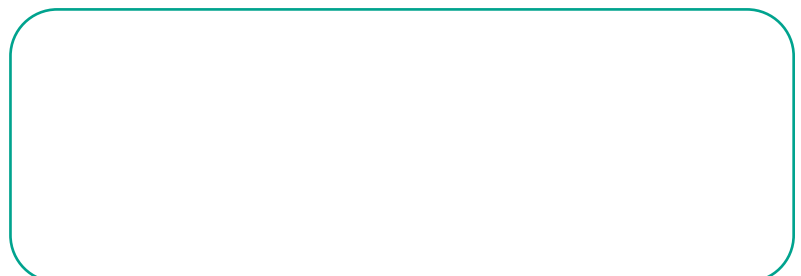
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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



Volume 3 • Number 2 • December 2004

## U.S. IVORY MARKET PERSISTS

**F**ifteen years after a global ban on elephant ivory trade went into effect, the United States remains a major market for ivory, with American consumers at home and abroad fueling the demand.

TRAFFIC North America's *Tackling the Ivories: The Status of U.S. Trade in Elephant and Hippo Ivory*, a study of both legal and illegal ivory markets in the United States, is the first comprehensive review of the U.S. ivory market since the global ban on commercial trade was imposed in 1989. TRAFFIC found that the United States has the highest rate of ivory seizures in the world and that much of the ivory caught at the borders is being brought into the country by individual consumers, often as souvenirs, jewelry and carvings. The growth of online commerce in the last decade has also created a new channel for the ivory trade, with Americans buying ivory from overseas dealers via the Internet with little oversight.

Among TRAFFIC's findings:

- Between 1995 and 2002, TRAFFIC found that more than 32,000 ivory items were legally

imported into the country, the majority being ivory carvings and a smaller number of tusks, jewelry, ivory pieces and piano keys. But domestic trade of that ivory within the United States is only loosely regulated by individual states' laws.

- Between 1995 and 2002, TRAFFIC found that more than 8,300 ivory

*continued on page 2*



MARTIN HARVEY

Elephants are right- or left-tusked, using the favored tusk more often as a tool, shortening it from constant wear. These tusks grow for most of an elephant's lifetime and are thus a good indicator of age.

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

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items were seized at the border or refused entry by law enforcement. These items were being shipped to the United States from more than 80 countries around the world.

- An average of about 1,000 items per week were advertised as elephant ivory offered for sale on eBay during TRAFFIC's investigation. TRAFFIC found regular shipments of ivory carvings and jewelry being sold to U.S. customers over eBay from vendors in China under circumstances that may be illegal, with these web-based "stores" routinely shipping ivory to the United States via express delivery service and even offering to falsely label the shipments as containing bone.

The United States has the distinction of having one of the most active ivory markets in the world, with ivory being seized nearly five times more often at U.S. borders in recent years than in any other country. This indicates U.S. law enforcement is doing a good job of catching illegal imports despite limited resources. However, it also means Americans are ignoring the law and continuing to fuel demand for ivory.

TRAFFIC investigators examined U.S. government seizure records for ivory, researched the domestic U.S. ivory market and posed as prospective ivory buyers online to learn about the ease with which overseas ivory dealers get their goods across the U.S. border. It was clear that the Internet has emerged as a major vehicle for selling ivory around the world, allowing anyone with a computer to buy and sell ivory anonymously. The high volume of ivory being bought by Americans online is a serious concern. When TRAFFIC investigators posed online as potential buyers, ivory sellers and other buyers stated that getting ivory into the United States would not be a problem.

Much of the overseas ivory being offered to Americans online appears to come from China, the country with the biggest illegal ivory market in the world, according to international trade records.

The small quantities of ivory involved in most of the seizures suggests that the U.S.

illegal ivory market consists mainly of consumers and travelers trying to bring personal amounts of ivory into the country, rather than large-scale smuggling, although in recent years there have been several cases of ivory confiscated in the United States in commercial quantities. The data also indicate that U.S. law enforcement is successful in catching a significant amount of ivory entering illegally.

Not all trade in elephant ivory is illegal and TRAFFIC found a thriving legal market in the United States as well. U.S. law allows for the import and sale of elephant ivory that is antique and certified as being in trade before the CITES ban went into effect. It is also legal for hunters to import ivory "trophies" from African countries that allow trophy hunting of elephants.

With as many as 100,000 elephants a year killed in Africa by poachers during the 1980s, the international community imposed the ivory ban through CITES in 1989. Ivory from Asian elephants was banned from U.S. import even earlier. The ban has been widely hailed for significantly reducing poaching and allowing African elephant populations to begin to recover.

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## CITES COP 13 TRIUMPHS IN THAILAND

The Thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to CITES convened 2-14 October 2004 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok, Thailand, and drew together more than 1,200 participants representing governments, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations. Delegates considered 64 agenda items, including 50 proposals to amend CITES Appendices I and II.

International trade in species listed on Appendix I is prohibited, except in very special circumstances, and trade in Appendix II species is strictly controlled through a system of permits. CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, was enacted in 1973, and currently claims 167 member countries. The treaty helps to ensure the sustainable international trade of more than 30,000 plant and animal species.

The following is a summary of some of the main issues and proposals discussed and decided at COP 13. The amendments adopted in Bangkok will enter into force for all parties, except those which made reservations, on 12 January 2005.

**African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*):** African countries announced a continent-wide action plan to crack down on their domestic ivory markets. For the first time, every African country with a domestic ivory market has committed to either strictly control domestic ivory trade or shut it down altogether. Until now, Africa's domestic ivory markets have remained unaddressed by the ban on international ivory sales imposed by CITES in 1989, and unregulated domestic markets across Africa are fueling a significant portion of the poaching, consuming up to 12,000 elephants annually. In addition, CITES parties opted to allow Namibia a strictly controlled non-commercial trade in traditional ivory carvings, or ekipas, the ivory for which will be sourced solely from elephants that have died of natural causes.

**Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.):** Ramin, a Southeast Asian tropical hardwood, was listed on Appendix II, with an annotation designating all parts and derivatives. The wood is mostly used in the manufacture of doors, furniture and smaller items such as picture frames, billiard cues, blinds and baby cribs, and populations have been depleted through illegal, unsustainable harvest and trade. Despite previous steps to address ramin trade and conservation concerns, including an Appendix III listing by Indonesia, illegal activities continued. While the Appendix III listing significantly increased the transparency of the trade and was beneficial in

addressing some of the illegal trade, the Appendix II listing will further improve the effectiveness of trade controls and enhance cooperation and coordination in the region and globally. Overharvesting of ramin is of additional conservation concern because the forests where ramin grows are home to endangered fauna such as orangutans and tigers, which are losing their habitat because of illegal logging and clearing for agriculture.

**Agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.):** Agarwood, possibly the most valuable non-timber forest product worldwide, was listed on Appendix II with an annotation designating all parts and derivatives except: seeds, spores, and pollen; seedling or tissue cultures obtained *in vitro*; and cut flowers of artificially propagated plants. The trade in agarwood, resinous deposits of which are found in tree species of the genera, dates back 2,000 years and meets the cultural, medicinal and religious needs of societies from the Middle East right across Asia to China and Japan. It is also used in the production of high-grade incense and perfumes. A single agarwood-producing species, *Aquilaria malaccensis*, has been listed on CITES Appendix II since 1995. But having only one species out of more than 20 listed on CITES has caused implementation and law enforcement difficulties — particularly as agarwood is traded in the form of wood, wood chips and oil, which makes it almost impossible to distinguish between species. The harmonizing of trade controls for all *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* species under CITES Appendix II, therefore, should streamline management of the trade and allow it to continue at sustainable levels.

**Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulates*):** The humphead wrasse, a giant coral reef fish, was listed on Appendix II. This fish is harvested live for the international food trade — its lips are especially sought-after as delicacies in upscale Asian

*continued on page 4*



DARREN JEW

Most specimens of humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulates*) are found in shallow water (< 30 m) and are therefore easily accessible to spear fishing; the behavior of hiding in crevices when chased also makes them particularly vulnerable to cyanide fishing.

restaurants. The humphead wrasse is particularly vulnerable to overexploitation as it is a naturally rare, long-lived, late-maturing and hermaphroditic (with female-to-male sex change) species. The humphead wrasse has been subjected to largely unmanaged fisheries that have resulted in consistent marked population declines, and the Appendix II listing will help ensure that the trade continues legally and sustainably.

The great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) was also listed on Appendix II; the Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*), a rare species exported within Asia for aquarium displays and shows, was listed on Appendix I.



ALVIN COMPOST

Though entanglement in fishing gear is the main threat to the Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*), the live trade for display in oceanaria throughout Asia is also a major risk to the species.

Another achievement of COP 13 was the announcement of a bold initiative from the 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to work together to address the region's wildlife trade crisis. ASEAN also called upon all of the parties to CITES to support action in Southeast Asia, a region that has long played a role as supplier and trade entrepot for a significant portion of the global trade in wildlife. The region's own rich biodiversity makes it a target for traders interested in a variety of animals and plants ranging from tigers and elephants, to rare orchids, and both marine and freshwater turtles. The ASEAN Statement on CITES focuses on six key areas of cooperation, including the need for increased law enforcement co-operation, comprehensive legal frameworks, and more scientific information to be made available to guide wildlife trade management by CITES authorities.

Overall, COP 13 made huge strides in ensuring the continued sustainability of Earth's living resources and TRAFFIC North American will continue to build on these successes.

For complete results of COP 13, visit [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org), the CITES Web site.

## North American NEWS



### CAVIAR IMPORTERS TO RECEIVE OPTIMAL PENALTY

On 14 November 2004, Optimus, Inc., a Miami-based gourmet company doing business as Marky's Caviar and the International Food Emporium, pleaded guilty to federal wildlife and smuggling charges. Optimus is one of the largest importers of caviar in the United States, and the criminal activity began in late 1999, as they were importing to meet the particularly high demand for the millennium celebrations. At that time, Optimus directed its suppliers to provide invoices

stating that the caviar had been lawfully imported into the United States, even though there were indications to the contrary. Optimus admitted that it had purchased approximately 5.9 tons of smuggled caviar from five separate smuggling rings, and admitted to knowingly purchasing sturgeon caviar with false wildlife invoices, in violation of the Lacey Act; knowingly purchasing smuggled caviar; and failing to exercise due care in purchasing smuggled caviar.

Under the terms of its plea agreement, which is subject to approval by the court, Optimus will pay a US\$1 million fine, will be required to develop a stringent wildlife compliance plan, and will remain subject to government and court supervision while serving five years of probation. Sentencing is scheduled for 25 January 2005.

(U.S. Department of Justice, 14 November 2004)

### ASIAN AROWANA APPREHENDED

On 13 September 2004, Joe Lian Ho Luah pleaded guilty in Edmonton Provincial Court to four counts of illegally exporting Asian Arowana (*Schleropages formosus*) to the United States. Luah illegally exported a total of 72 fish, each valued between CA\$1,000 (US\$840) to CA\$5,000 (US\$4,190), after legally importing them into Canada under the CITES permitting system. The illegal exports constituted violations under Canada's Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA). The fines totaled CA\$30,000 (US\$25,130) for the four offenses, plus an additional CA\$30,000 for recovery of benefits accrued through these offenses. A portion of the damages will be donated to the Calgary Zoo. The conviction was the result of a 22-month multi-agency investigation by Canadian and U.S. authorities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pursuing the prosecution of those involved in the trade in the United States.

(Environment Canada press release, 13 September 2004)



## ALLIGATORS SNAPPED UP

Renato Rinomato was found guilty of illegally importing four American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) into Canada in Windsor, Ontario, Criminal Court on 7 October 2004. American alligators are listed on CITES Appendix II and the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and the Ontario Provincial Police discovered Rinomato returning to Canada from the United States with the four specimens concealed in his coat, without the proper CITES export permit. For his violation of WAPPRIITA and the Customs Act, Rinomato was fined a total of CA\$5,000 (US\$4,190) and was prohibited from possessing any CITES listed species for a period of one year.

(*Environment Canada press release, 7 October 2004*)



STEVE MORELLO

While American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) populations were severely affected early this century due to demand for the high quality leather produced from their belly skin, the recovery of this species has been remarkable thanks mainly to properly controlled and monitored conservation and sustainable use programs.

## MEXICAN CACTI SNAGGED

On 15 November 2004, PROFEPA (Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment) announced that it had seized 240 cacti at Mexico City International Airport. It was determined that the specimens (*Aztekium ritterii*, *Obregonia denegrii*, and *Ariocarpus* spp.), all endemic to Mexico and all protected under Mexican law and CITES, had been taken from the wild. The cacti, worth approximately MX\$326,000 (US\$29,180), were turned over to Mexican authorities by KLM airline personal upon arrival at the airport, from where it is presumed they were destined for European markets such as Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, and the Czech Republic.

(*PROFEPA press release, 15 November 2004*)

## TONS OF WOOD

In November 2004, PROFEPA seized around 18 tons of wood in the Villa de Alvarez municipality. The wood, from guanacaste trees (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*), is highly valued in the manufacture of items such as furniture, cabinetry, and picture frames, and was being transported by Alvino Reynaga Ruelas in a truck with Jalisco license plates. Ruelas was unable to provide forestry inspectors with the proper documentation to show that the wood had been legally harvested, violating Article 419 of the Mexican Federal Penal Code. PROFEPA stated that this large seizure shows the success of its surveillance operations along public roads and that it sends a strong message to illegal loggers.

(*PROFEPA press release, 19 November 2004*)

## NYC Law First of Its Kind to Crack Down on Illegal Sales of Endangered Species

New York City has become 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, signed by Mayor Bloomberg on 1 December 2004, follows an undercover investigation of New York City's traditional medicine shops last spring by TRAFFIC. The investigation found illegal products widely available claiming to contain endangered species, including tigers, rhinos, leopards and musk deer.

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 would close local 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 give New York City enforcement officials the authority to take action. This bill meets an important need in the global effort to combat illegal wildlife trade. Consumers and merchants now must do their part by not buying these products, which fuels demand for the illegal killing of these species in the wild.



## FIRST SHARK FINNING PROHIBITION ACT CONVICTIONS

On 9 September 2004, two men pleaded guilty to violations of the U.S. Lacey Act and the Shark Finning Prohibition Act, the first U.S. arrest, charge, and conviction since the shark finning ban was implemented in 2002. The Shark Finning Prohibition Act makes it illegal for a foreign vessel to offload shark fins into a U.S. port without also offloading the entire shark carcass, in an effort to reduce the number of sharks finned and carcasses discarded at sea. Cresento Bacaling and Conchito Cagas, Jr., crew members of a Japanese-flagged fishing vessel, pleaded guilty to illegally offloading approximately 520 shark fins in Apra Harbor, Guam, on 13 July 2004. Bacaling and Cagas stated that they intended to smuggle the shark fins out of Guam and into the Philippines, where they would be sold. A sentencing hearing has been set for 8 December 2004.

(NOAA Fisheries press release, 13 September 2004)



JÉRÔME MILLEFET

Meat is the most traded shark product by quantity, but fins are the most valuable product per unit weight. Trade in products derived from the Great White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) consists mostly of teeth and jaws.

## BIG FISH HOOKED, CONT.

On 28 May 2004, Arnold Bengis, Jeffrey Noll, and David Bengis were sentenced in Manhattan federal court to 46 months, 30 months, and 12 months in prison, respectively. As part of their guilty pleas, the three had also agreed to forfeit almost US\$7.5 million in profits to the U.S. government.

Arnold Bengis and Jeffrey Noll had previously pleaded guilty in a scheme to illegally over-harvest massive quantities of South African rock lobster (*Jasus lalandii*) and Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), and to then illegally import the fish into the United States from South Africa. Arnold Bengis and Noll pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act and to commit smuggling and three separate counts of

violating the Lacey Act; David Bengis also pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act.

The scheme was conducted through Hout Bay Fishing Industries Ltd., out of Cape Town, South Africa, and three U.S. affiliates: Icebrand Seafoods, Associated Sea Fisheries in New York City, and Icebrand Seafoods Maine in Portland, Maine. The Bengises and Noll allegedly ran the illegal overharvesting and exporting scheme since at least 1987 and up through August 2001. It is alleged that to carry out this scheme, they underreported seafood harvest, bribed South African fisheries inspectors, submitted false export documents to South African authorities, altered and destroyed documents indicating the actual quantity of seafood harvested, concealed vast amounts of rock lobster from authorities, and diverted an illegal shipment originally intended for New York City to Singapore and Hong Kong to avoid seizure by U.S. authorities.

(NOAA Fisheries press release, 2 March 2004; U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York press release, 28 May 2004)

## THREE PLEAD GUILTY TO BEAR POACHING

In June 2004, three Alaska men pleaded guilty to poaching black bears (*Ursus americanus*) and trying to sell their body parts in international trade. Tae Won Roe, Kwan Su Yi, and James Ho Moon were charged with conspiracy, attempted export and sale of illegally taken wildlife, and making false statements regarding wildlife in violation of the Lacey Act.

The men set snares on Chenega Island and in the Chugach National Forest that would trap the bears in nooses hanging from trees. Once a bear was trapped, they would remove the legs, heads and gallbladders. In September 2002, biologists doing stream surveys in the area found a live bear in one of the traps, which led to the arrests.



HOWARD BUFFETT

The trade in bear parts is lucrative, which influences illegal hunting of the species. Bear parts are in demand for many uses, including traditional Asian medicine, food, souvenirs, and trophies.



The men intended to sell the parts on the South Korean black market, where they are valued as traditional medicine for ailments such as arthritis, high blood pressure, and impotence. The bear gallbladders alone can bring from US\$500 to US\$4,000 each.

The men face fines of US\$3,000, restitution to the state of Alaska, probation, and forfeiture of a boat, motor, and trailer used in the operation.

*(Environment News Service, 17 June 2004)*

## ORCHID SMUGGLER SENTENCED

George Norris was sentenced on 6 October 2004 in Miami, Florida U.S. District Court in connection with a conspiracy to smuggle protected orchids, including species of tropical lady's slipper orchids (*Phragmipedium* spp.), into the United States in contravention of CITES. Norris conspired with Manuel Arias Silva of Lima, Peru, to import orchids in falsely labeled packages between January 1999 and October 2003. Norris and Arias both admitted in their pleas that they used invalid permits for the shipments and falsely labeled many of the plants to cover up the lack of a valid permit. Norris was sentenced to 17 months in prison, followed by two years of supervised release.

Silva was previously sentenced to 21 months in prison, three years supervised release, and a \$5,000 fine.

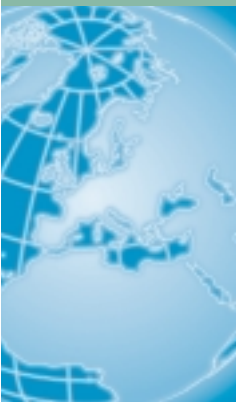
*(U.S. Department of Justice press release, 6 October 2004)*

## CITES NEWS

- 167<sup>th</sup> party to CITES - The Independent State of Samoa became the 167<sup>th</sup> party to CITES when it ratified the Convention on 9 November 2004. The Convention will enter into force in Samoa on 7 February 2005.
- *Notification to the Parties No. 2004/055* — On 30 July 2004, the CITES secretariat recommended that parties suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species to Mauritania and Somalia until further notice, due to concerns regarding their implementation of the treaty. Both parties failed to submit a CITES legislation plan by the date required in Decision 12.80, were given further opportunities to supply the required information, and still failed to do so.

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)

## International NEWS



## SAKER FALCONS SEIZED

On 27 October 2004, 127 Saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*) were discovered in wooden crates on the runway of a Russian military airbase outside of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The falcons were about to be loaded onto a commercial airliner bound for Syria, which had been hired by a Kyrgyz tourist firm. Though it is unclear whether or not the Russian military, or Kyrgyz officials, were involved, it is apparent that the smugglers had been exploiting the immunity of the foreign airbase. Kyrgyz officials, who were aware of the smuggling scheme, were able to demand access only because of the presence of the civilian airliner.

Saker falcons are in great demand for falconry. The illegal export of falcons to Arab countries is of such a large scale that some species face total extinction as a result. The Saker is particularly in demand as one of the largest falcons and an aggressive hunter, with a single bird fetching anywhere from US\$20,000 to several hundred thousand dollars. Sakers are rare throughout their habitat, which ranges from Eastern Europe to central Asia, and are legally protected in Kyrgyzstan.

The investigation of this complex case is ongoing. The only person to be arrested was the man unloading the boxes containing the falcons on the day of the seizure, but he is thought to be only a minor player in the smuggling ring.

All the falcons, except for two that died after the seizure, were released back into the wild.

*(Environment News Service, 9 November 2004)*

## SAIGA CONTRABAND

Customs officers in China's Guandong Province seized more than 8,000 antelope horns in August 2004. The horns, many from the endangered Saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*), were smuggled in from Russia and weighed more than two tons. Saiga horn is used in traditional medicines for the treatment of fever, stroke, headache, and dizziness, and this demand has caused wild populations to dwindle. Saiga are listed on CITES Appendix II and are also protected under Chinese law.

*(Reuters, 24 August 2004)*

## COSTLY ACCESSORIES

In April 2004, police raided a workshop outside of Kathmandu, Nepal, working on a tip they received from a man they had previously arrested in possession of six leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*). Four people were arrested at the workshop, where hundreds of pieces of leopard skins and otter skins were seized. It was estimated that the skins represented at least two dozen leopards and one dozen otters, but the origin of the specimens is unclear. The well-equipped workshop was manufacturing jackets, bags, belts and other goods from animal skins for the Tibetan market, most likely for wealthy Chinese.

*(Environment News Service, 29 April 2004)*



## TRAFFIC NORTH AMERICA PUBLICATIONS

- The Gardener's Guide to Plant Conservation* (1993), 187 pp.
- Prescription for Extinction: Endangered Species and Patented Oriental Medicines in Trade* (1994), 300 pp.
- Status, Management, and Commercialization of the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)* (1995), 132 pp.
- Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on the Trade of Bear Parts* (1997), 239 pp.
- An Overview of World Trade in Cervid Antler with an Emphasis on the United States and Canada* (1997), 98 pp.
- American Ginseng: The Root of North America's Medicinal Herb Trade* (1998), 94 pp.
- While Supplies Last: The Sale of Tiger and Other Endangered Species Medicines in North America* (1998), 57 pp.
- Shark Fisheries and Trade in the Americas, Volume I: North America* (1998), 201 pp.
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- A Review of State Bear Trade Laws: U.S. State Statutes and Regulations Regarding the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)* (1999), 171 pp.
- "Comparative analysis of management regimes and medicinal plant trade monitoring mechanisms for American ginseng and goldenseal" (1999), 14 pp. Article reprinted from *Conservation Biology* (14/5/1422-34)
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- Prickly Trade: Trade and Conservation of Chihuahuan Desert Cacti* (2003), 122pp.
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- A Guide to the Identification of Seahorses* (2004), 114 pp. (in partnership with Project Seahorse)
- A Tale of Two Cities: A Comparative Study of Traditional Chinese Medicine Markets in San Francisco and New York City* (2004), 21 pp.
- Tackling the Ivories: The Status of the U.S. Trade in Elephant and Hippo Ivory* (2004), 54 pp.
- CITES, Eb? A Review of Canada's Implementation of CITES Under WAPPRIITA* (2004), 124 pp.

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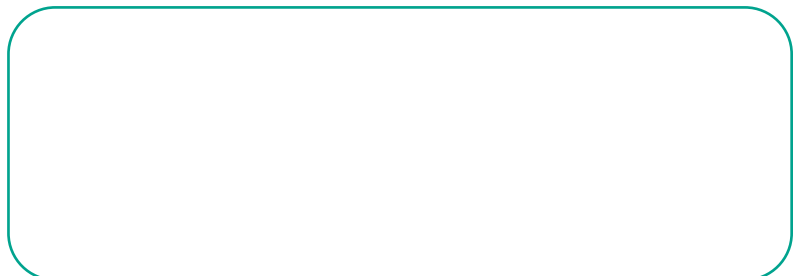
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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## RECOLECCIÓN, COMERCIO Y REGULACIONES CONCERNIENTES A LOS REPTILES Y ANFIBIOS DE LA ECOREGIÓN DEL DESIERTO CHIHUAHUENSE

La captura, uso y comercio de muchos reptiles y anfibios del Desierto Chihuahuense es una realidad que amenaza la permanencia de algunas especies en su medio natural.

El estudio de TRAFFIC Norteamérica *Recolección, comercio y regulaciones concernientes a los reptiles y anfibios de la Ecoregión del Desierto Chihuahuense* se avocó a obtener información de base sobre la captura y el comercio de reptiles que habitan el Desierto Chihuahuense a partir de extensas búsquedas bibliográficas, leyes federales, estatales, reglamentos, normas, acuerdos internacionales, planes nacionales, disposiciones gubernamentales, entrevistas, trabajo de campo, publicaciones periódicas y reportes varios. Lo anterior, con el fin de identificar las especies involucradas en el comercio, la legislación existente, y su aplicación, de modo que puedan establecerse prioridades para la conservación de las especies comercialmente explotadas.

El Desierto Chihuahuense es uno de los más altos del mundo (600-2300msnm) y abarca un área de aprox. 630,000km<sup>2</sup> extendiéndose desde Arizona, Nuevo México y Texas en los Estados Unidos; hasta Sonora, Chihuahua, Durango, Coahuila, SLP, Querétaro e Hidalgo en México.

En este extenso territorio de México y los EE.UU., se estima un total

aproximado de 216 especies de reptiles y anfibios nativos del Desierto Chihuahuense, de los cuales unas 123 especies son comercializadas.

La información disponible nos indica que el comercio de reptiles del Desierto Chihuahuense en México es significativo y constituye una amenaza para ciertas especies. 57% de todas las especies en la ecoregión están sujetas a algún tipo de aprovechamiento, y de éstas, el 62% están en alguna categoría de riesgo tomando como base el listado de la Norma Oficial Mexicana 059 SEMARNAT 2001.

*continúa en la página 2*



JOSEPH E. FORKS

Las víboras de cascabel están entre las especies más comercializadas en el Desierto Chihuahuense.



Volumen 3 • Número 2 • Marzo de 2005

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**TRAFFIC**  
— NORTH AMERICA —



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The World Conservation Union

Algunas especies endémicas como las tortugas de casco suave de Cuatro Ciénegas, el galápagos de Mapimí (*Gopherus flavomarginatus*), o la tortuga terrestre de Cuatro Ciénegas (*Terrapene coahuila*) han sido, entre otras causas, severamente afectadas por el comercio, principalmente el de mascotas, y como otras especies en el área, su estatus de endémicas, es decir, que sólo se encuentran en esta región, las convierte en una mercancía cotizada entre coleccionistas y “herpetocultores”.

Sin lugar a dudas, la especie más frecuentemente encontrada en el comercio es la víbora de cascabel cuya grasa se vende en frascos y bolsas, y cuya carne se ofrece ya sea seca y en canal, o ya pulverizada y encapsulada; algo interesante es que las pieles rara vez se ofrecen en los mismos puntos de venta. Lo anterior, dado que estas pieles no son utilizadas para fines “medicinales”, sino para la manufactura de botas y cinturones que se realiza en otros lugares como los estados de Guanajuato o Veracruz. Las pieles normalmente se salan y guardan hasta que el cliente las recoge para llevarlas a donde posteriormente serán curtidas y utilizadas para la manufactura de productos diversos. Las creencias tradicionales de las cualidades curativas de la víbora de cascabel, así como la demanda por sus pieles y carne, o los propios individuos vivos, han llegado inclusive, a prácticamente extirpar poblaciones naturales de algunos sitios.

Para el caso de los EE.UU. Información obtenida de la base de datos de LEMIS, el sistema de información sobre la aplicación de la ley del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos (US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Law Enforcement Management Information System, LEMIS), usado para registrar todas las importaciones y exportaciones declaradas, indica que aproximadamente 50 especies que se encuentran en el Desierto Chihuahuense de los Estados Unidos son comercializadas internacionalmente.

Aunado al mercado de mascotas, algunas especies de tortugas de concha blanda son capturadas como adultos para el mercado de carne en Asia.

En los Estados Unidos, aparte del comercio

de mascotas, ciertas especies son comercializadas como partes o productos, y este comercio dirigido puede tener un gran impacto sobre las especies involucradas, que en muchos casos provienen del medio silvestre. Entre estas especies se pueden mencionar: tortuga de concha blanda *Apalone spinifera*, tortuga lagarto *Chelydra serpentina*, tortuga de orejas rojas *Trachemys scripta*, cantil *Agkistrodon contortrix*, víboras de cascabel *Crotalus atrox*, *Crotalus lepidus*, *Crotalus viridis*, o la culebra de maizal *Elaphe guttata*.

La situación de la captura y comercio de reptiles y anfibios del Desierto Chihuahuense sólo se conoce parcialmente. Sin embargo, la riqueza y diversidad específicas, así como el gran número de endemismos es indudablemente un motivo de orgullo para todos los que compartimos esta ecoregión, y por supuesto, es también una gran responsabilidad el actuar acordes a la conservación y uso sostenible y responsable de estos recursos.

TRAFFIC Norteamérica espera que este reporte sirva como un granito de arena más para el conocimiento del estatus actual de estas especies y que apoye los esfuerzos para su permanencia en el medio silvestre que les corresponde.

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## LA COP 13 DE CITES TRIUNFA EN TAILANDIA

La Decimotercera Conferencia de las Partes de (Thirteenth Conference of the Parties, COP 13) CITES, celebrada en el Queen Sirikit National Convention Center de Bangkok, Tailandia, del 2 al 14 de octubre de 2004, atrajo a más de 1.200 participantes que representaron a organizaciones gubernamentales, intergubernamentales y no gubernamentales. Los delegados consideraron 64 ítems de la agenda los cuales incluyeron 50 propuestas para enmendar los Apéndices I y II de CITES.

El comercio internacional de especies incluido en el Apéndice I está prohibido, excepto en circunstancias muy particulares, y el comercio de especies descrito en el Apéndice II está estrictamente controlado mediante un sistema de permisos. CITES, es decir, la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestre (*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species*), fue aprobada en 1973, y actualmente cuenta con 167 países como miembros. El tratado ayuda a asegurar el comercio internacional sostenible de más de 30.000 especies de plantas y animales.

El siguiente es un resumen de algunas de las principales problemáticas y propuestas que fueron discutidas y decididas en la COP 13. El 12 de enero de 2005, las enmiendas que fueron adoptadas en Bangkok entrarán en vigor en todos los partidos con excepción de aquellos con reservas.

**Elefantes Africanos (*Loxodonta africana*):** Los países africanos anunciaron un plan de acción a nivel continental para tomar medidas contra sus mercados nacionales de marfil. Por primera vez, cada país africano con mercados nacionales de marfil se ha comprometido o a controlarlos estrictamente o a cerrarlos completamente. Hasta el momento, los mercados nacionales de marfil de África no se han visto afectados por la prohibición de las ventas internacionales de marfil impuesta por CITES en 1989, y los mercados nacionales a lo largo de toda África están provocando una porción significativa de la caza furtiva, consumiendo hasta 12.000 elefantes por año. Además, los partidos de CITES optaron por permitir a Namibia tener una industria no comercial y estrictamente controlada dedicada al tallado tradicional del marfil, o ekipas, cuyo marfil proviene solamente de elefantes que han muerto por causas naturales.

**Madera de Ramín (*Gonystylus* spp.):** El ramín, madera noble del sudeste de Asia, fue incluido en el Apéndice II con una anotación que designa todas sus partes y derivados. Esta madera es

principalmente utilizada en la fabricación de puertas, muebles y elementos pequeños (como por ejemplo: marcos fotográficos, tacos de billar, persianas y cunas) y a través del comercio y la tala ilegales e insostenibles, se han agotado poblaciones de la misma. A pesar de los pasos previos que se tomaron para abordar las preocupaciones sobre el comercio y la conservación del ramín, incluyendo una adición realizada por Indonesia en el Apéndice III, continuaron las actividades ilegales. Mientras que dicha inclusión en el Apéndice III aumentó en forma significativa la transparencia del comercio y fue benéfica al abordar parte del comercio ilegal, la inclusión en el Apéndice II mejorará aun más la efectividad de los controles de comercio y perfeccionará la cooperación y coordinación a niveles regional y global. La tala excesiva de ramín causa preocupación regional sobre su conservación ya que los bosques en los que crece contienen fauna en peligro (como por ejemplo: orangutanes y tigres) la cual está perdiendo su hábitat debido a la tala y a la recolección con fines agrícolas.

**Madera de Agar (*Aquilaria* spp. y *Gyrinops* spp.):** La madera de agar, posiblemente el producto no maderable de bosque más valioso del mundo, se incluye en el Apéndice II con una anotación que designa todas sus partes y derivados con excepción de: sus semillas, esporas y polen; almácigos o cultivos tisulares obtenidos en forma *in vitro*; y flores cortadas de plantas propagadas artificialmente. El comercio de madera de agar, depósitos de resina que se encuentran en especies de árboles de dichos géneros, data de hace 2.000 años y satisface las necesidades culturales, medicinales y religiosas de las sociedades del Medio Oriente a lo largo de Asia, hasta China y Japón. También es utilizado en la producción de inciensos y perfumes de alto grado. Una especie única que produce madera de agar, *Aquilaria malaccensis*, ha sido descrita en el Apéndice II de CITES desde 1995. Pero el hecho de tener sólo una de más de 20 especies incluida en CITES ha causado dificultades en su implementación y en la imposición del cumplimiento de la ley (particularmente por ser la madera de agar comercializada en forma de madera, astillas y aceite, lo cual hace la distinción entre especies casi imposible. Por lo tanto, la armonización de los controles de comercio para todas las especies *Aquilaria* y *Gyrinops* del Apéndice II de CITES debe racionalizar el manejo del comercio y permitirle que continúe a niveles sostenibles.

**Pez Napoleón (*Cheilinus undulates*):** El pez napoleón, un pez de coral gigante, fue incluido en el



## IMPORTADORES DE CAVIAR RECIBIRÁN PENALIDAD ÓPTIMA

El 14 de noviembre de 2004, Optimus, Inc., una compañía gourmet con base en Miami que opera bajo los nombres de Marky's Caviar e International Food Emporium, se declaró culpable de cargos federales de contrabando de flora y fauna. Optimus es uno de los importadores más importantes de los Estados Unidos y su actividad criminal comenzó en los últimos meses del año 1999 cuando estaba importando para satisfacer la demanda particularmente alta de las celebraciones del nuevo milenio. En ese momento, Optimus solicitó a sus proveedores proporcionar recibos que dijieran que el caviar había sido importado legalmente a los Estados Unidos a pesar de que existían indicaciones de lo contrario. Optimus admitió haber adquirido 5,9 toneladas de caviar obtenido a partir de cinco redes de contrabando diferentes y reconoció haber comprado, a sabiendas, caviar de esturión con recibos de flora y fauna falsos lo cual violaba la Ley Lacey; haber comprado, con conocimiento, caviar contrabandeado; y no haber tenido el correspondiente cuidado al comprar caviar contrabandeado.

Según los términos del acuerdo de declaración, el cual está sujeto a aprobación por parte de la corte, Optimus pagará una multa de US\$1 millón, desarrollará un riguroso plan de cumplimiento de flora y fauna, y permanecerá sujeta a supervisión del gobierno y la corte durante sus cinco años de período de prueba. La sentencia se llevará a cabo el 25 de enero de 2005.

*(Departamento de Justicia de los EE.UU., 14 de noviembre de 2004)*

## SE ASEGURAN PECES DRAGÓN ASIÁTICOS

El 13 de setiembre de 2004, Joe Lian Ho Luah se declaró culpable ante la Corte Provincial de Edmonton de cuatro cargos de exportación ilegal de peces dragón asiáticos (*Scleropages formosus*) a los Estados Unidos. Luah exportó ilegalmente un total de 72 peces, con un precio unitario entre CA\$1.000 (US\$840) y CA\$5.000 (US\$4.190) tras haberlos importado legalmente a Canadá según el sistema de permisos de CITES. Las exportaciones ilegales constituyeron violaciones de la Ley de Comercio Internacional e Interprovincial de Protección y Regulación de Animales y Plantas Silvestres de Canadá (*Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*, WAPPRIITA). El total de las multas fue de CA\$30.000 (US\$25.130) por las cuatro ofensas, más un adicional de CA\$30.000 para la recuperación de los beneficios acumulados mediante estas ofensas. Una parte de los daños será donada al zoológico de Calgary. La convicción fue el resultado de una investigación multiagencia de 22 meses de duración a

Apéndice II. El pez se pesca vivo para el comercio internacional de alimentos (sus labios son particularmente considerados como exquisiteces en restaurantes asiáticos de alta categoría). El pez napoleón es particularmente vulnerable a la sobreexplotación ya que pertenece a una especie hermafrodita (con cambio sexual hembra-macho), de maduración tardía y larga vida, y naturalmente infrecuente. El pez napoleón ha sido sujeto a pesca que por su mayoría carece de control, lo cual ha causado reducciones pronunciadas y constantes de su población. Su inclusión en el Apéndice II ayudará a que el comercio continúe en forma legal y sostenible.

**El gran tiburón blanco** (*Carcharodon carcharias*) también fue incluido en el Apéndice II.

**El delfín de Irrawaddy** (*Orcaella brevirostris*), una exótica especie exportada dentro de Asia para exhibiciones y espectáculos de acuarios, fue incluido en el Apéndice I.

Otro logro de la COP 13 fue el anuncio de una fuerte iniciativa por parte de los 10 miembros de la Asociación de Naciones del Sudeste Asiático (Association of South East Asian Nations, ASEAN) para abordar la crisis del comercio de fauna y flora de la región. La ASEAN también convocó a todos los países parte de CITES para apoyar la acción en el sudeste asiático, una región que ha jugado el rol de proveedor y centro de distribución comercial de una porción significativa del comercio global de flora y fauna. La rica biodiversidad propia de la región la convierte en un blanco para los comerciantes interesados en una variedad de animales y plantas (desde tigres y elefantes, hasta orquídeas, tortugas marinas y de agua dulce exóticas). La Declaración de la ASEAN acerca de CITES se concentra en seis áreas importantes de cooperación, incluyendo la necesidad de una cooperación para un mayor cumplimiento de la ley, marcos legales completos e incluyentes, y una mayor cantidad de información científica que guiaría el manejo del comercio de flora y fauna por parte de las autoridades de CITES.

En general, la COP 13 ha hecho grandes adelantos al asegurar la sustentabilidad continua de los recursos vivos de la Tierra y TRAFFIC North America seguirá construyendo sobre estos éxitos.

*Para obtener los resultados completos de la COP 13, visite [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org), el sitio Web de CITES.*





cargo de las autoridades canadienses y estadounidenses. El Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) está luchando por la acusación de aquellos involucrados en el comercio en los Estados Unidos.

*(Comunicado de prensa de Environment Canada, 13 de septiembre de 2004)*

## DECOMISO DE ALIGADORES

El 7 de octubre de 2004, la Corte Criminal de Windsor, Ontario halló a Renato Rinomato culpable de la importación ilegal de cuatro aligadores americanos (*Alligator mississippiensis*) a Canadá. Los aligadores americanos figuran en el Apéndice II de CITES y la Agencia de Aduanas e Ingresos de Canadá y la Policía Provincial de Ontario descubrieron a Rinomato mientras él estaba regresando a Canadá desde los Estados Unidos con los cuatro especímenes ocultos en su saco y sin el correspondiente permiso de exportación de CITES. Por haber violado WAPPRIITA y la Ley de Aduanas, Rinomato recibió un total en multas de CA\$5.000 (US\$4.190) y se le prohibió la posesión de toda especie descrita en CITES por un período de un año.

*(Comunicado de prensa de Environment Canada, 7 de octubre de 2004)*

## SE CONFISCAN CACTOS MEXICANOS

El 15 de noviembre de 2004, la Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment, PROFEPA) anunció que había asegurado 240 cactus en el Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México. Se determinó que todos los especímenes (*Aztekium ritterii*, *Obregonia denegrii*, y *Ariocarpus* spp.) son endémicos de México, están protegidos por las leyes mexicanas y CITES, y que habían sido extraídos de su hábitat natural. Los cactus, con un valor de aproximadamente MX\$326.000 (US\$29.180), fueron entregados a las autoridades mexicanas por el personal de la aerolínea KLM al arribar al aeropuerto desde el cual se supuso que partirían hacia los mercados europeos (como Alemania, Austria, Holanda, Bélgica y la República Checa).

*(Comunicado de prensa de PROFEPA, 15 de noviembre de 2004)*

## TONELADAS DE MADERA

En noviembre de 2004, la Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment, PROFEPA) aseguró aproximadamente 18 toneladas de madera en la municipalidad de Villa de Álvarez. La madera, proveniente de árboles de guanacaste (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*), es muy valiosa para

la fabricación de artículos como muebles, armarios y marcos fotográficos, y estaba siendo transportada por Alvino Reynaga Ruelas en un camión con placas de Jalisco. Ruelas no contaba con la documentación correspondiente para mostrar que la madera había sido recolectada en forma legal como fue requerido por los inspectores forestales, lo cual violaba el Artículo 419 del Código Penal Federal Mexicano. La PROFEPA declaró que esta posesión de gran envergadura muestra el éxito de sus operaciones de vigilancia en los caminos públicos y manda un mensaje muy fuerte a los taladores ilegales.

*(Comunicado de prensa de PROFEPA, 19 de noviembre de 2004)*

## Primera Ley de la Ciudad de Nueva York Contra las Ventas Ilegales de Especies en Peligro

La Ciudad de Nueva York se ha convertido en la primera municipalidad de los Estados Unidos en aprobar una ley que declara ilegal la compra o venta de productos que contienen especies en peligro o que cuyos anuncios o etiquetas indiquen lo mismo. La ley fue firmada por el Alcalde Bloomberg el 1 de diciembre de 2004 y es consecuencia de una investigación secreta de las tiendas de medicamentos tradicionales realizada la primavera pasada por TRAFFIC. La investigación encontró productos ilegales que estaban ampliamente disponibles y que decían contener especies en peligro (incluyendo: tigres, rinocerontes, leopardos y ciervos almizcleros).

Aunque legislación federal como la Ley de Especies en Peligro convierte al comercio interestatal de productos que contienen especies en peligro en ilegal, ésta no rige para aquellas ventas realizadas dentro de una misma ciudad. La nueva ley cerrará los vacíos existentes en la ley de la Ciudad de Nueva York al hacer que la venta de productos que contienen especies en peligro o que cuyas etiquetas indiquen lo mismo, constituya una violación de las leyes de la ciudad y otorgue autoridad a los oficiales del cumplimiento de la ley de la Ciudad de Nueva York para tomar acción. Esta ley cubre una importante necesidad en el esfuerzo global de combatir el comercio ilegal de flora y fauna. Ahora, tanto los consumidores como los comerciantes deben contribuir al no comprar estos productos, lo cual promueve la matanza ilegal de estas especies en su hábitat natural.



## PRIMERAS CONVICCIONES POR LA LEY DE PROHIBICIÓN DEL ALETEO (CERCENAMIENTO DE ALETAS) DE TIBURÓN

El 9 de septiembre de 2004, dos hombres se declararon culpables de haber violado la Ley Lacey y la Ley de Prohibición del Aleteo de Tiburón de los Estados Unidos, lo cual constituyó los primeros arrestos, cargos y convicción en los Estados Unidos desde que se implementó la prohibición del cercenamiento de aletas de tiburón en el 2002. La Ley de Prohibición del Aleteo de Tiburón declara ilegal al desembarco de aletas de tiburón por parte de un barco extranjero en un puerto de los Estados Unidos sin también descargar el cuerpo completo del tiburón, para de esa forma reducir el número de cercenamiento de aletas y de cuerpos desechadas en el mar. Cresento Bacaling y Conchito Cagas, Jr., miembros de tripulación de un barco pesquero con bandera japonesa, se declararon culpables de haber desembarcado unas 520 aletas de tiburón en Apra Harbor, Guam, el 13 de julio de 2004. Bacaling y Cagas expresaron que ellos intentaron contrabandear las aletas de tiburón de Guam y llevarlas a Filipinas donde las venderían. La sentencia se fijó para el 8 de diciembre de 2004.

*(Comunicado de prensa de NOAA Fisheries, 13 de septiembre de 2004)*



JÉRÔME MILLEFET

La carne es el producto de tiburón de mayor comercialización por cantidad, pero las aletas son el producto más valioso por unidad de peso. El comercio de los productos derivados del Gran Tiburón Blanco (*Carcharodon carcharias*) consiste principalmente en dientes y mandíbulas.

## SE PESCA PEZ GORDO (CONTINUACIÓN)

El 28 de mayo de 2004, Arnold Bengis, Jeffrey Noll y David Bengis fueron sentenciados por la corte federal de Manhattan a 46, 30 y 12 meses en prisión, respectivamente. Al declararse culpables, los tres también aceptaron pagar una multa de casi US\$7,5 millones en ganancias al gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

Anteriormente, Arnold Bengis y Jeffrey Noll se habían declarado culpables de una conspiración para la cacería excesiva e ilegal de cantidades

masivas de langostas del Cabo (*Jasus lalandii*) y de bacalaos de profundidad (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), y luego importar ilegalmente los peces a los Estados Unidos desde Sudáfrica. Arnold Bengis y Noll se declararon culpables de un cargo de conspiración por el cual violaron la Ley Lacey y cometieron el contrabando, y tres acusaciones separadas de violar la Ley Lacey. David Bengis también se declaró culpable de un cargo de delito de conspiración por violar la Ley Lacey.

La conspiración fue llevada a cabo a través de Hout Bay Fishing Industries Ltd., con base en Ciudad del Cabo, Sudáfrica, y tres afiliados de los Estados Unidos: Icebrand Seafoods, Associated Sea Fisheries en la Ciudad de Nueva York y Icebrand Seafoods Maine en Portland, Maine. Los Bengises y Noll supuestamente llevaron a cabo la cacería excesiva y la exportación ilegales desde por lo menos 1987 hasta 2001. Se supone que para concluir este plan, ellos restaron información sobre la pesca de mariscos, sobornaron inspectores de pesquerías sudafricanas, presentaron documentos de exportación falsos ante las autoridades sudafricanas, alteraron y destruyeron documentos que indicaban la cantidad real de mariscos pescados, ocultaron grandes cantidades de langostas del Cabo a las autoridades y desviaron un cargamento ilegal que originalmente iría desde la Ciudad de Nueva York a Singapur y Hong Kong para así evitar su posesión por parte de las autoridades estadounidenses.

*(Comunicado de prensa de NOAA Fisheries, 2 de marzo de 2004; comunicado de prensa del U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, 28 de mayo de 2004)*

## TRES SE DECLARAN CULPABLES DE CAZA FURTIVA DE OSOS

En junio de 2004, tres hombres de Alaska se declararon culpables de la caza furtiva de osos negros (*Ursus americanus*) y de tratar de vender sus partes corporales en el comercio internacional. Tae Won Roe, Kwan Su Yi y James Ho Moon fueron acusados de conspiración, intentos de exportar y vender flora y fauna adquirida ilegalmente y de hacer falsas declaraciones sobre la flora y fauna, violando la Ley Lacey.

Los hombres colocaron trampas en la Isla de Chenega y en el Bosque Nacional Chugach las cuales atrapaban a los osos en sogas que colgaban de los árboles. Cuando atrapaban a un oso, ellos les cortaban las piernas, cabeza y sacaban la vesícula biliar. En septiembre de 2002, un grupo de biólogos que estaban haciendo estudios de corriente en el área encontraron un oso vivo en una de las trampas, lo cual llevó a los arrestos.

Los hombres intentaron vender las partes en el mercado negro de Corea del Sur donde tienen valor como medicamentos tradicionales para



enfermedades como artritis, hipertensión arterial e impotencia. Sólo las vesículas biliares de oso cuestan entre US\$500 y US\$4.000 cada una.

Los hombres recibieron multas de US\$3.000, restitución al estado de Alaska, período de prueba, y debieron entregar un bote, un motor y un trailer utilizados en la operación.

*(Environment News Service, 17 de junio de 2004)*

## SE SENTENCIA A UN CONTRABANDISTA DE ORQUÍDEAS

George Norris fue sentenciado el 6 de octubre de 2004 en la Corte de Distrito Estadounidense de Miami, Florida en conexión con una conspiración de contrabandear orquídeas protegidas, incluyendo especies de "zapatitos" (*Phragmipedium* spp.), a los Estados Unidos, en contravención de CITES. Norris planeó con Manuel Arias Silva de Lima, Perú, la importación de orquídeas en paquetes con etiquetas falsas entre enero de 1999 y octubre de 2003. Norris y Arias admitieron en sus declaraciones haber utilizado permisos sin validez para los cargamentos y haber usado etiquetas falsas en muchas de las plantas para encubrir la falta de permisos válidos. Norris fue sentenciado a 17 meses de prisión, seguidos de dos años de libertad supervisada.

Silva anteriormente fue sentenciado a 21 meses de prisión, tres años de libertad supervisada y una multa de \$5.000.

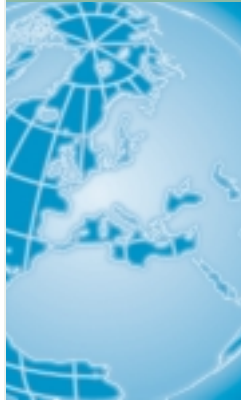
*(Comunicado prensa del Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos, 6 de octubre de 2004)*

## NOTICIAS DE CITES

- *Parte número 167 para CITES* — El Estado Independiente de Samoa se transformó en el partido número 167 para CITES al ratificar la Convención el 9 de noviembre de 2004. La Convención entró en vigor en Samoa el 7 de febrero de 2005.
- *Notificación a las Partes No. 2004/055* — El 30 de julio de 2004, la secretaría de CITES recomendó a las partes la suspensión de la actividad comercial de los especímenes de especies incluidas en CITES a Mauritania y Somalia hasta nuevo aviso debido a preocupaciones sobre la implementación del tratado. Ambos partidos no presentaron un plan de legislación de CITES antes de la fecha indicada en la Decisión 12.80, se les dio otras oportunidades para suministrar la información requerida pero tampoco lograron hacerlo.

Para obtener información sobre notificaciones específicas de CITES, sírvase dirigirse a CITES Secretariat, United Nations Environment Programme, 15, chemin des Anémones, Case Postale 456, 1219 Chatelaine, Ginebra, Suiza. Correo Electrónico: [cites@unep.ch](mailto:cites@unep.ch) Sitio Web: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)

## NOTICIAS INTERNACIONALES



## DECOMISO DE HALCONES SACRE

El 27 de octubre de 2004, se encontraron 127 halcones sacres (*Falco cherrug*) en cajones de madera en la pista de una base aérea militar rusa en las afueras de Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Los halcones estaban por ser cargados en un avión comercial con destino a Siria el cual había sido contratado por una firma turística de Kyrgyzstan. Aunque no está claro si la milicia rusa o los oficiales de Kyrgyzstan estaban involucrados, es aparente que los contrabandistas habían estado explotando la inmunidad de la base aérea extranjera. Los oficiales de Kyrgyzstan, quienes tenían conocimiento de la conspiración de contrabando, sólo pudieron demandar acceso por la presencia de un avión civil.

Los halcones sacres están en gran demanda para cetrería. La exportación ilegal de halcones a países árabes es de tal escala que algunas especies están enfrentándose a una extinción total. El halcón sacre es particularmente demandado debido a que es uno de los halcones más grandes, son cazadores agresivos y cuestan desde US\$20.000 a varios cientos de miles de dólares. Los halcones sacres son infrecuentes a lo largo de todo su hábitat, el cual se expande desde Europa oriental hasta Asia central y están protegidos legalmente en Kyrgyzstan.

La investigación de este complejo caso está en curso. La única persona arrestada fue el hombre que descargaba las cajas con los halcones el día de la captura pero se cree que él sólo jugó un rol menor en la red de contrabando.

Todos los halcones, con excepción de los dos que murieron después de la confiscación, fueron devueltos a su hábitat natural.

*(Environment News Service, 9 de noviembre de 2004)*

## CONTRABANDO DE SAIGAS

Los oficiales de aduana de la Provincia de Guandong, China, capturaron más de 8.000 cuernos de antílope en agosto de 2004. Los cuernos, muchos de los cuales pertenecían al antílope saiga (*Saiga tatarica*) en peligro, fueron contrabandeados desde Rusia y pesaban más de dos toneladas. Los cuernos de saiga se utilizan en medicamentos tradicionales para el tratamiento de la fiebre, accidentes cerebrovasculares (derrames o infartos), dolores de cabeza y mareos, y la demanda ha causado que la población silvestre de los mismos haya disminuido. Los saigas figuran en el Apéndice II de CITES y también están protegidos por las leyes de China.

*(Reuters, 24 de agosto de 2004)*

## ACCESORIOS COSTOSOS

En abril de 2004, la policía allanó un taller en las afueras de Kathmandu, Nepal, a partir de una pista que obtuvo de un hombre a quien había arrestado anteriormente por posesión de seis pieles de leopardo (*Panthera pardus*). Cuatro personas fueron arrestadas en el taller donde se confiscaron cientos de pedazos de pieles de leopardo y de nutria. Se estimó que las pieles representaban por lo menos dos docenas de leopardos y una docena de nutrias. Sin embargo, el origen de los especímenes es incierto. El taller estaba bien equipado y fabricaba chaquetas, bolsas, cinturones y otros productos de piel de animal para el mercado tibetano, muy probablemente para chinos adinerados.

*(Environment News Service, 29 de abril de 2004)*



*The Gardener's Guide to Plant Conservation* (1993), 187 pp.

*Prescription for Extinction: Endangered Species and Patented Oriental Medicines in Trade* (1994), 300 pp.

*Status, Management, and Commercialization of the American Black Bear (Ursus americanus)* (1995), 132 pp.

*Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on the Trade of Bear Parts* (1997), 239 pp.

*An Overview of World Trade in Cervid Antler with an Emphasis on the United States and Canada* (1997), 98 pp.

*American Ginseng: The Root of North America's Medicinal Herb Trade* (1998), 94 pp.

*While Supplies Last: The Sale of Tiger and Other Endangered Species Medicines in North America* (1998), 57 pp.

*Shark Fisheries and Trade in the Americas, Volume I: North America* (1998), 201 pp.

*The U.S. Role in the International Live Reptile Trade: Amazon Tree Boas to Zululand Dwarf Chameleons* (1998), 59 pp.

*A World Apart? Attitudes Toward Traditional Chinese Medicine and Endangered Species in Hong Kong and the United States* (1998), 80 pp.

*A Review of State Bear Trade Laws: U.S. State Statutes and Regulations Regarding the American Black Bear (Ursus americanus)* (1999), 171 pp.

"Comparative analysis of management regimes and medicinal plant trade monitoring mechanisms for American ginseng and goldenseal" (1999), 14 pp. Article reprinted from *Conservation Biology* (14/5/1422-34)

*Asian Turtle Trade: Proceedings of a Workshop on Conservation and Trade of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in Asia* (2000), 164 pp.

*Mabogany Matters: The U.S. Market for Big-Leafed Mabogany and Its Implications for the Conservation of the Species* (2000), 58 pp.

*Swimming Against the Tide: Recent Surveys of Exploitation, Trade, and Management of Marine Turtles in the Northern Caribbean* (2001), 161 pp.

*In the Black: Status, Management, and Trade of the American Black Bear (Ursus americanus) in North America* (2002), 161 pp.

*Prickly Trade: Trade and Conservation of Chihuahuan Desert Cacti* (2003), 122pp.

*Caviar and Conservation: Status, Management, and Trade of North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish* (2003), 224 pp.

*A Guide to the Identification of Seahorses* (2004), 114 pp. (in partnership with Project Seahorse)

*A Tale of Two Cities: A Comparative Study of Traditional Chinese Medicine Markets in San Francisco and New York City* (2004), 21 pp.

*Tackling the Ivories: The Status of the U.S. Trade in Elephant and Hippo Ivory* (2004), 54 pp.

*CITES, Eb? A Review of Canada's Implementation of CITES Under WAPPRIITA* (2004), 124 pp.

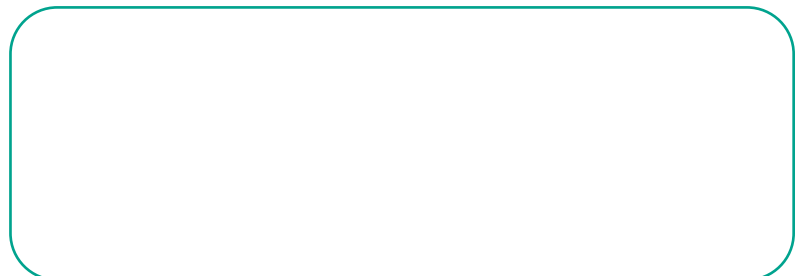
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## TRAFFIC

NORTH AMERICA

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TRAFFIC trabaja para asegurar que el comercio de plantas y animales silvestres no represente una amenaza para la conservación de la naturaleza.





# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## FISHERIES SNAPSHOTS Focus in on Trade and Conservation Issues

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Fisheries declines are often preceded by certain potentially detectable market signals. In many cases, a familiar pattern can be seen in retrospect: prices rise, catches and exports increase, landings decrease, then a stock assessment is undertaken and a management plan is developed. There are many variations on this pattern, but often, concerns raised about the status of a fishery are too little and too late. It is crucial that increased efforts be made to predict, rather than react, to such problems where possible.

TRAFFIC North America's new analytical fact sheet series titled, *Fisheries Snapshots: On Trade and Conservation Issues*, examines six species for which market dynamics are likely to drive, or have already driven, catches to unsustainable levels. The Snapshots present information about fisheries landings, price, and trade patterns over time, and couples that information with the biology and ecology of exploited species. The series examines species caught in North American waters including: monkfish (*Lophius americanus*), menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus* and *B. patronus*), spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*), sea cucumbers, and squid.

Each Snapshot documents the conservation and trade status of a selected species or species group in North American waters. Each includes, at a minimum, certain standard elements, including: trends in biomass, catch, exports (or imports),

and prices through time. Each details the timing of certain key events in the fishery including first stock assessment, first management plan, first effective limit on fishing mortality (this is an indicator of effective management), products generated from catch, major markets for products, and major ports of landing. Each Snapshot also describes the status of the species, biologically and ecologically, the level of knowledge regarding this status, the fishery for the species or species group, the history of management of the species, and the status of trade of the species, in terms of flows, volumes, and prices through time as data allow.

By examining and drawing attention to these species, the goal is to observe management problems

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**FISHERIES SNAPSHOTS**  
On Trade and Conservation Issues

**MONKFISH**

Once used to make fish maws, monkfish have become valuable to fishermen and foodies alike since the late 1980s. Through the 1990s, monkfish were caught in the ground-lake and surface fisheries in north Atlantic waters, but now they have shifted to open-ocean fisheries around and around southern New England and become a major export of the Atlantic coast. The high demand for monkfish resulted from the depletion of other more popular species in the winter of 1990, when it is believed to have died, and despite several years from the opening of a new market, when the fish are still in short supply, and the depletion of the ground-lake and surface fisheries has led to a decline in monkfish landings. The high demand for monkfish has led to a decline in monkfish landings, and the depletion of the ground-lake and surface fisheries has led to a decline in monkfish landings. The high demand for monkfish has led to a decline in monkfish landings, and the depletion of the ground-lake and surface fisheries has led to a decline in monkfish landings.

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The World Conservation Union

more quickly, and to begin forecasting problems so management actions can be taken sooner rather than later.

Following is a brief summary of each of the species or species groups examined in *Fisheries Snapshots: On Trade and Conservation Issues*:

- Monkfish (*Lophius americanus*), a bizarre looking groundfish that was once thrown overboard as trash, is now valued for its cheeks, liver, and tail. The development of the North American monkfish fishery was closely related to the opening of the export markets in Europe and Asia, and the severe overfishing of other groundfish species.
- Atlantic menhaden and Pacific menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus* and *B. patronus*) have been important high-volume, relatively low-value staples of U.S. fishery landings for centuries and are among the top 20 species in terms of landings by weight. Menhaden, a type of herring found in both the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, are small fish used primarily for fish meal and oil. While fishery managers currently consider neither species to be overfished, recent poor recruitment of juvenile Atlantic menhaden is cause for serious concern.
- Spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), like other shark species, are exceptionally vulnerable to overfishing because they grow slowly, mature late and produce few young. Spiny dogfish in the Northwest Atlantic have suffered a precipitous decline in population as European demand increased and the American dogfish fishery expanded in the 1990s. The Northwest Atlantic fishery targets large dogfish, which are usually the females because they grow larger than males, further threatening the dogfish population and sustainability of the fishery.
- American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*) are vulnerable to overfishing due to their

complex life cycles and long lives. The American eel fishery has been closely linked to foreign markets, particularly in Japan and Europe. Demand from these regions and high prices fueled significant, though largely unregulated, fisheries in North America. Since the gold rush for American eels in the 1990s, there has been a decline in catches despite all time highs in terms of prices for eels.

- Several species of sea cucumbers are examined in this snapshot including: *Isostichopus fuscus*, *Cucumaria frondosa*, *Parastichopus californicus*, and *P. parvimensis*. Sea cucumbers are particularly vulnerable to overfishing due to their late maturity, density-dependent reproduction, sedentary habits and small home ranges. They are of significant ecological importance as well as economic importance, serving as a major food source in many parts of the world.
- Several species of squid are also examined in this snapshot including: market squid (*Loligo opalescens*), Northern short-fin squid (*Illex illecebrosus*), long-fin squid (*Loligo pealeii*), and jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*). Consumer demand for squid for bait and food is growing and fisheries, both old and new, are responding to this demand. Unfortunately, the growing demand for squid and the expansion of squid fisheries appears to only increase management problems that result from squid biology.

TRAFFIC's Fisheries Snapshots will soon be available at [www.worldwildlife.org/traffic](http://www.worldwildlife.org/traffic).

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

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### TRAFFIC Staff News

Craig Hoover, former Deputy Director, left TRAFFIC North America in July 2004 for an exciting new post as head of the special wildlife intelligence unit for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Craig's impressive work for TRAFFIC over 8 years included production of some key research and reports on issues such as the US reptile trade. Crawford Allan started as Deputy Director in March 2005, transferring from TRAFFIC International, where he was coordinator of the TRAFFIC network's work on wildlife trade regulation and enforcement support. Over the past 11 years, Crawford led TRAFFIC's work globally on investigating illegal wildlife trade, regulatory improvements and capacity building. Tina Leonard has left TRAFFIC North America to study for a Master's degree at Yale University. Tina worked for 4 years as our Program Associate, supporting the regional program and managing report production and research. We would like to welcome Crawford, and wish Craig and Tina the best of luck.





## TURTLE POACHERS SNAPPED UP

On 6 April 2005, seven residents of Calhoun and Marshall County, Alabama, were arrested for illegally catching and selling turtles from the wild despite being familiar with Alabama regulations regarding size limits and protected turtle species.

The alleged culprits were caught in connection with *Operation Snapper*, an 18-month multi-state investigation that documented legal and illegal sales of turtles. Approximately 50 additional people throughout the United States are facing state or federal charges as a result of this investigation.

*Operation Snapper* documented over 340 illegal turtle sales and was carried out by the Alabama Department of Conservation's Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; the Georgia Department of Natural Resources; the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Wild turtles caught from Alabama and other states are in high demand at turtle farms and butcher shops in Louisiana, Arkansas and Florida. Turtle farmers stock ponds with wild caught turtles to harvest and incubate the eggs. The hatchlings are then sold to buyers in Asia, Europe and the United States, where some are raised to eat—and sold for up to US\$7 a pound—and others are raised for pets. (*Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources press release, 8 April 2005*)

## FLYING WITH THE WRONG FEATHERS

On 12 May 2005, a Toronto man was arrested while attempting to board a return flight to Canada after allegedly selling endangered species products containing elephant ivory and parrot feather ornaments to U.S. wildlife officers in New York City.

Mark J. Gleberzon was arraigned on numerous felony charges including smuggling endangered animal products into the United States in person and via mail courier. Gleberzon was released on a US\$500,000 bond and a probation order restricting him to the Greater Toronto Area and a federal court in Buffalo, New York. Gleberzon faces numerous charges in Canada under the Wild Animal Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act and the Migratory Birds Convention Act, in addition to the charges in the

United States. Gleberzon's home was also raided and officials seized a computer, along with a number of artifacts containing various parts of animals and mounted birds.

The arrest concluded a 17-month investigation jointly undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and officers of Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service stationed in Burlington, Ontario. During this time at least eight illegal shipments from Canada to the United States were made, either in person or by courier.

(*Environment Canada press release, 24 May 2005*)

## CAVIAR CORRUPTION REVEALED

On 6 May 2005, California state game wardens arrested nine individuals in an attempt to break up an alleged ring of sturgeon poachers selling caviar on the black market. The caviar was being sold on the black market for \$256 a pound.

Among those arrested was Mark Goldman, the proprietor of the Gastronom delicatessen, where the fish eggs were being sold for \$16 per ounce. Agents said Golmyan sold caviar that had been taken from illegally caught white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.



WWF/TERRY DONICO

White sturgeon are the largest freshwater fish in North America and can weigh over 1,500 pounds, be 20 feet in length, and live for over 100 years.

California regulations ban commercial sturgeon fishing, although sports fishermen are allowed to catch no more than one sturgeon per day. Wardens said the men would approach fishermen and offer to buy sturgeon that they caught, and it was fishermen who then alerted wardens about the offers.

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Wardens arrested four other men in San Francisco: Igor Donets, Arkady Rubinshteyn, Alexander Averbakh and George Buck, as well as Nikolay Krasnodemskiy from Sacramento. Three other men from Sacramento were also arrested.

Krasnodemskiy, whom wardens described as the ringleader, had processed 120 pounds of illegal caviar, worth an estimated \$31,000, at his auto body shop.

*(San Francisco Chronicle, 6 May 2005)*

## DFO HAS ITS WAY WITH ABALONE

On 29 April 2005, Richard Kieu Du pleaded guilty for unlawfully possessing abalone and was fined CA\$25,000 (US\$19,873). The guilty plea was a result of a year long investigation by Canada's Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Special Investigation Unit.

The court ordered that CA\$5,000 (US\$3,975) be constituted as a fine and that the remaining CA\$20,000 (US\$15,899) be directed towards DFO for the purpose of promoting and fostering the recovery of abalone stocks on the West Coast of Canada, and for organizations working on the conservation and protection of abalone and abalone habitat.

Northern, or pinto, abalone (*Haliotis kamtschatkana*) are protected in Canada under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Illegal harvest is considered to be the most significant threat to northern abalone recovery.

*(Department of Fisheries and Oceans press release, 29 April 2005)*

## FLORA FILCHED FROM FLORIDA STATE PARKS

Gary L. Bienemann of Clearwater, Florida, was arrested 3 May 2005 for unlawful harvesting, possession and sale of endangered, protected and threatened species of orchids. Bienemann allegedly sold hundreds of orchids and flowers stolen from two state parks through a St. Petersburg-based nursery and through the online auction website, eBay.

eBay assisted state officers in the investigation and removed illegal items from their website upon notification. Following a citizen tip, the suspect was found to illegally possess with intent to distribute numerous types of orchids including, but not limited to, a dancing-lady orchid (*Oncidium* Spp.), which is found only in Florida's Jonathan Dickinson State Park, and a ribbon orchid (*Cleisthes divaricata*), which is located only within Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park.

*(Florida Department of Environmental Protection press release, 3 May 2005)*

## BALD EAGLE POACHING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Approximately 40 dead bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were found in British Columbia during the month of February. In the most recent case, 14 more eagle carcasses were found near Cates Park in North Vancouver. In this case, the birds had their wing tips, tails and talons removed, leading investigators to believe the birds were killed by poachers looking to sell the parts to First Nations groups for use in cultural ceremonies, even though First Nations groups do not condone poaching and the killings have shaken many First Nations communities on Canada's west coast. The other 26 birds found in early February were also missing similar parts.

Although officers do have suspects in mind, the public is urged to continue calling with information, and a reward of CA\$10,000 (US\$7,947) is being offered by various organizations. It was also stated that if caught and convicted, the people responsible for the killings could face either jail time or be fined as much as CA\$200,000 (US\$158,930) per bird.

*(Vancouver Sun, 22 February 2005)*



HOWARD BUFFETT

Bald eagles are found only in North America, with the majority of the population living on the northwest coast of the continent.

## THE SALE STOPS HERE: SIX ALLEGED POACHERS FACE CHARGES

In March, Alberta Wildlife Officers broke up a ring of six alleged poachers after a seven-year investigation. The poachers are thought to have stretched into Ontario and Washington State. The six Albertans face more than 40 charges as a result of two undercover operations that began years ago when the men accused were found illegally selling eagle feathers and meat from deer, moose, and elk. All six accused face trafficking charges under the





Wild Animal Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act.

(*National Post*, 13 April 2005)

## BROTHERS BUSTED

Jackson Muldoon, an Oregon man who makes his living in trading exotic plants, was sentenced on 4 April 2005 in federal court for illegally trading in body parts from exotic animals. Muldoon faces six months home confinement, two years probation and a \$2,000 fine after pleading guilty last May to a federal smuggling count alleging that he accepted parts from orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*), helmeted hornbills (*Buceros vigil*), and clouded leopards (*Neofelis nebulosa*)—all classified as endangered.



RUSSEL MITTENEER

The word orangutan means "man of the forest" in the Malay language. Orangutans, Asia's only ape, mostly live in trees and swing from branch to branch using their arms.

Muldoon repackaged and forwarded exotic animal parts to his brother, Dennis Gruver, in Hawaii, who is an artifacts trader and is a second time offender. Gruver also pleaded guilty to one count alleging trafficking in body parts from endangered species and was given six months home confinement, three years probation and a \$3,000 fine.

Gruver's first conviction was in 1998 for smuggling endangered animals into Hawaii from Malaysia. Muldoon got involved in smuggling after his brother complained that customs was giving him a hard time and Muldoon began acting as a middle man, accepting packages from around the world and repackaging them to Gruver.

(*News-Register*, 5 April 2005)

## TIPSTER SPILLS THE BEANS ON VEGETABLE CHARCOAL

Based on a citizen's tip, the Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA), seized 20 tons of vegetable charcoal. At least 100 cubic meters of branches must have been taken

(some 1,000 trees) in the process, amounting to significant damage to the environment.

The PROFEPA Delegate in Sinaloa stated that after investigating the facts, inspectors found a white truck with Federal Public Service license plates containing 100 nylon bags with products from the tree species *Acacia cochliacantha* and *Lysiloma divaricata*. These plants are found in semi-desert areas in which trees are scarce and are particularly important for the ecosystem.

The owner of the vehicle could not provide documentation to prove the legal origin of the merchandise.

(*PROFEPA press release*, 4 April 2005)

## LOYALIST LILAC-CROWNED AMAZONS AND RED-CROWNED PARROTS REPATRIATED

As a result of close collaboration between Mexico and the United States to combat illegal trade of song and ornate birds, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and SEMARNAT (Environmental Ministry of Mexico) managed to repatriate 66 lilac-crowned amazons (*Amazona finschi*) and 22 red-crowned parrots (*Amazona viridigenalis*) to Mexico.

These birds, which were illegally traded to the United States, are considered in danger of extinction and are protected by Mexico through the Official Mexican Norm NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2001, according to the sub-attorney of natural resources of the Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA).

Both species are also listed on CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Appendix I. The repatriation of these birds is founded in Article VIII of CITES, in which the administrative authority of the country that seizes the specimens commits to send them back to the country of origin.

The birds are currently in captivity for a quarantine period and will eventually be set free or used as breeding stock for captive breeding programs.

(*PROFEPA press release*, 26 January 2005)

## CONURES COME HOME

The Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA) reintroduced 210 green conures (*Aratinga holochlora*) to the wild in the State of San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

These birds are considered threatened according to the Official Mexican Norm NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2001. The conures were part of a shipment seized on 17 October 2005 by state authorities. A total of



275 conures were being transported in a pick up truck from the state of Hidalgo with San Luis Potosi as its final destination for illegal trade; unfortunately, 65 birds did not survive the rehabilitation phase.

PROFEPA started an administrative process which concluded in a fine of more than MX\$90,000 (US\$8,100). At the same time, PROFEPA denounced the case to the Federal Public Ministry for acts that can be considered environmental crimes. The liberation of the 210 birds was coordinated with the office of the Attorney General and the Environmental Ministry.

*(PROFEPA press release, 11 March 2005)*

## OPERATION AMERICA

Marc Langlois, a resident of Levis, Quebec, pleaded guilty on 14 March 2005 to 45 charges relating to the purchase, sale, and possession of black bear (*Ursus americanus*) gall bladders for the propose of illegal interprovincial trade. He was sentenced to pay CA\$37,710 (US\$30,621) in fines and court costs, amounting to one of the highest fines ever imposed in Canada relating to the possession of bear parts.

Langlois was found guilty of the poaching-related activities following interventions carried out under *Operation America*. *Operation America* was carried out between 2001 and 2003, and targeted the poaching and illicit trade of black bears and their parts, as well as other game. On 20 November 2002, search warrants were carried out in over 60 locations, including Langlois' residence and workplace.

*(Environment Canada press release, 14 March 2005)*



HOWARD BUFFETT

Black bear parts continue to be in demand, especially the gallbladders and paws, which are used in Asian markets as medicine and food.



## PERU POACHERS PUT AWAY

In April 2005, three Peruvian poachers were arrested and charged with killing seven people since 2000, including four park rangers, two police officers, and one local man. In addition, the poachers hijacked buses and cargo trucks passing through remote zones and illegally

slaughtered 2,500 vicunas (*Vicugna vicugna*), a protected Andean animal sought for its wool. Vicuna wool currently sells for US\$500 per kilogram in Bolivia and is sold for double that in other areas, such as Europe.

*(The Guardian, 15 April 2005)*



WWF CANON/HARTNUT JUNGUIS

Vicunas are smaller, fleet-footed cousins of the camel. A mature vicuna weighs about 90 pounds and stands just under three feet at the shoulder.

## NETWORK HELPS NAB ILLEGAL TRADERS

Acting on information received from an active informers' network, the raiding party of the Corbett Tiger Reserve in India nabbed two people involved in the illegal trade of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*) skin and bones in January 2005. The two offenders were arrested from a village adjoining Corbett Tiger Reserve, one of the protected areas within the Terai Arc Landscape.

This is the second time within an eight month span in which a successful raid has been carried out, with credit due to regular patrolling,



anti-poaching operations and vigilant staff. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has played an active role by providing infrastructure to support the Reserve and other protected areas in the region.

(WWF India, 14 January 2005)

## WAREHOUSE OF WILDLIFE

On 1 February 2005, police in Delhi, India, raided the basement of a warehouse in Patel Nagar and discovered an enormous stock of wildlife products. The haul consisted of 39 leopard skins (including one snow leopard, *Panthera uncia*), 2 tiger skins (*Panthera tigris*), 42 otter skins, 3 kg of tiger claws, 14 tiger canines, 10 tiger jaw bones, about 135 porcupine quills, 60 kg of tiger and leopard paws, and 20 small pieces of bone that appear to be tiger and leopard 'floating' clavicle bones. Officials were shocked by the sheer quantity and variety of the seizure. Four people were arrested, including the niece and another relative of the notorious wildlife trader Sansar Chand, and two employees at the warehouse. Chand is thought to be responsible for more tiger and leopard deaths than anyone else in India and is presently being held in custody with his wife and son due to a conviction in a wildlife case in Jaipur last year.

(Wildlife Protection Society of India, 2 February 2005)



BRUCE BUNTING/WWF

The snow leopard population is estimated to be between 4,000 and 7,000, with sharp declines in certain regions reported since the 1990s.

## MADAGASCAN MILITARY ALMOST MAKES OUT

Three Madagascan army officers were arrested in February 2005 on suspicion of smuggling nearly 200 endangered tortoises out of the country on a French military plane. Customs officials on the island of Reunion discovered the tortoises during a routine check of a cargo plane, though the island was most likely not the final destination for the goods. Tortoises are prized in Asia where they are used in traditional medicine and shells are turned into jewelry. The Spider and Radiated tortoises (*Pyxis arachnoids* and *Geochelone radiata*) are two of the

most endangered species in Madagascar, with habitat loss and poaching being the major threats to their continued existence. Upon further inspection, officials also found smuggled gems and vanilla pods onboard the plane.

(Reuters, 10 February 2005)

## SMUGGLED CHIMPANZEES SPRUNG

On 16 February 2005, Kenya seized six baby chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The chimpanzees were found crammed into a crate, together with four Guenons, a type of long-tailed African monkey, in fairly poor condition. The chimpanzees, with a black market value of US\$20,000 each, were en route from Egypt to Nigeria, and belonged to a woman who claimed the crate was a kennel containing dogs. Chimpanzees and other great apes are listed on Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and all international trade is banned.

(The Independent, 20 February 2005)



STEVEN MORELLO

Chimpanzees, the closest living relative to humans, share an estimated 98 percent of our genes.

## FISHY FLIGHT ATTENDANT

A flight attendant was caught carrying 16 highly endangered Asian Arowanas (*Scleropages formosus*) in water-filled plastic bags hidden in his luggage on a flight from Viet Nam to Australia.

The Asian Arowana, or dragon fish, is highly prized by many as it symbolizes luck, wealth, prosperity and strength. It is endangered in the wild, and is listed on CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Appendix I.

The 26-year-old man faces a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to US\$87,000 if convicted of smuggling wildlife into Australia, via Melbourne International airport.

(Kansas City Star, 11 March 2005)

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)



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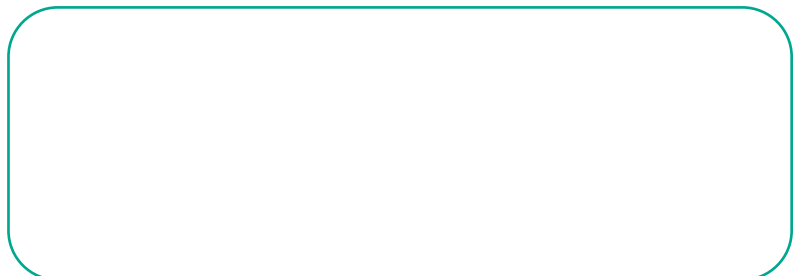
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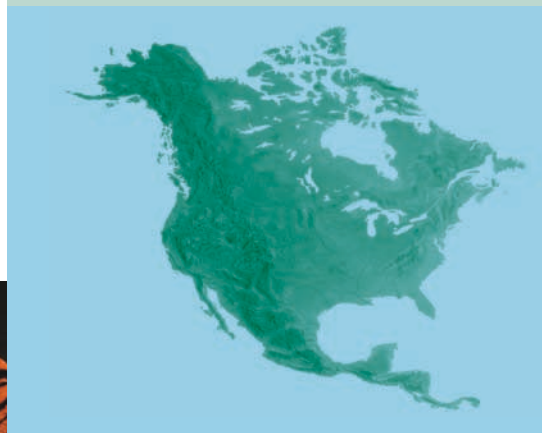
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*TRAFFIC works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.*





# 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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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.

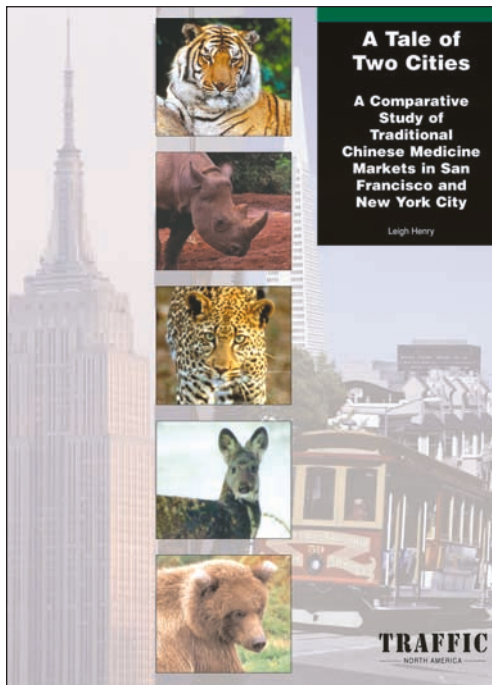
*(contributed by Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC North America-Mexico)*

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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.



©WWF-CANON/MARTIN HARVEY

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)**

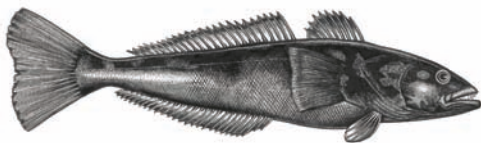
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
April 3-7 2006	22nd Canadian National CITES Authorities Meeting	Meeting to review issues related to the roles of the Scientific, Management and Enforcement Authorities in Canada as well as Canada's international obligations, including preparations for CITES COP 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 reseeded 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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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



Volumen 5 • Número 1 • Mayo 2006

## FORTALECIMIENTO DE LA CAPACIDAD DE APLICACIÓN DE LA LEY DE VIDA SILVESTRE EN MÉXICO

**M**éxico es uno de los países con mayor diversidad biológica del mundo. Alberga por lo menos el diez por ciento de las especies terrestres conocidas en el planeta siendo un 50 a 60 por ciento de sus especies endémicas. Sin embargo, los ecosistemas de México están sufriendo modificaciones significativas, lo que representa un grave riesgo a los recursos biológicos existentes. Entre las principales amenazas a la biodiversidad de México están la deforestación, la fragmentación del hábitat, y la sobreexplotación de las especies. Particularmente preocupante es el comercio y el uso no sostenible de la vida silvestre tanto nacional como internacionalmente. Desafortunadamente, las autoridades a cargo de la aplicación de la ley en materia de vida silvestre carecen de los recursos y capacitación suficientes para abordar los problemas de manera efectiva. Adicionalmente, las herramientas y el personal encargado de hacer cumplir la ley son escasos, lo que tiene como resultado la aplicación de grandes esfuerzos con impactos limitados.

TRAFFIC Norteamérica, con el apoyo del Fondo de Oportunidades Globales del Reino Unido y en estrecha colaboración con la Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA), inició recientemente un proyecto a tres años que se enfocará en algunas de las limitantes que existen en México para la

aplicación de la ley en materia de vida silvestre. Este proyecto tiene como objetivo fortalecer las capacidades de las autoridades encargadas del cumplimiento de las leyes y regulaciones relacionadas a la vida silvestre, con énfasis en el comercio, así como la implementación de la CITES (Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestre). Con relación a lo anterior, en septiembre de 2005, PROFEPA, y el Programa TRAFFIC de WWF México firmaron un Acuerdo de Concertación enfocado al fortalecimiento de capacidades, el intercambio de información, y difusión de información sobre el tema del comercio de vida silvestre al público. Este proyecto es un componente del acuerdo referido.

TRAFFIC Norteamérica apoya a la Dirección General de Puertos,

*continued on page 2*



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En septiembre de 2005, representantes de TRAFFIC Norteamérica, PROFEPA y WWF México se reunieron para firmar un Acuerdo de Concertación enfocado a mejorar las capacidades en la aplicación de las leyes para proteger la vida silvestre.

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Aeropuertos y Fronteras y a otras secciones de la PROFEPA con el diseño, desarrollo e implementación del currículo de capacitación y talleres para el personal administrativo y de campo responsables de la aplicación de las leyes sobre comercio y uso de la vida silvestre. TRAFFIC Norteamérica espera proveer la capacitación especializada, a través de talleres y cursos en temas prioritarios, a por lo menos el 60 por ciento de todos los inspectores de puertos, aeropuertos y fronteros en las diversas regiones de México, así como distribuir el material de capacitación desarrollado a autoridades a nivel nacional.

Esta iniciativa de fortalecimiento de capacidades tiene el potencial de generar mejoras nacionales e internacionales que contribuirán a la conservación de la biodiversidad. Ayudará a promover la colaboración entre las autoridades de México reuniéndolas en talleres, así como apoyando en la estandarización de información de base que es clave para el desarrollo de actividades que promuevan el cumplimiento de la ley en el país. La iniciativa también permitirá que el trabajo de los agentes a cargo de hacer cumplir la ley sea más eficiente al facilitarles el acceso a fuentes de información y herramientas prácticas.

TRAFFIC Norteamérica espera que este proyecto contribuya no sólo a la conservación de la biodiversidad en México sino también a la conservación de la biodiversidad a una escala mayor al fortalecer la implementación de acuerdos internacionales como la CITES. Esto es particularmente importante dado el papel significativo que juega México como país importador y reexportador de animales y plantas del medio silvestre, así como de sus partes y



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El proyecto de Desarrollo de Capacidades para la Aplicación de la Ley en Materia de Vida Silvestre, financiado por GOF-UK, está ayudando a que TRAFFIC pueda capacitar a profesionales del orden público de todo México sobre temas prioritarios, como en este seminario que se llevó cabo durante un taller en Oaxaca.

derivados. Estas actividades en muchos casos son legales pero el contrabando de especímenes de origen silvestre es todavía común. Consideramos a este proyecto como un punto de partida para seguir construyendo en el futuro y abordar temas prioritarios e intereses emergentes.

Otros países en América Latina y el Caribe comparten muchos de los mismos problemas y amenazas que enfrenta México. La gestión de recursos silvestres, la conservación, el monitoreo, y el cumplimiento de la ley necesitan ser coordinados entre autoridades tanto a nivel regional como nacional. Con la ayuda adecuada de gobiernos y agencias donantes, el proyecto de desarrollo de capacidades que está siendo implementado en México puede fácilmente ser adaptado y ampliado, de manera tal que los conocimientos y la experiencia generados a través de su puesta en práctica en México contribuya a otros esfuerzos regionales. Ampliar esta iniciativa puede mejorar la cooperación entre las distintas autoridades y actores involucrados, crear nuevas sinergias y promover una mejor aplicación de las leyes nacionales y de la CITES.

(Contribución de Adrián Reuter, TRAFFIC Norteamérica, México)

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## UNA MIRADA A UN RELATO DE DOS CIUDADES...

En mayo de 2004, TRAFFIC Norteamérica publicó *Relato de Dos Ciudades: Un Estudio Comparativo de los Mercados de Medicina China Tradicional en San Francisco y en la ciudad de Nueva York*. Aquí haremos un recuento de las reacciones y resultados de ese informe...

En el año 2004, TRAFFIC Norteamérica realizó una investigación encubierto acerca de las tiendas de medicina tradicional china en las ciudades de Nueva York y San Francisco donde se encontró que productos ilegales hechos a base de especies en peligro de extinción, como tigres, rinocerontes, leopardos, y venado almizclero, estaban ampliamente disponibles a la venta. El informe resultante, *Un Relato de Dos Ciudades*, reveló que la disponibilidad de la mayoría de productos que utilizan especies en peligro de extinción para su elaboración ha aumentado en las tiendas de la ciudad de Nueva York; a diferencia de San Francisco, donde su oferta se ha reducido de manera significativa. TRAFFIC Norteamérica, en colaboración con WWF y la Escuela Americana de Medicina Tradicional China (ACTCM), ha realizado esfuerzos durante años en para vincularse con la comunidad Chino-Americana en San Francisco, lo cual no ha sucedido en la ciudad de Nueva York.

El programa de acercamiento e información a la comunidad ha sido tan exitoso en San Francisco que hoy en día se está replicando en la ciudad de Nueva York. Al trabajar con escuelas donde se habla chino y con la asociación de herbolarios chinos, el programa difunde el mensaje acerca de las implicaciones, en términos legales y de conservación, de usar especies amenazadas y en peligro de extinción en la medicina tradicional. Este trabajo tiene como objetivo alentar tanto a los consumidores como a los comerciantes a no comprar ni vender este tipo de productos, que promueven la matanza ilegal de estas especies silvestres.

Asimismo, como resultado de este informe, el Consejo de la Ciudad de Nueva York solicitó a TRAFFIC su ayuda para redactar una legislación que les permitiera regular la venta de especies en peligro de extinción. El 23 de noviembre de 2004, la ciudad de Nueva York se

convirtió en la primera ciudad de los Estados Unidos en aprobar una ley que hace ilegal la compra, venta de productos que contengan, o indiquen que contengan en su especies en peligro de extinción. La ley entró en vigencia el 1ero de octubre de 2005.

A pesar de que la legislación federal, como la Ley de Especies en Peligro, hace el comercio interestatal de especies en peligro de extinción ilegal; no aplica para el comercio dentro de una ciudad. Es por ello que la nueva regulación de la ciudad de Nueva York, llena un vacío legal haciendo que la venta de productos conteniendo o etiquetados como que contienen especies en peligro de extinción, sea un quebranto a las leyes de la ciudad. Asimismo, les otorga a los agentes del orden público de la ciudad de Nueva York la facultad para tomar las acciones necesarias. Esta ley satisface una necesidad importante como parte del esfuerzo mundial para combatir el comercio ilegal de la vida silvestre.

*(Contribución de Leigh Henry, TRAFFIC Norteamérica, EE.UU.)*

*Este informe está disponible en el sitio web de TRAFFIC Norteamérica:*

*<http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/pubs.cfm>*

*Un artículo de sobre este estudio publicado en el año 2005 se encuentra en Conservation in Practice y puede obtenerse visitando:*

*<http://www.conbio.org/cip/article61HEA.cfm>*

## DESDE LOS TRIBUNALES: EL IMPACTO DE BOOKER COMO MEDIO PARA DISUADIR EL COMERCIO DE VIDA SILVESTRE

El 12 de enero de 2005, la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos pasó una decisión que podría tener impactos de gran alcance en la condena de los delincuentes en los Estados Unidos. En el caso de *Estados Unidos vs. Booker* (125 S. Ct. 738), la corte revocó las Reglas Federales para la Determinación Judicial de la Pena, implementadas en 1987, aduciendo que violaban los derechos otorgados por la Sexta Reforma Constitucional al acusado de ser juzgado ante un jurado. Por lo tanto, lo que una vez fueron lineamientos obligatorios son en la actualidad sólo discrecionales. Esto les otorga, tanto a los jueces como al jurado, más flexibilidad para dictar la sentencia condenatoria que consideren se ajusta mejor al tipo de delito.

TRAFFIC ha empezado a prestar atención a las ramificaciones de la decisión *Booker* en los procesos judiciales de aquellos individuos involucrados en el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre. Ahora que los jueces tienen más poder al dictar las sentencias de estos comerciantes, ha habido mucha especulación sobre si los fallos otorgados serán más benévolos o severos. Muchos temen que esos delitos no se estén considerando seriamente, y que con ello las condenas sean aún más benévolas de lo que han sido en el pasado y en consecuencia, su efecto para disuadir el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre se vea reducido. A esto se suma que *Booker* probablemente implique una mayor carga de trabajo para los procuradores, puesto que ya no tienen la herramienta negociadora de la condena "mínima" y están menos dispuestos a llegar a un acuerdo antes de ir a juicio. Ésta es una preocupación grave dado el pequeño número de procuradores dedicados a casos en materia de vida silvestre.

TRAFFIC, con la ayuda de estudiantes de la Escuela de Derecho de la Universidad de Carolina del Sur, analizará las tendencias en las condenas relacionadas al comercio de vida silvestre durante la década pasada, para determinar futuras acciones basadas en los resultados de esta investigación. Estamos también buscando formas adecuadas de comunicación con el poder judicial, teniendo en cuenta la seriedad de estos delitos, con el fin de asegurar que condenas futuras sirvan como mecanismos disuasivos al comercio ilegal de la vida silvestre.

*(Contribución de Leigh Henry, TRAFFIC Norteamérica, EE.UU.)*

## ATENCIÓN AL CUMPLIMIENTO DE LA LEY: RESURGIMIENTO DE AMENAZAS A LOS TIGRES

En los últimos años se pensaba que los problemas para los tigres habían disminuido, en términos de la demanda de sus huesos para la medicina tradicional, o su piel para la alta costura; como resultado de las acciones mundiales de conservación coordinadas entre los gobiernos y la sociedad civil. Pero en el año de 2005, el hallazgo de que la Reserva de Tigres de Sariska en la India había

perdido todos sus tigres debido a la caza furtiva y que las otras reservas se hallaban en malas condiciones, se convirtió en una señal de alerta para India y para la comunidad dedicada a la conservación. Aparentemente, el aumento de fortunas económicas en China parece estar fomentando la demanda de piel de tigre, tanto como símbolo de moda como cultural, mientras que la política gubernamental encargada de prohibir el comercio de huesos de tigre puede estar siendo laxa.

En agosto de 2005, en Lhasa, Tíbet, se reunieron representantes de WWF y TRAFFIC para evaluar el creciente comercio de pieles de tigre y leopardo asiático en las áreas tibetanas de China. Sólo en un día, se encontraron cerca de 25 tiendas que vendían abiertamente, en el mercado central en Lhasa, batas tradicionales del Tíbet conocidas como "chubas", confeccionadas con piel de leopardo y tigre. La demanda por este tipo de batas no se limita a los tibetanos ya que éstas se han convertido en un accesorio de moda muy popular, al igual que las alfombras de piel de tigre y leopardo. Numerosos decomisos de gran volumen de pieles y huesos de tigre y leopardo en India, Nepal y el Tíbet,

incluyendo una incautación de 39 pieles de tigre en el año 2003, muestran un flujo constante y significativo de partes de tigre desde India hacia el Tíbet, durante los últimos tres años. La combinación de una protección a los tigres salvajes que deja mucho que desear en algunas reservas naturales de India, un control ineficaz, los conflictos internos por los que atraviesa Nepal que permiten una ruta de contrabando mucho más fácil, así como el incremento de riqueza y disponibilidad de pieles en China, pueden constituir un desastre para esta especie.

A mediados del año 2005 surgieron los primeros rumores que el Consejo Estatal de China estaba considerando reabrir el comercio legal de huesos de tigre provenientes de granjas de tigres con el fin de abastecer necesidades médicas en los hospitales de China. Existen alrededor de cuatro mil tigres legalmente en granjas de China, algunas de las cuales mantienen centenares de ejemplares. No ha habido ningún pronunciamiento oficial acerca de la reapertura del comercio, en todo caso, el gobierno de China ha confirmado que esto ha sido propuesto. Por ello, ahora existe la preocupación de que este comercio aumente el potencial para que

las reservas del mercado negro de huesos de tigre se incorpore al mercado legal. Con menos de 5,000 tigres en estado salvaje, las poblaciones de esta especie no pueden sostener ninguna pérdida significativa que pudiera surgir debido a un aumento de la caza furtiva de estos animales. A fines del año 2005, los Directores Generales de WWF y UICN, La Unión Mundial para la Naturaleza, apoyados por TRAFFIC, respondieron a esta preocupación, solicitando al gobierno de China, a través de una carta conjunta, que no reabriera el comercio doméstico.

Una vez más, los gobiernos y los conservacionistas se unen para buscar eliminar el resurgimiento de la amenaza a los tigres a través de involucramiento político, desarrollo de capacidades para la aplicación de las leyes, campañas de toma de conciencia para el consumidor, e investigaciones comerciales. ¿Podrá el tigre sobrevivir este último ataque de los cazadores furtivos impulsado por el comercio? La respuesta la tienen China e India y la rapidez o lentitud con la que respondan y colaboren con otros para proteger al tigre.

*(Contribución de Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC Norteamérica, EE.UU.)*

## ¿SABIA USTED?

El Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos suspendió la importación y reexportación del caviar y de la carne del esturión beluga (*Huso huso*) procedente de los países en la cuenca del Mar Caspio el 30 de septiembre de 2005 y el proveniente de los países del Mar Negro el 28 de octubre de 2005. Como resultado, el caviar del esturión beluga (incluyendo los productos que contienen caviar, como los cosméticos) y la carne proveniente de las cuencas del Mar Negro y del Mar Caspio dejaron de reunir los requisitos para ser importados a los Estados Unidos. La suspensión comercial puede ser levantada si los países ubicados en el Mar Negro y en el Mar Caspio envían información acerca de la situación de las reservas de peces, como lo requiere la CITES.

A lo anterior se suma el que el pasado mes de enero, la Secretaría de la CITES se negó a publicar la cuota anual

de exportación de caviar para algunos Estados que comparten las reservas de esturión, debido a la falta de información adecuada sobre la sostenibilidad de la pesca del esturión y el cumplimiento con los términos de la Resolución 12.7 de la CITES. La Secretaría de la CITES había mantenido la esperanza que los países exportadores entregasen la información faltante de manera tal que se pudiera reanudar el comercio internacional. Sin embargo, el 13 de abril, cuando la Secretaría de la CITES terminó con las cuotas de exportación para el año, aún no había recibido la información proveniente de los cinco países del Mar Caspio, lo que hubiera permitido publicar las cuotas para el aprovechamiento de las especies silvestres de esturión que hay en esta cuenca compartida; por lo tanto, estos países no podrán exportar caviar durante el año 2006. Irán tiene permitido exportar un máximo de 44,370 kg. de caviar, de una especie distinta, el esturión persa. El caviar de esturión cultivado no se verá afectado por las regulaciones a

las cuotas de exportación.

En enero de 2004, la CITES adoptó un sistema universal de etiquetado para facilitar el reconocimiento del caviar comercializado legalmente. Sin embargo, los gobiernos de Europa Occidental tardaron en adoptar este requisito. A principios de este año, se pasó una ley en la Unión Europea (UE) que requería a sus miembros adoptar el uso del sistema de etiquetado para el caviar. Hoy en día, todo el caviar importado a la UE o exportado de la UE debe llevar la etiqueta apropiada de la CITES. Es importante que los consumidores sólo compren aquel caviar de esturión que esté correctamente sellado con una etiqueta no reutilizable que contenga información del tipo de caviar y del país de origen. Para mayor información sobre las pautas universales de etiquetado visite <http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/Caviarlabellings.pdf>

*(Contribución de Sarah Janicke, WWF EE.UU.) (USFWS, Comunicado de Noticias, 29 de septiembre de 2005, CITES, Conferencia de Prensa, 3 de enero de 2006)*





## NOTICIAS DE MÉXICO

### LA CONTROVERSIAL NORMA PARA LA PESCA SOSTENIBLE DE TIBURÓN

Con una captura de más de 30mil toneladas por año, la pesca de tiburón es considerada como una de las 10 pesquerías más grandes del mundo. En México, es especialmente importante, ya que miles de pescadores subsisten con la captura de tiburón, debido a su bajo costo y gran contenido proteínico. Hoy en día la sostenibilidad de esta pesquería se ha visto seriamente cuestionada.

En 1993, El Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INP) de México, publicó un estudio sobre las poblaciones de tiburones y recomendó a la secretaría de Pesca no aumentar el número de permisos de pesca comercial de tiburón hasta no conocer el estado que guardaban las mismas, ya que éstas estaban disminuyendo. Para 1996, se estableció un Comité de Pesca Responsable con el propósito de evaluar lo que ocurría con la población de tiburones y su pesca. Asimismo, México firmó en 1998 el Plan de Acción Internacional de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y Alimentación (FAO), cuya finalidad es asegurar la conservación y aprovechamiento sostenible de los tiburones.

En el año 2000, el Comité de Pesca Responsable propuso la creación de una norma oficial que regulara la pesca de tiburón y especies afines. La elaboración de dicha Norma significó un largo proceso de discusión donde la prioridad fue establecer, en consenso, la base del

ordenamiento de ésta actividad. El resultado de este proceso fue la publicación, el 12 de julio de 2002, de la NORMA-029 para la pesca responsable de tiburones y otras especies relacionadas.

La controversia no se hizo esperar, los prestadores de servicios turísticos y pescadores, de Baja California así como ambientalistas nacionales y extranjeros, criticaron el contenido de la Norma debido a que ésta no fijaba cuotas fijas de explotación, como ocurre en otras pesquerías. Finalmente, después de semanas de presión, la Norma fue anulada, a tan sólo tres meses de su publicación.

Se formó entonces un Nuevo Grupo Técnico de Trabajo que contó con la participación de todos los sectores y grupos de actores interesados. Este grupo ha continuado con el análisis de la información por más de dos años. Fue con base en la información proporcionada por este Grupo que se elaboró un nuevo proyecto de la Norma para la pesca de tiburones, la cual fue publicada provisionalmente en noviembre de 2005. A pesar de que el plazo para realizar la consulta pública en relación a la norma se venció en marzo, aún no se ha tomado una decisión para publicar la regulación. Hasta hoy, el proceso de consulta se ha caracterizado por polémicas con respecto al equipo de pesca, anzuelos, redes y la distancia de la orilla permitida para la pesca.



Una regulación propuesta en México intenta sentar las bases para la pesca sostenible de tiburones.

Aún cuando la publicación de esta regulación es un paso importante para la conservación del tiburón en México, hay muchos otros aspectos que necesitan ser tratados para un manejo efectivo de esta especie. Por ejemplo, es importante conocer el número de personas, lanchas o pangas que participan en esta pesca; su valor económico; los métodos de captura y el número de ejemplares capturados en cada temporada. Todos estos datos son los que permitirán fijar una política más clara para la conservación de los tiburones en México.

*(Contribución de Gael Almeida, TRAFFIC Norteamérica, México)*

### RESULTADOS DE 2005 DEL PROGRAMA PARA COMBATIR LA TALA CLANDESTINA EN MÉXICO

La Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA) en México presentó los resultados del Programa de Combate a la Tala Clandestina en 2005. El informe señala a la tala ilegal como un asunto de interés nacional, ya que se cree que un tercio de la madera en México proviene de una fuente ilegal.

El informe también resalta algunos de los principales logros del programa. Se llevaron a cabo 164 investigaciones en el país, se detuvieron a 38 personas, se clausuraron 13 aserraderos, y otros 43 se cerraron de manera temporal. De dos mil vehículos inspeccionados, 154 fueron asegurados por las autoridades. El 60% de la madera asegurada se donó a instituciones de beneficencia pública.

Adicionalmente, durante el año 2005 se formaron 123 comités de vigilancia participativa, a cuyos miembros se les dotó de credenciales que los identifican como vigilantes forestales, uniformes, equipos de comunicación y otros materiales necesarios. ([www.profepa.gob.mx](http://www.profepa.gob.mx), 17 de enero de 2006)

### MÉXICO PROHÍBE LA IMPORTACIÓN Y EXPORTACIÓN DE MAMÍFEROS MARINOS Y PRIMATES

El 26 de enero de 2006, se publicó en el diario Oficial un decreto donde se adicionan dos párrafos a la Ley General de Fauna y Flora en México. La primera adición es al Artículo 55 donde queda prohibida la importación, exportación y reexportación de todo mamífero marino y primate, así como de sus partes y



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Recientemente el gobierno mexicano publicó un decreto que prohíbe la importación de primates como el mono ardilla (*Saimiri sciureus*), que frecuentemente se capturan como mascotas en el medio silvestre.

derivados, con la excepción de aquellos destinados para la investigación científica. La segunda adición es el Artículo 60, que establece que ningún ejemplar de primate, cualquiera que sea la especie, podrá ser aprovechado ya sea como subsistencia o comercialmente.

La publicación de este decreto es resultado de dos años de debates en el Senado y tiene como fin controlar una de las principales industrias de México relacionada con el comercio y tráfico de delfines y lobos marinos. Sin embargo, dado el creciente interés que se ha dado en los últimos años por algunas especies de primates como mascotas, cuya demanda fue cubierta parcialmente con especies de otras partes del mundo, las nuevas disposiciones pueden incrementar el riesgo de que el mercado cubra la demanda de manera ilegal, capturando especies nativas como el mono aullador, *Allouata palliata* o el mono araña, *Ateles geoffroyi*, lo que podría constituir una amenaza potencial para las poblaciones de estas especies.

(Contribución de Gael Almeida, TRAFFIC Norteamérica, México)

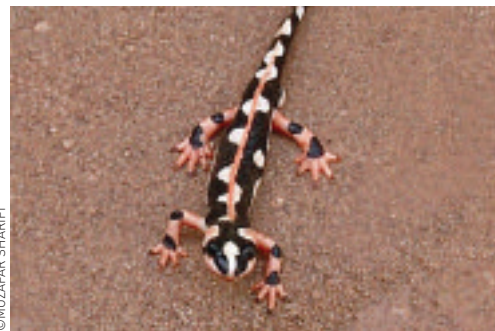
## NOTICIAS DE CANADÁ

### EL TRITÓN MANCHADO DE KAISER: COMERCIALIZADO HASTA EL BORDE DE LA EXTINCIÓN

En el año 2005, la oficina canadiense de TRAFFIC Norteamérica inició un estudio para evaluar el comercio del Tritón Manchado Kaiser (*Neurergus kaiseri*), una rara y colorida especie de salamandra endémica de Irán. Se calcula que la población silvestre de esta especie es de menos de 1,000 individuos

maduros, hallados únicamente en un área restringida de la parte sur de las montañas Zagros y las provincias de Lorestan y Khuzestan, donde confluyen tres arroyos. Por lo anterior, no es de sorprender que la especie haya sido enlistada como en peligro de extinción dentro de la lista roja de la UICN, debido a escasa distribución y continua reducción en la calidad y extensión de su hábitat. La UICN considera que la deforestación para fines de subsistencia así como severas sequías ocurridas recientemente, son las principales amenazas para la especie. La construcción de represas en los pequeños arroyos habitados por esta salamandra, también constituye una grave amenaza. Hasta hace poco no se consideraba el comercio internacional como una amenaza importante para la especie y en la actualidad la CITES no la incluye dentro de sus apéndices.

Sin embargo, en diciembre de 2004, 50 especímenes del Tritón Manchado Kaiser fueron puestos a la venta en un sitio web de Internet. El vendedor se encontraba en Canadá pero los especímenes eran ofrecidos al mercado estadounidense. En ese momento no era claro si estos animales habían ya entrado a Canadá o se ofrecían de manera especulativa, además el listado del sitio web no indicaba si los animales eran silvestres o criados en cautiverio. Si éstos animales hubieran sido silvestres, eso significaría que representaban alrededor del cinco por ciento de la población conocida, un golpe devastador para la supervivencia de la especie. La demanda por esta especie de anfibio en el comercio internacional de mascotas parece deberse tanto a su rareza como a su atractivo color. Como resultado, el precio de un Tritón Manchado Kaiser, que llega a ser de hasta CA\$350 (dólares canadienses) por espécimen, es alto, comparado con la mayor parte de especies de salamandra.



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TRAFFIC está investigando el comercio a través del Internet, del Tritón Manchado de Kaiser, encontrado sólo en algunas áreas ribereñas de Irán.

La investigación hecha por TRAFFIC Norteamérica no pudo corroborar si las 50 salamandras puestas a la venta a través de Internet fueron en verdad importadas a Canadá. Sin embargo, se determinó que un comerciante de Ucrania anteriormente había importado dos envíos pequeños a Canadá. Durante el año 2005, la correspondencia con este comerciante, confirmó que ellos importaron y vendieron especímenes adultos silvestres del Tritón Manchado Kaiser. De acuerdo con lo dicho por éste comerciante, a principios del año 2005 ellos comercializaron aproximadamente 200 especímenes y esperaban tener cerca de 250 especímenes más, disponibles para enero de 2006.

La correspondencia realizada con la Autoridad Administrativa de la CITES en Irán confirmó que el comercio de *N. kaiseri* es regulado por la Ley Iraní de Peces y Animales de Caza. Las autoridades iraníes también confirmaron que no se habían emitido permisos para comerciar esta especie en los últimos diez años. De esta manera, el reciente comercio de especímenes silvestres *N. kaiseri* se da a través de la exportación ilegal desde Irán, por lo tanto, la importación de especímenes silvestres a los Estados Unidos o Canadá sería un quebranto de las leyes de esos países.

Este análisis inicial indica que los esfuerzos para proteger a esta especie silvestre de los efectos perjudiciales del comercio se deben considerar desde varios frentes: se deben realizar esfuerzos para hacer cumplir la ley y detener la recolección ilegal y la exportación desde Irán; los países en donde la especie está siendo comercializada, como Ucrania y Canadá, deben adoptar medidas estrictas contra los comerciantes; y se deben explorar medidas reguladoras para reducir el impacto del comercio de la vida silvestre, incluyendo listados en la CITES. TRAFFIC Norteamérica seguirá evaluando el comercio de la especie y alertará a las autoridades en aquellos países donde se realiza el comercio.

(Contribución de Ernie Cooper, TRAFFIC Norteamérica Canadá)

## NOTICIAS DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

### SURGE, CON APOYO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, NUEVA RED PARA LA APLICACIÓN DE LAS LEYES DE PROTECCIÓN DE LA VIDA SILVESTRE EN ASIA

La ASEAN (Asociación para las Naciones del Sudeste Asiático) identificó que en el Sudeste Asiático, el incremento



de las redes para hacer cumplir las leyes de protección de la vida silvestre a través de una mejor cooperación entre las autoridades nacionales y sus contrapartes, las agencias de protección del orden público, las aduanas, la policía, y las cuarentenas, son un factor clave para el desarrollo de redes eficientes a nivel nacional y regional. En octubre de 2005, durante el taller de la red ASEAN para el cumplimiento de la ley de vida silvestre, en Tailandia, se iniciaron las conversaciones sobre cómo poner en operación una red regional de ese tipo. Los delegados de los países miembros de la ASEAN junto con los representantes de las secretarías de la ASEAN y de la CITES, así como los gobiernos de Estados Unidos y la República Popular China expresaron su completo apoyo hacia la formalización de la Red ASEAN para el Cumplimiento de la Ley de Vida Silvestre (ASEAN - WEN) que se constituirá como la red más grande de su tipo en el mundo. En diciembre del año 2005, los representantes de los ministros de la ASEAN responsables de la CITES emitieron un comunicado oficial acerca del lanzamiento de la ASEAN-WEN, reconociendo que "se requiere de acciones conjuntas, coordinadas y concertadas para enfrentar la explotación ilegal y el comercio de plantas y animales silvestres".

Por su parte, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos esta comprometido, a través de una iniciativa mundial del Departamento de Estado y la Coalición contra el Tráfico de Vida Silvestre (CAWT - Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking) a combatir el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre. La Agencia para el Desarrollo Internacional y el Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos, a través de esta iniciativa, han logrado destinar una cantidad significativa de fondos para ayudar al desarrollo de la ASEAN-WEN. Este apoyo es vital para lograr el desarrollo de capacidades a largo plazo y combatir el comercio ilegal de la vida silvestre así como la caza furtiva. La red TRAFFIC, en colaboración con WildAid, jugará un papel importante durante los próximos tres años en la implementación de actividades, que incluyen evaluaciones de necesidades, entrenamiento y fortalecimiento de capacidades, para apoyar a los países miembros de la ASEAN así como a sus socios comerciales con el fin de lograr el éxito de esta red regional.

(contribución de Crawford Alla, TRAFFIC Noreamerica, EE. UU)

## ACTUALIZACIÓN DE LA CITES

### SE AÑADEN TORTUGAS AL APÉNDICE III DE LA CITES

La tortuga caimán (*Macrolemys temminckii*) y todas las especies de la tortuga mapa (*Graptemys* spp.), nativas de los Estados Unidos, han recibido protección internacional al incluirse en el Apéndice III de la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestre (CITES). El listado, el cual será efectivo a partir del 14 de junio de 2006, permitirá al Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos (FWS - Fish and Wildlife Service) trabajar con los Estados para regular las exportaciones. Esta es la primera vez que los Estados Unidos hace uso del Apéndice III para proteger a sus especies nativas. Un país miembro de la CITES puede incluir una especie nativa en el apéndice III si considera que la cooperación de otros estados miembros de la CITES es necesaria para monitorear y controlar el comercio de dicha especie.

A partir de ahora, todos los envíos de especímenes de éstas especies de tortugas, requerirán de un permiso de exportación de la CITES emitido por el FWS, que sólo puede ser emitido para las tortugas recolectadas de acuerdo a las leyes federales, estatales y locales. Otros países miembros de la CITES permitirán la importación desde los Estados Unidos cuando los embarques



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Desde el 14 de junio de 2006, la tortuga mapa y la tortuga caimán, como la que aparece en la ilustración, estarán protegidas bajo el Apéndice III de la CITES. Ésta es la primera especie nativa de los Estados Unidos que se incorpora en la lista del Apéndice III.

estén acompañados por un permiso de exportación válido, y sólo permitirán la reexportación de embarques certificados. El listado de la CITES no tiene ningún efecto directo en alguna actividad que se esté llevando a cabo dentro de un estado.

(Comunicado de Noticias del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos, 16 de diciembre de 2005)

### COMIENZA LA CUENTA REGRESIVA PARA LA COP 14 DE LA CITES

A continuación se incluyen algunas fechas y eventos que pueden ser de interés ahora que se acerca la Décimo Cuarta Reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes (COP14) de la CITES. Para mayor información, consulte los datos oficiales publicados por la Secretaría de la CITES o por las Autoridades Administrativas / Científicas pertinentes.

Para obtener información sobre notificaciones específicas de la CITES, diríjase al Secretariado de CITES, United Nations Environment Programme, 15, Chemin des Anémones, Case Postale 456, 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland. Correo electrónico: [cites@unep.ch](mailto:cites@unep.ch), sitio web: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)

Date	Event	Details
Abril 3-7 2006	22vo Reunión de las Autoridades de la CITES Canadienses	Reunión para estudiar los temas relacionados con los roles de las Autoridades Científicas, Administrativas y de Aplicación de la Ley en Canadá así como las obligaciones internacionales de Canadá, incluyendo las preparaciones para la COP 14 de la CITES
Abril 5-6 2006	Revisión del status de especies en México	Taller nacional sobre el estado de la población silvestre, el uso y comercio de la tortuga blanca ( <i>Dermatemys mawii</i> ) y la revisión de su estado en los Apéndices de la CITES (Tabasco, México)
Abril 25-27 2006	Revisión del status de especies en México	2do Taller tri-nacional Guatemala-México-Belice para el manejo y la conservación del cocodrilo de Morelet (Crocodylus moreletii) y la revisión de su estado en los Apéndices de la CITES.
Mayo 3 2006	Fecha límite para el Comité de plantas	Fecha límite para presentar la documentación que será revisada por el 16vo Comité de Plantas
Mayo 5 2006	Fecha límite para el Comité de animales	Fecha límite para presentar la documentación que será revisada por el 22vo Comité de Animales
Mayo 15-20 2006	Reunión trilateral	XI Reunión anual del Comité Trilateral sobre la flora y fauna silvestre y la conservación y manejo del ecosistema, Canadá-EE.UU.-México: sección de la CITES, San Diego, California
Junio 18 2006	Propuestas de Canadá	Propuestas del público invitado / Propuestas de Canadá enviadas a las autoridades canadienses
Julio 3-8 2006	Reunión del Comité de Plantas	16va Reunión del Comité de Plantas (Lima, Perú)
Julio 7-8 2006	Reunión del Comité Conjunto	AC22-PC16 Reunión del Comité Conjunto (Lima, Perú)
Julio 7-13 2006	Reunión del Comité de Animales	22vo Reunión del Comité de Animales (Lima, Perú)
Julio 8 2006	Fecha límite para presentar propuestas a la CITES	Fecha límite para que las partes presenten a la Secretaría las propuestas para enmendar los Apéndices I y II en COP14: sin consulta previa del ámbito de los estados de la especie en cuestión (ver Resolución Conf. 8.21 sobre consultas con los ámbitos de los estados sobre propuestas para enmendar los Apéndices I y II); y de acuerdo a la Resolución Conf. 11.16 sobre el trabajo con el rancheo y el comercio de especímenes producto de rancheo, transferido del Apéndice I al Apéndice II
Julio 18 2006	Propuestas examinadas de Canadá	Vencimiento de la fecha para los comentarios de las Autoridades de la CITES (a MA) sobre propuestas públicas / Vencimiento de la fecha para las propuestas, Autoridades de la CITES (a MA) / Traducción de las propuestas canadienses
Julio 31 2006	Fecha límite para las propuestas de México	Fecha límite para recibir las propuestas derivadas del llamado a las enmiendas de propuestas para los Apéndices de la CITES
Agosto 2006	Notificación del Registro Federal de USFWS	USFWS planea publicar una notificación del Registro Federal aproximadamente 10 meses antes de que COP14 anuncie propuestas tentativas de especies, borradores de resoluciones, borradores de decisiones y temas de la agenda para ser presentados por los Estados Unidos
Agosto 3 2006	Fecha límite para documentos del Comité Permanente	Fecha límite para recibir los documentos para ser estudiados en la 54va reunión del Comité Permanente
Agosto 31 2006	Anuncio de propuestas de México	Anuncio público (a través de los sitios web de SEMARNAT y CONABIO) de las propuestas seleccionadas (derivadas de la llamada para la presentación de propuestas) que serán presentadas por el gobierno mexicano a COP14
Sept 16 2006	Se hacen públicas las propuestas de Canadá MA	Canadá MA envía por correo las propuestas al público para obtener comentarios
Sept 2006	Reunión pública de USFWS	Aproximadamente 9 meses antes de COP14, USFWS tentativamente llevará a cabo una reunión pública para recibir opiniones públicas adicionales
Oct 2-6 2006	Reunión del comité permanente de la CITES	54vo Reunión del comité permanente de la CITES (Ginebra, Suiza)
Oct. 28 2006	Consulta pública canadiense	Consulta pública sobre las propuestas canadienses / recomendaciones MA sobre las propuestas canadienses / las propuestas y recomendaciones son enviadas a todas las autoridades canadienses
Dic 14 2006	Revisión final de las propuestas por las autoridades de la CITES	Fecha límite para los comentarios finales de las autoridades canadienses de la CITES / MA decide si las propuestas irán a la Secretaría / edición final de las propuestas para ser enviadas a la Secretaría
Enero 4 2007	Fecha límite de presentación a la CITES	Fecha límite para la presentación de borradores de resoluciones y otros documentos, y de las propuestas para enmendar los Apéndices I y II. Estos documentos no deben exceder de 12 páginas
Febrero 2007	Anuncios del sitio web de USFWS	Aproximadamente 4 meses antes de COP14, USFWS publicará en su sitio web un anuncio de las propuestas de especies, borradores de resoluciones, borradores de decisiones y artículos para la agenda presentados por los Estados Unidos a la Secretaría de la CITES para ser considerados en COP14
Ene 4 a mayo 4 2007	Revisión por parte de Canadá de las propuestas extranjeras	Propuestas extranjeras recibidas: propuesta de revisión de especies de SA; revisión de propuestas para resoluciones de MA / SA & MA determina las posibles posiciones canadienses / copias de propuestas extranjeras y posibles posiciones enviadas a las autoridades canadienses / lista de propuestas y posición tentativa enviada al público / el público y las autoridades canadienses invitados a una audiencia pública
Abril 2007	Reuniones públicas de USFWS	USFWS también publicará anuncios de reuniones públicas aproximadamente 2 meses antes de COP14, para recibir opiniones públicas sobre nuestras posiciones con respecto a los temas de COP14
~1 mes antes de la Reunión NAR	Consulta pública canadiense sobre propuestas extranjeras	Consulta pública sobre las propuestas extranjeras / posición canadiense planteada sobre cada propuesta anunciada / resumen al público sobre las diligencias
Abril/Mayo 2007	Reunión regional norteamericana	Reunión regional norteamericana
Mayo 1 2007	Inscripción a COP, CITES	Las inscripciones de observadores aprobadas deben ser enviadas a la Secretaría un mes antes de COP14.
Junio 3-15 2007	COP 14	La Haya, Países Bajos



# NOTICIAS

## SOBRE LA APLICACIÓN EXITOSA DE LAS LEYES

Durante los últimos meses, los casos penales y enjuiciamientos relacionados al uso indebido y tráfico ilegal de vida silvestre, han abarcado temas tan diversos que van del comercio de pieles de tigre en el sur de Asia a la importación de la merluza negra de Patagonia. Recientemente han aparecido varios informes en los medios de comunicación acerca del comercio de aves silvestres que han capturado la atención del público dada la rápida expansión de la gripe aviar. TRAFFIC Norteamérica ha participado en varios casos exitosos de aplicación de las leyes. A continuación presentamos algunos de éstos casos exitosos, así como otros casos que informan sobre las recientes tendencias del comercio y la conservación de la vida silvestre.

### NO ES LUCRATIVO IMPORTAR MERLUZAS NEGRAS DE PATAGONIA

En Florida, el Gran Jurado del Gobierno Federal de los Estados Unidos, presentó acusaciones formales bajo los cargos de importación y confabulación en la venta de merluzas negras de Patagonia, también conocidas como bacalao de profundidad, poseídas ilegalmente. Los procesados fueron acusados por realizar un etiquetado falso y por obstruir a la justicia. En la acusación formal presentada en mayo de 2004, los cuatro cargos establecen que, Antonio Vidal Pego, ciudadano de España y miembro de la compañía uruguaya Fadilur S.A., intentó importar aproximadamente 53,000 libras de merluza negra de Singapur a Miami, con

conocimiento de que los peces habían sido obtenidos y transportados en quebranto a la Convención para la Conservación de los Recursos Marinos Vivos de la Antártica y a los reglamentos de los EE.UU. Actualmente, los esfuerzos internacionales de conservación se han enfocado en la merluza negra de Patagonia debido a un aumento de la presión ejercida por la pesquería tanto legal como "pirata".

El Gran Jurado aprobó un cargo de embargo penal para decomisar más de 53,000 libras de merluza negra o \$314,397.30 dólares, lo que representa la ganancia recibida por la venta del pescado. Antonio Vidal Pego enfrenta una pena máxima de veinte años de prisión por el cargo de obstrucción de la justicia y hasta cinco años de prisión por cada uno de los tres cargos restantes. También está sujeto a una multa de \$250,000 dólares mientras que la empresa Fadilur, S.A. está sujeta a una sanción penal de \$500,000 o más dólares.

*(Comunicado de Prensa del Departamento de Justicia de los EE.UU., 28 de septiembre de 2005)*

### SE PONE FIN AL CONTRABANDO DEL TIBURÓN LEOPARDO

El 24 de enero de 2006 el Gran Jurado acusó formalmente a seis individuos por confabular en la recolección de miles de juveniles de tiburones leopardo de California (*Triakis semifasciata*) en la Bahía de San Francisco. Esta acusación formal específicamente imputa la venta de 465 tiburones leopardo a compañías en Miami, Chicago, Houston, Romulus en Michigan; Milford en Connecticut; los Países Bajos y el Reino Unido. La acusación formal señala a un pastor de una iglesia de San Leandro, a cuatro individuos involucrados en la industria de acuarios, y un pescador como responsables de violar la Ley Lacey. Esta Ley, establece como un delito federal la venta o compra de peces, vida silvestre y plantas obtenidas en quebranto de cualquier ley subyacente. Estos cargos incorporan lo establecido en la ley estatal de California, que señala que los tiburones leopardo de California que se pueden recolectar para fines comerciales deben de tener como tamaño mínimo 36 pulgadas.

TRAFFIC Norteamérica brindó información a las autoridades con el fin de respaldar la investigación de casi dos años llevada a cabo por la Oficina para el Cumplimiento de las Leyes Pesqueras de

la Administración Nacional Atmosférica y Oceánica, conjuntamente con el Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos, el Departamento de Pesca y Caza de California, el Cuerpo de Inspección de Sanidad Pesquera del Departamento de Asuntos Medioambientales, Alimentarios y Rurales del Reino Unido (DEFRA), así como el Servicio de Inspección General de los Países Bajos (AID). La pena legal máxima por quebrantar o confabular para quebrantar la Ley Lacey es de cinco años en la cárcel, una multa de \$250,000 dólares, además de un resarcimiento, en caso de ser indicado.

*(Comunicado de prensa del Departamento de Justicia de los EE.UU., 8 de febrero de 2006)*



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El personal del Acuario de la Bahía de Monterrey liberó a juveniles de tiburones leopardo (*Triakis semifasciata*) asegurados por agentes federales que investigaban una banda de caza furtiva de vida silvestre.

### INCAUTACIÓN DE AVES EN LA FRONTERA CON MÉXICO

Agentes aduanales de los EE.UU. han interceptado en el puerto de entrada de Nogales, más de cuarenta aves desde comienzos del año 2006, lo que se ha traducido en multas totales por más de \$5,000 dólares. Veinte incidentes separados han descubierto una variedad de especies diferentes, incluyendo loros, pericos, patos y canarios, entre otros, escondidos en los bolsillos de sacos, en maletas, y en vehículos. Las aves están protegidas por la Ley de Especies Amenazadas de los EE.UU. y la Ley de Protección de las Aves Migratorias.

*(Arizona Daily Star, 20 de enero de 2006)*

## TORTUGAS EN LA GUANTERA

El 25 de octubre de 2005, un ciudadano canadiense llamado Kenneth Grant Howard, se declaró culpable de tres cargos por importar animales sin permiso en contravención de la Ley de Protección y Regulación del Comercio Internacional e Interprovincial de la Fauna y Flora Silvestre Canadiense, así como de la Ley de Aduanas. En el año 2004, Grant fue detenido dos veces en el cruce de la carretera del Pacífico y encontrándose en la guantera de su automóvil 12 tortugas *Kinosternidae* recién nacidas. Varios meses después, fue detenido nuevamente, esta vez los agentes encontraron en su automóvil grillos vivos, dos tortugas de caja de Florida y una tortuga terrestre parda de Birmania. La mayor parte de la multa de \$8,000 (dólares canadienses) fue asignada al Fondo para Evitar Daños al Medio Ambiente, y se utilizará para pagar por el cuidado de estos animales y para apoyar programas de educación pública sobre el comercio de la vida silvestre.

*(Chilliwack Times, 15 de noviembre de 2005)*

## GALERÍA DE ARTE DE CHICAGO REPLETA DE ARTÍCULOS ILEGALES DE VIDA SILVESTRE

Agentes de los EE.UU. incautaron obras de arte y artesanías por un valor de casi un cuarto de millón de dólares cuando descubrieron que una pareja dueña de una galería de Chicago, Primitive Art Works, no contaba con las licencias necesarias para vender los artículos. El 10 de enero de 2006, Patrick Fitzgerald, Sub Procurador Federal de los Estados Unidos, anunció que la acusación formal sería por 20 cargos. Los artículos, que incluyen marfil, plumas, pieles y caracoles, proceden de todas partes del mundo, incluyendo Asia, África y América del Sur. Cuando los agentes federales registraron la residencia, la galería y el almacén de la pareja, encontraron artículos manufacturados con hipopótamos, leopardos, tigres, leones, jaguares, cocodrilos, guacamayos, loros, águilas reales y cigüeñas americanas, entre otros, lo cual constituye un quebranto de la CITES y de la Ley de Especies Amenazadas. Los agentes esperan que la pareja se declare culpable a los cargos.

*(Chicago Tribune y Sun-Times, 11 de enero de 2006)*

## LA PROFEPA CAPTURA A 19 CAZADORES FURTIVOS EN MÉXICO



Los productos derivados de hipopótamos, elefantes, aves y otros animales están sujetos a regulaciones internacionales y nacionales. Los consumidores deben estar al tanto de estas regulaciones al comprar productos, domésticos o extranjeros, de origen silvestre.

La Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA) de México informó sobre la captura de 19 cazadores furtivos que operaban en la Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra de Huautla, en el estado de Morelos. El representante de la PROFEPA en Morelos dijo que al momento de ser detenidas las personas portaban 14 armas de fuego y algunos animales muertos. Esta área protegida se caracteriza por tener una gran abundancia de vida silvestre, como es el caso del puma y diversas especies de aves y reptiles.

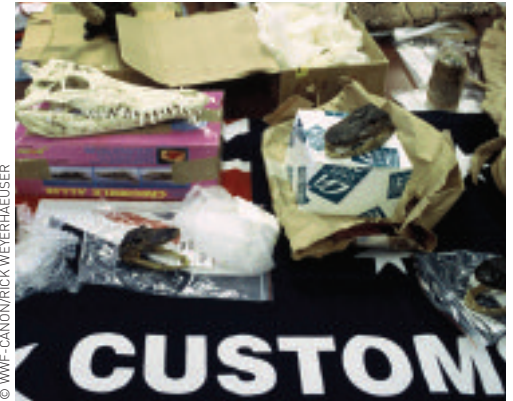
*(www.profeqa.gob.mx, 19 de enero de 2006)*

## SE IMPONE UNA CONDENA SEVERA A CONTRABANDISTA DE REPTILES EN AUSTRALIA

El Tribunal del Distrito de Brisbane condenó a tres años y medio de encarcelamiento a un Japonés de 40 años de edad, por intentar importar reptiles. El Sr. Katsuhide Naito se declaró culpable después de haber sido acusado por la aduana australiana, bajo la Ley de Conservación de la Biodiversidad y Protección del Medio Ambiente de 1999, por haber importado especímenes vivos regulados y en peligro de extinción sin licencia. Los agentes de aduana del Aeropuerto Internacional de Brisbane encontraron 39 reptiles exóticos cuando examinaron las maletas de un hombre que llegó de Singapur vía Tailandia el 22 de agosto de 2005. Al abrir la maleta del hombre, los agentes de aduana se sorprendieron al ver algo que algo se movía: seis serpientes, cuatro dentro de envases plásticos transparentes y dos en botellas de champú. Asimismo, se

encontraron 33 reptiles más, incluyendo pitones arborícolas verdes, pitones albinos, iguanas, lagartos de cuello de abanico, tortugas pintas y varanos arborícolas ocultos en cajas de parlantes y envases de comida. Muchos de los animales no sobrevivieron y los sobrevivientes fueron sacrificados horas más tarde por el Servicio de Inspección y Cuarentena de Australia.

*(Comunicado de Prensa de la aduana de Australia, 25 de enero de 2006)*



Agentes de aduanas en los aeropuertos y puertos del mundo se enfrentan a una gran variedad de intentos por contrabandear productos o derivados de vida silvestre. Aquí se muestra una amplia gama de productos incautados por la aduana australiana durante la primera mitad de 2003.

## ENORME INCAUTACIÓN DE HUESOS DE TIGRE EN TAIWÁN

Las autoridades aduaneras de Kaohsiung en Taiwán, efectuaron la incautación más grande de huesos de tigre en Taiwán y una de las más extensas en Asia desde el año 2000. El 4 de julio de 2005 se decomisaron más de 140 kg. de huesos de tigre, incluyendo 24 cráneos, de un cargamento procedente de Yakarta, Indonesia. La mercancía estaba oculta en un contenedor con cornamentas de ciervo, el cual fue exportado a Taiwán para ser utilizado en medicinas tradicionales. También se incautaron 400 kg. de escamas de pangolín y cinco piezas de marfil labrado que pesaban 1kg.

La CITES prohíbe el comercio internacional de partes y derivados de tigres, elefantes y pangolines, estando todas estas especies totalmente protegidas en Indonesia. Sin embargo, un informe de TRAFFIC en el sureste de Asia, emitido el año pasado, determinó que a pesar de la protección total, la caza



furtiva y el comercio de tigres en Indonesia continúa sin disminuir. Chris Shepherd, agente regional de TRAFFIC en el sureste de Asia, dijo que “aún suponiendo que todas estas partes de tigre se originaron en Sumatra, Indonesia enfrenta un verdadero peligro de perder a su última subespecie de tigre, el tigre de Sumatra, si no se detiene el extenso comercio ilegal de partes de tigre”.

Informes recientes relacionados a la disminución de las poblaciones de tigres en ciertas áreas de la India, han vuelto a enfocar la atención de la comunidad conservacionista internacional en la caza furtiva de los tigres, especialmente en el sur de Asia. Sin embargo, esta incautación también ha puesto el enfoque mundial en esta región. El aseguramiento se llevó a cabo días después de una reunión del Comité Permanente de la CITES, que solicitó que todos los Estados dentro del área de distribución de los Felinos Grandes de Asia presentasen un informe el próximo año acerca de su trabajo para combatir el comercio ilícito de especímenes de la especie de Felinos Grandes de Asia y la implementación de las recomendaciones de la CITES que tratan sobre la legislación y el cumplimiento de las leyes, los esfuerzos en contra de la caza furtiva, la educación del público, la difusión y otros controles domésticos.

*(TRAFFIC press release, 8 August 2005)*



Un envío de partes de tigre que fue incautado en Taiwán contenía más de 140 kg. de huesos, incluyendo 24 cráneos. Los tigres en Asia enfrentan cada vez más amenazas, a pesar de que la CITES prohíbe el comercio internacional de esta especie.

## HUEVOS EN LA ROPA INTERIOR DE INDIVIDUO AUSTRALIANO

En el aeropuerto de Sydney, los agentes de aduana previnieron un intento de contrabando de huevos de aves nativas de Australia ocultos en la ropa interior de un pasajero. La aduana detuvo y registró a un ciudadano de Sydney, Australia, de 56 años, cuando estaba por abordar un vuelo destinado a

Bangkok, Tailandia, el 13 de octubre de 2005. Durante el registro, los agentes supuestamente encontraron seis huevos de cacatúa envueltos en medias de nailon y ocultos en la ropa interior del hombre. De manera provisional se han identificado los huevos como de cacatúa Gala. Los investigadores de la aduana acusaron a este hombre de intento de exportación sin permiso de especímenes nativos regulados. Bajo la Ley de Conservación de la Biodiversidad y Protección del Medio Ambiente de Australia, la pena máxima por el contrabando de vida silvestre es una multa de hasta AU\$110,000 (dólares australianos) y/o el encarcelamiento por un máximo de 10 años.

*(Comunicado de Prensa de la aduana de Australia, 14 de octubre de 2005).*

## ARRESTO DE LADRONES DE ABULONES

El 20 de febrero de 2006, los agentes del Ministerio de Pesca y Océanos de Canadá capturaron a tres individuos en lo que representa el mayor arresto en la historia de la Columbia Británica por pesca ilegal de abulones. Los agentes detuvieron a un camión tan cargado que sus ruedas casi tocaban la carrocería. Dentro de éste había aproximadamente 1,130 kg. de abulones en su concha, la mayoría todavía vivos. Se calcula que el cargamento tenía aproximadamente 11,000 moluscos. Después de la incautación, un equipo de agentes de pesquería y biólogos pesqueros pasaron dos días replantando los abulones vivos en el agua para evitar su muerte. Las pesquerías de abulones han estado cerradas desde diciembre de 1990, debido a una grave preocupación sobre su conservación. En 1999, los abulones del norte fueron declarados especie en peligro bajo la Ley sobre Especies en Riesgo (SARA—Species at Risk Act).

*(Comunicado de Prensa del Ministerio de Pesca y Océanos de Canadá, 23 de febrero de 2006)*

## NOTICIAS DEL PERSONAL

En los últimos meses, dos nuevos miembros se sumaron al personal de TRAFFIC Norteamérica. Gael Almeida, como Oficial de Programa en la Oficina de México ayudará con el proyecto de desarrollo de capacidades de protección de la vida silvestre y la recaudación de fondos. Ella tiene una Licenciatura en Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad Iberoamericana en la Ciudad de México, un diplomado en Gestión y Conservación de Biodiversidad Tropical por la UNESCO y una Maestría en Ciencias de la Conservación por University College London. Jill Hepp, Asistente de Investigación en la oficina de Washington, D.C., es responsable de coordinar el boletín The TRAFFIC Report, y manejar las funciones de administración e investigación. Ella tiene una Licenciatura en Biología y Ciencias Ambientales por la Universidad de San Diego y una Maestría en Ciencias Biológicas de la Conservación y Desarrollo Sostenible por la Universidad de Maryland.

## SE AMPLIA NUESTRO BOLETÍN

Como habrán podido notar nuestros lectores desde hace mucho tiempo, el tamaño de nuestro boletín se ha aumentado en éste número. Esta nueva versión ampliada contiene más artículos elaborados por nuestro equipo los cuales incluyen actualizaciones de políticas, tendencias del comercio y proyectos que afectan a México, Canadá y los Estados Unidos. Esperamos que la información adicional sea de su interés y utilidad.



## NUEVAS PUBLICACIONES DE LA RED TRAFFIC

En el año 2005 la red TRAFFIC publicó los siguientes informes.

*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%2005.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, Eb? 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)

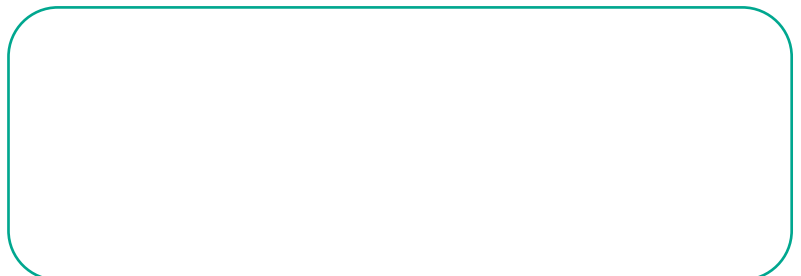
Los funcionarios de organizaciones dedicadas a la naturaleza pueden obtener gratuitamente ejemplares de cualquier publicación de TRAFFIC North America en TRAFFIC. Otras partes interesadas deberán dirigirse a Zoo Book Sales, P.O. Box 405, Lanesboro, MN 55949-0405. Teléfono: (507) 467-8733. Fax: (507) 467-8735. Correo electrónico: [zoobooks@acegroup.cc](mailto:zoobooks@acegroup.cc). Dirección virtual: [www.zoobooksales.com](http://www.zoobooksales.com).

# TRAFFIC

NORTH AMERICA

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TRAFFIC trabaja para asegurar que el comercio de plantas y animales silvestres no represente una amenaza para la conservación de la naturaleza.





# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



Volume 5 • Number 1 • March 2007

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION KEY TO STOPPING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

**A**SEAN-WEN is an initiative to create the world's largest wildlife enforcement network. It is supported by a project funded by USAID and managed by TRAFFIC and WildAid. This report from Southeast Asia explains why ASEAN-WEN is so vital to the future existence of many endangered species.

Hundreds of pangolins in blue canvas bags lay atop each other in the back of a truck, the journey ahead, long and uncomfortable. Loaded in southern Malaysian, they were making their way north, through Thailand, heading for China. This truckload, like the many before it, will be killed for their meat and scales, believed to have medicinal properties. The Malayan Pangolin (*Manis javanica*) is totally protected in Malaysia, yet it is the most heavily traded mammal in the region. In addition to demand for use of meat and blood as food and scales as traditional medicine ingredients, the pangolin's skin is tanned to make a wide range of leather products.

The over-exploitation of wildlife species like pangolin is a worldwide

problem. Wild animals and plants are traded in large quantities for use as meat, pets, traditional medicine ingredients, trophies, luxury goods and for zoos. While much of the trade is legal, lack of comprehensive management interventions and under-resourced government law enforcement agencies continue to push many species closer towards extinction. Southeast Asia is particularly vulnerable to unscrupulous traders with its rich biodiversity that embraces many rare and endemic species.

Species such as pangolin, Roti Island snake-necked turtle, humphead wrasse, orchids and orangutans are treasures of

*continued on page 2*



The ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network brings together the efforts of ten nations in Southeast Asia to help combat the illegal trade in endangered species of wildlife. Here an enforcement official in Thailand uncovers an illegal shipment of the Malayan pangolin.

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

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The Malayan pangolin (*Manis javanicus*) is traded in large volumes mainly for its scales, which are ground to make traditional medicines.

Southeast Asia's biodiversity; but their popularity as pets, food and medicine is devastating wild populations as these species and their parts are in high demand through both legal and illegal markets. For example, earlier this year in Thailand, forestry officials seized around 250 pangolins and 64 rare black swamp turtles. Acting on a tip-off, authorities inspected 60 containers of what were supposed to be red-eared turtles on a Thai Airways International flight from Penang, Malaysia, transiting in Bangkok en route to Laos.

In addition, as economic development and purchasing power has risen within Southeast Asia, so has demand for species found outside the region. Many pet stores in Malaysia stock Indian Star Tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*), which are native to India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. In mid-September 2006, Indian Customs officials seized almost 1500 Indian Star Tortoises heading for Malaysia and a 33-year-old Malaysian ornamental fish trader was arrested.

Over the years, the criminals involved have become increasingly sophisticated in circumventing the law. Usually, smuggling efforts are far better resourced than law enforcement agencies charged with regulating and policing the wildlife trade. However, the 10 Member Countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have marked a clear commitment to turning the tables on this imbalance. In December 2005, Ministerial representatives launched the world's largest wildlife law enforcement coalition, known as the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) to facilitate law enforcement co-operation and intelligence-sharing between national government agencies and their international counterparts.

The launch of this regional network came on the heels of the ASEAN Statement on CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in 2004, which identified a list of commitments that would be accomplished through the *ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora 2005-2010*.

While each nation operates within its jurisdiction, increased co-ordination with other countries in the region is essential to eradicate international smuggling. The ASEAN countries have also identified capacity building as a need to improve

overall enforcement actions.

Generous support for the development of the network has been provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Department of State's Regional Environmental Office in Bangkok has supported the initiative since its inception. The support of USAID has been essential in strengthening the network and reflects the United States' commitment to supporting other nations in stopping illegal wildlife trade. Technical support and facilitation is also provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Justice and the CITES Secretariat.

In line with the goals of ASEAN-WEN, TRAFFIC has been focusing much of its training work on international airports in Southeast Asia — major hotspots of the wildlife trade — to improve interception of illegal wildlife cargoes. Many more such workshops are scheduled for the coming year. Other efforts are being made to address illegal trade within countries as well. In August 2006, an enforcement training course was held in Bangkok for the police and wildlife enforcement officers by the ASEAN-WEN Support Project.

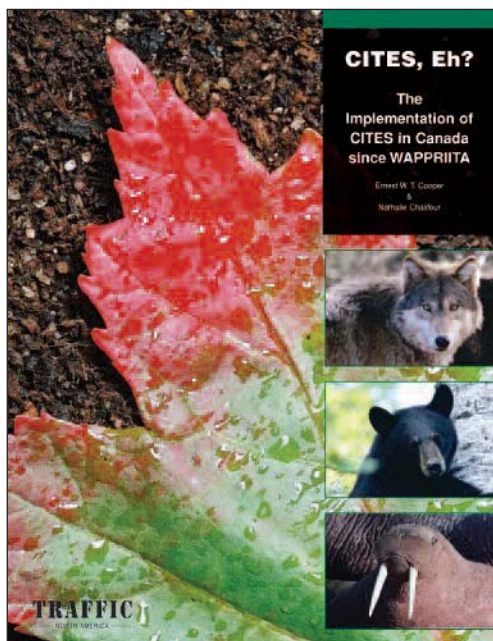
An illustration of the impact of effective training is the seizure of 15 endangered Radiated Tortoises (*Geochelone radiate*) in early September 2006 in Bangkok, arriving from Madagascar. Radiated Tortoises are listed on Appendix I of CITES, which prohibits commercial trade in the species. The tortoises were hidden in the luggage of a Madagascar national arriving at the Don Muang International Airport. Also seized were almost 200 chameleons, of unidentified species.

The enforcement team was motivated to act upon learning from TRAFFIC just 10 days earlier about endangered reptile species (including the Radiated Tortoise) sold openly in Bangkok's Chatuchak weekend market. "This is what it is about: Action. We want to see training efforts translate policies into real action on the ground to combat illegal wildlife trade," said Chris Shepherd, Senior Program Officer for TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

(Adapted from a feature by Loretta Ann Soosayraj in WWF Malaysia's *Green Heart*)



## LOOKING BACK AT CITES, Eh?



In May 2005, TRAFFIC North America published *CITES, Eh? A Review of Canada's Implementation of CITES Under WAPPRIITA*. This report provided an in-depth analysis and evaluation of Canada's implementation of CITES. This was the first comprehensive review of Canada's implementation of the Convention since Canada brought the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA) and Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations (WAPTR) into force in 1996. The report explored Canada's administration and enforcement of CITES and identified those areas needing improvement. The ultimate goal of the report was to ensure that CITES is implemented in Canada with maximum effectiveness.

The report noted that most basic needs of the Convention were being met, and that in some areas, the Canadian government was doing an exemplary job of implementing CITES. In particular, comprehensive and effective domestic legislation for the enforcement of CITES had been developed, and CITES export permits were being issued in an efficient manner. However in other areas Canada's execution of CITES was found to be weak. For example:

- Canada did not have a basic overall policy for CITES implementation.

- Canada continually failed to meet CITES reporting requirements and as such was failing to fulfill a fundamental obligation of the Convention.
- Canada's enforcement of CITES was not sufficient or consistent across Canada.

In total, the report made 34 recommendations to improve inadequacies in Canada's CITES program, which in most cases were linked to insufficient human and financial resources directed at administering and enforcing the Convention. CITES did not appear to be a priority for the Canadian government as a whole or for Environment Canada, the department charged with ensuring that the Convention is effectively implemented.

Since May 2005, there have been significant developments:

- In April 2006, Environment Canada hosted a national meeting of CITES authorities (including TRAFFIC) to discuss revitalizing the Canadian CITES program. The purpose of the workshop was to assess the current program, identify future resource needs, and examine CITES in various ways from the day-to-day business perspective. The desired outcome was a more effective Canadian CITES Program with a cooperative vision for the future.
- In October 2006, Environment Canada began in earnest with drafting the strategic plan for CITES implementation in Canada.
- All outstanding CITES annual reports have been submitted to the CITES Secretariat. The 2004 and 2005 reports were submitted months ahead of the deadlines required by the Convention.
- Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement section has been re-

organized into the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) with significant changes to the reporting structure. The new Director is moving to resolve the gaps in CITES enforcement.

TRAFFIC was impressed with the positive response to the report received from the Canadian government. It is clear that the Canadian CITES authorities are keen to improve CITES administration and enforcement in Canada, as is TRAFFIC. Good progress has already been made and TRAFFIC is committed to assist these efforts so that Canada's implementation of CITES will not only continue to improve, but will become a positive example to the rest of the world.

*(Contributed by Ernie Cooper, TRAFFIC North America)*

*The CITES, Eh? report is available on TRAFFIC North America's website: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/pubs.cfm>*

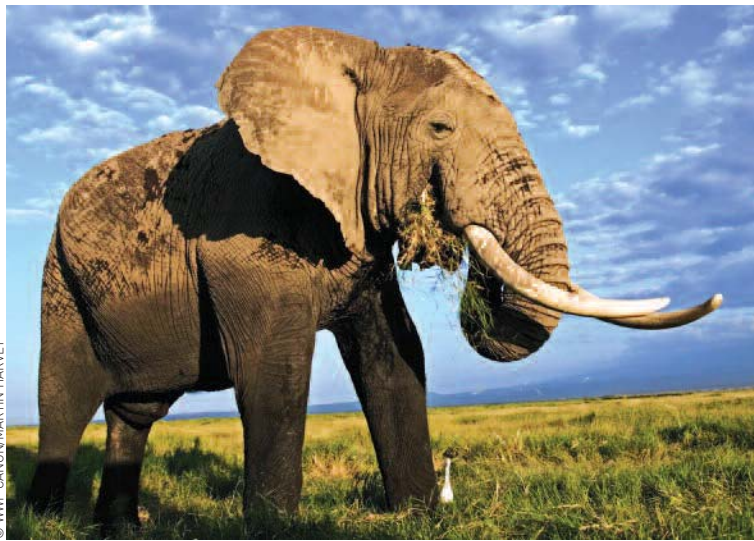
## EYE ON ENFORCEMENT: COMBATING THE SURGE IN AFRICAN ELEPHANT IVORY SMUGGLING

There has been a major surge in seizures of African elephant ivory en route to Asia over the past year. Approximately 21,500 kilograms of elephant ivory have been seized worldwide between September 2005 and October 2006.

Between May and July 2006, nearly 12 tonnes of ivory was seized in Hong Kong and Taiwan, which represents potentially 1800 elephants. This, combined with reports of extensive poaching of elephants in Chad in August 2006, raises questions about why the surge is happening now and how can it

AFRICAN ELEPHANT IVORY SMUGGLING			
Location of Seizure	Ivory seized, approx. (kg)	Country of Origin	Date
Philippines	6,000	Zambia	2005 Sept
Philippines	800	Kenya, Uganda (2 shipments)	2005 Oct/Dec
Hong Kong PRC	6,500	Cameroon (2 shipments)	2006 May
Taiwan	5,200	Tanzania (2 shipments)	2006 July
Japan	3,000	Indonesia (transit)	2006 Oct
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,500</b>		





In 2005 and 2006, several large shipments of elephant ivory were discovered by enforcement officials in various ports in Asia. TRAFFIC is helping train enforcement officials on detection methods so as to stop this alarming trend.

be stopped? There have also been reports of large-scale poaching in parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo in late 2005. Some of the ivory is destined for China, where economic growth has seen a growing demand for luxury items like ivory carvings. There is speculation that this current surge in trade is because China's legally registered stockpiles of ivory are dwindling.

During the July seizures in Taiwan, two shipments were intercepted a few days apart with over two tonnes and three tonnes respectively, totaling more than 1200 tusks and large sections of ivory tusks. In May, a seizure in Hong Kong from Cameroon snagged nearly five tonnes of ivory. The shipments have been leaving mostly from Cameroon and Tanzania and the ivory is often cleverly concealed within shipping containers, some with secret compartments. The shipments have in some cases been in transit via the Philippines and some shipments were possibly destined for that country. There were allegations of corruption in the Philippines after the shipment of six tonnes of ivory that was seized in September 2005 "disappeared" from a Customs warehouse in May 2006. The Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources filed criminal complaints in October 2006 against 21 persons, including 13 personnel of the Bureau of Customs, for their involvement in the theft of seized elephant tusks.

TRAFFIC has been training law enforcement officials to detect ivory shipments and improve their wildlife trade controls in many countries in Asia and Africa. Tip-offs received by TRAFFIC concerning this trade emergence have been provided to enforcement agencies investigating this alarming problem. Interpol and the CITES Secretariat

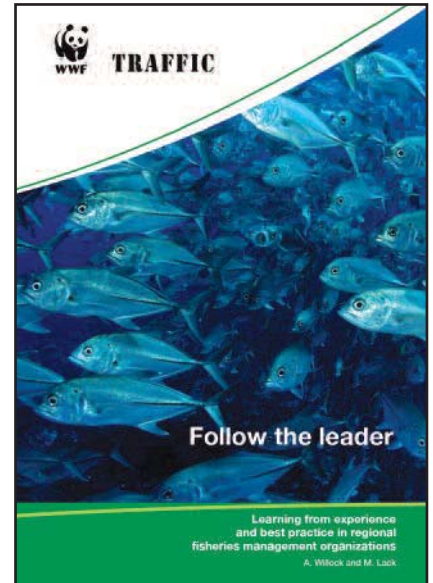
are working to give warning to enforcement agencies in the source, transit and destination countries to intercept these shipments and break the crime networks responsible when tips and leads emerge. Research is ongoing in Africa regarding the sources of the elephant ivory being seized, as it is clear that it is not all originating from the countries of export.

(Contributed by Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC North America)



Enforcement officials have discovered large illegal shipments of elephant ivory, like this one discovered in Taiwan. The shipments are sometimes concealed within secret compartments in shipping containers.

## FOCUS ON FISHERIES: RFMO'S NEED TO IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES



Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) are the main mechanism developed by States to regulate fishing on the high seas — areas beyond national laws. But even with 16 active RFMO's around the world, many fish stocks have collapsed or are on the brink of commercial extinction. The TRAFFIC report, *Follow the Leader: Learning from experience and best practice in regional fisheries management organizations*, released in May 2006, discusses some of the problems faced by RFMOs such as the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission or the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. The report illustrates both effective and ineffective practices that are being employed, while also outlining how RFMOs can be more strategic and streamlined for bigger results.

For example, in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, some dissatisfied member States have ignored agreed-upon quotas and unilaterally set their own, while within the RFMO responsible for Southern Bluefin tuna, some countries regularly and knowingly exceed their quotas. Alarming, several States are still not joining up to RFMOs and are undermining the efforts of responsible countries. Over the last decade, the management of high seas stocks has been challenged by the expansion of bottom-trawling into deep



water to target new stocks. With most RFMOs slow to adopt management measures for these fisheries, many deep sea fish populations, such as orange roughy, have collapsed.

The report recommends that States should sign the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and the associated Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas. Additionally, the report highlights the precautionary and ecosystem management approaches and advocates that existing and new RFMO's implement these principles.

(compiled by Jill Hepp TRAFFIC North America)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Demand from wealthy tourists from the United States, Europe and Asia for shahtoosh wool is driving poaching of the endangered Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*), locally known as chiru. Shahtoosh shawls, which are well known in the fashion world for their exceptional quality, are made from chiru wool and are sold for thousands of dollars per shawl on the black market. Shahtoosh, which means "the king of wools," is obtained by hunting and killing chiru, which live almost exclusively in the remote Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau. A single shawl requires wool from three to five dead chiru. In 1900, around one million antelopes lived in the wild; today, there may be as few as 50,000. There are well-known substitutes for shahtoosh, including pashmina, which is made from cashmere wool sheared from domestic goats.

(Contributed by Sarah Janicke, WWF U.S.)



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## NEWS FROM MEXICO

### CONSERVATION OF THE MORELET'S CROCODILE



© GAEL ALMEIDA/TRAFFIC NORTH AMERICA

In 2006, representatives from Guatemala, Belize and Mexico met to discuss the sustainable use status of Morelet's crocodile, (*Crocodylus moreletii*)

During 2006, the Mexican Government undertook several actions regarding the sustainable use of the Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*). In April, representatives from Guatemala, Belize and Mexico met in Mexico City for a tri-national workshop regarding the conservation and sustainable use of the Morelet's crocodile. The purpose of the three day workshop was to provide updates on the

conservation efforts that each country has developed for the species. Discussion focused on developing a regional plan for the conservation and sustainable use of the species. At the end of the workshop, representatives of the three governments signed an agreement that described their intent to initiate a long term regional strategy in 2006, which would allow for the sustainable use of this species in the three countries.

Following this workshop, the Mexican Government made a formal petition to IUCN — The World Conservation Union to de-list the crocodile from the IUCN Red List. This petition was based on the results of recent population assessments, which indicate a significant recovery of the populations and suggest that that the species is no longer at risk of extinction. In 1982, the species was listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List but in recent years the listing has been downgraded to 'Least Risk/Conservation Dependent.'

(Contributed by Gael Almeida TRAFFIC North America)

### MEXICAN PRIMATE SPECIES FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

There are numerous factors involved in the decline of wild populations of primates in Mexico, habitat destruction and illegal pet trade being two of the most important. Forest clearing is still a serious threat because tropical forests in Mexico are being deforested at a mean annual rate of nearly 559,000 ha per year. Selective logging and illegal pet trade are often linked. As mahogany becomes scarcer, loggers search out other commercially important wood species and unfortunately, many of the other timber sources now targeted by loggers also happen to be primary food sources for primates. In addition, the paths and roads cleared by loggers allow poachers easy access into primate habitats.

Illegal trade poses a great threat to Mexican primates because it generally goes on undetected by authorities. It is thought that poachers chase and harass small groups of monkeys in very small forest patches, until animals are forced to descend from trees. Then, females carrying babies are killed, and surviving infants are sold at the edge of roads, or to animal dealers who will deliver the



© STEVEN MORELLO

In Mexico, primate species such as the Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*) are at risk because of habitat loss and also because they are captured from the wild and illegally sold as pets.

infants to other markets or to specific customers.

In Mexico, live trade of monkeys is a very profitable activity for the intermediate and final dealers, because a baby howler or spider monkey may be eventually be sold for more than the national monthly minimum wage of \$1200 pesos (around \$109 USD). Even if local poachers only obtain a quarter of what the animals are eventually sold for, it is still a profitable activity for them and poachers that sell a few of the animals can make the equivalent of the national monthly minimum wage. In addition, local poachers may consume the meat of adult animals or use the carcasses for other purposes, such as fishing bait.

Hunting and trade not only reduces the size of wild populations, it also modifies the demographic structure (age/sex structure) of the population, which is highly detrimental to large-bodied primates such as spider monkeys or howler monkeys, due to their low fecundity rates. By targeting females—the most sensitive reproductive element—natural populations are put at risk.

Unfortunately, information on the impact of illegal trade of primates in Mexico is nonexistent, and there are very few quantitative field studies that evaluate the effect of selective logging and hunting in rural communities. However, government seizures data may

help reveal the alarming magnitude of illegal trade in Mexico. For example, between 1995 and 2000, a total of 398 live native spider monkey and howler monkey specimens (*Ateles geoffroyi*, *Alouatta palliata* and *Alouatta pigra*), were confiscated by the Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA). The seizures data represents an unknown proportion of the total illegal trade, as much of the illegal trade is believed to go undetected.

Even though Mexican primates are protected by legislation (NOM-ECOL-059), there are still gaps in scientific understanding and specific government programs focused on the protection of Mexican primates are lacking. Additionally there is an urgent need to carry out formal research to determine the current population status and the impact of illegal trade, before additional protection measures can be devised. The recent addition of Article 60 to the General Law of Wildlife, which prohibits the commercial use of primates, including the importation of exotic specimens, has also raised concerns. The consequences of this decision will certainly exert greater demand for native primate species in the pet market. The conservation status of Mexican primates needs to be reviewed by CITES and IUCN. In the meantime, poachers and loggers are inflicting serious damage upon wild populations.

(Contributed by Rosalía Pastor Nieto, *Baknikité / Ecología y Hábitat AC.- México*)

## NEWS FROM CANADA

### FOCUS ON NORTHERN ABALONE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Abalones are snail-like mollusks found in coastal waters around the world. All of the approximately 100 species of abalone are within the genus *Haliotis*. The Northern or Pinto abalone (*Haliotis kamtschatkana*) is found along the Pacific Coast of North America, from northern Alaska to Baja California, in patchy distributions on exposed and semi-exposed areas from low intertidal to subtidal depths. Most abalones in British Columbia are found at depths shallower than 10 m. They are a small species of abalone, reaching up to 165 mm in length. Abalones cling to rocky substrate

with their large muscular foot. This fleshy foot is highly valued for food use and is a delicacy in many cuisines.

The species was legally harvested until 1990 when Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) implemented a complete ban on collecting the species. It was subsequently listed as a threatened species and was legally protected under the Canadian *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*. Any harvesting of the species is illegal and in violation of both the *Fisheries Act* and *SARA*. Northern abalones are also listed as endangered under the IUCN Red List and are included on British Columbia's Provincial List of threatened or endangered species.

In Canada, Northern abalone populations have continued to decline despite legal protection. Many sources attribute this decline to illegal harvesting. Abalones command high market value and adequate enforcement is difficult on Canada's rugged west coast. Recovery for this species has been difficult because abalones are relatively slow growing, taking up to three to four years to mature and reproduce.

However, DFO officers have been working hard to stop the illegal harvest and trade in the species and have made numerous arrests of abalone poachers and seizures of abalone. The biggest occurred in February 2006 when poachers were caught with approximately 11,000 specimens—the largest abalone seizure in British Columbia. Examples of other seizures and prosecutions in recent years include:

- November 2004, an operator of a Vancouver seafood company was fined \$50,000 (CAD) for buying and selling abalones.
- October 2005, an individual was fined \$35,000 (CAD) for illegal possession of 196 abalones, illegally harvested from the North Coast of British Columbia.
- April 2006, security at Prince Rupert airport tipped off Fisheries Officers that they suspected that a woman had boarded a Vancouver-bound flight with a cooler containing abalone. At Vancouver International Airport, the woman's cooler was inspected and revealed 34 abalone, and a substantial amount of money, all of which was seized.
- May 2006, the Royal Canadian Mounted



Police seized 34 abalone and arrested an individual for allegedly selling abalone at a mall in Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

Hopefully vigorous enforcement and stiff penalties will eventually stem the tide of poaching and allow the species to finally recover. TRAFFIC actively supports the scientific and enforcement activities directed at saving this species and participates in the [Northern] Abalone Recovery Implementation Group.

*(contributed by Tanya Shadbolt, TRAFFIC North America).*

## NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES

### COURT FINE USED TO FIGHT ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

As the saying goes, 'crime doesn't pay.' And in this case, it actually cost the criminal quite a bit of money.

In April 2006, an Oregon woman, Deborah Walding was convicted for offering to sell an endangered ocelot, which is a violation of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Walding was sentenced to 10 months detention and was ordered to provide a \$25,000 community service payment to TRAFFIC. As few as 70 ocelots are known to remain in the wild in the United States, most of them on the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in south Texas. These nocturnal cats are endangered throughout their range in Texas and Central and South America, mostly due to habitat destruction and illegal trafficking in pelts. They are protected by national and international laws.

Walding was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Michael Mosman, who said he hoped the sentence would send a message deterring others who illegally sell exotic cats and other rare wildlife. He also stated, "These are serious offenses that lead to the decline of species in the wild." Assistant U.S. Attorney Dwight Holton prosecuted the case.

TRAFFIC will be using the payment to provide support to wildlife enforcers and to research emerging trends in wildlife trade. Crawford Allan, Acting Director of TRAFFIC North America commended the enforcement action and said "As long as there is profit there will be illegal trade in wildlife. Wildlife crimes need to be brought to court and

the judiciary needs to respond in this way, with penalties that significantly impact the profits and liberty of wildlife criminals. Without this strong deterrent effect, black markets for wildlife will flourish."

*(USFWS News Release; 10 April 2006; compiled by Jill Hepp TRAFFIC North America)*

### FOCUS ON FUR TRADE IN NORTH AMERICA

According to the International Fur Trade Federation, in 2005 global fur sales had risen for the seventh consecutive year, reaching a total of \$12.77 billion USD. Approximately, 15% of furs sold come from animals taken from the wild and Canada and the United States supply a significant portion of these pelts. A recent review of the current trends of the North American wild fur trade was undertaken to determine if there were any emerging compliance problems or if trade was becoming unsustainable as a result of the increase in trade in furs.

Sales in Canada and the United States have followed the international trend and increased in recent years. Trapping of wild furbearers in Canada

has remained fairly constant since 1998, but harvesting in the United States has decreased from 6,096,783 pelts in 1996 to 2,284,604 in 2003. Mexico has very limited furbearer populations and therefore limited trade. Examining the trade data from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and CITES, indicates that the numbers of pelts in trade from North America are well below the amount of harvested pelts and there is minimal amount of illegal activity. The scale of trade in Mexico is small with only 353,709 fur products exported between 1998 and 2005 which in comparison with Canada or United States reveals the trade to be quite small. This includes one shipment of over 350,000 pieces of fur trim, however there is a noticeable amount of illicit trade that should be addressed. This initial examination of secondary sources suggests the fur industry appears to be well regulated in Canada and the United States, with little recorded illegal activity and is not over harvesting from wild sources.

*(contributed by Tanya Wyatt, PhD Candidate, University of Kent, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research)*



Ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*) are protected in the United States by the Endangered Species Act. In 2006, a woman in Oregon was convicted of offering to sell an endangered ocelot and was ordered to provide a \$25,000 community service payment to TRAFFIC North America

### STAFF NEWS

TRAFFIC North America is pleased to have Linda Downing join our team as a Senior Administrative Assistant in the Washington, D.C. office. Linda is a native of Nicaragua and has a B.B.A in Marketing from Marymount University.

# Enforcement Successes in the NEWS

**TRAFFIC North America continues to monitor reports of wildlife trade news, events and prosecutions in North America and around the globe. A sampling is presented here to highlight trends in wildlife trade and conservation.**

## PRISON SENTENCE FOR MAN CAUGHT WITH LOGGERHEAD TURTLE EGGS



Sea turtles, such as the Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) are often illegally targeted for their meat and eggs. In Mexico, it is illegal to sell any products made from sea turtles.

On June 22, a Mexican, Adán Hernández Covarrubias was found guilty of the possession of 800 marine turtle eggs and sentenced to 3 years in prison

and a fine of \$59,627 pesos (around \$6,000 USD) fine. Hernández and two other persons were detained last April in Mexico City Central Market while unloading 6,000 Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) eggs. Loggerhead turtles are an endangered species that nests on the Pacific coast of Mexico. It is believed that the eggs were probably collected in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. The sentencing of the two other detained persons is still pending. This detention was possible because of the coordinated work between the General Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), the Secretary of Marine and the Federal Agency of Investigation. ([www.profepa.gob.mx](http://www.profepa.gob.mx); 22 June 2006)

## STING OPERATION IN CHARCO CERCADO, MEXICO

On June 15th, PROFEPA carried out the second sting operation of 2006 in Charco Cercado, San Luis Potosi, one of the largest wildlife trade hotspots in Mexico. During this operation, some 1,000 vehicles were inspected and approximately 70 wildlife items were

seized. There were 25 specimens of birds and snakes that were healthy enough to be released back to the wild. Officers also seized several different types of cacti species, along with six mockingbirds, two coyote puppies, and one recently hatched Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*).



Wildlife products such as cactus and reptile skins are often available in roadside stalls in places such as Charco Cercado, San Luis Potosi. PROFEPA and other enforcement agencies in Mexico are working to curb the illegal sale of wildlife.

This sting operation is part of an ongoing program that seeks to eradicate illegal wildlife trade in Mexico by combating the supply of these products and closing black markets. This sting operation was carried out by PROFEPA in collaboration with the government of the state of San Luis Potosi and the Federal Police.

([www.profepa.gob.mx](http://www.profepa.gob.mx); 15 June 2006)

## INTERNET WILDLIFE TRADER SENTENCED

A Pennsylvania man who sold more than \$200,000 worth of endangered species' parts, hides and mounts through his website and retail shop in Port St. Lucie, Florida, was sentenced to 25 months in prison by a federal court in Miami in April. McMaster operated a website known as Deadzoo.com and a retail store, Exotic & Unique Gifts. He admitted to selling federally protected wildlife parts, including tiger, snow leopard and jaguar skins as well as a gorilla skull and baby tiger mounts



between 2003 and 2004. Special agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began investigating McMaster's illegal wildlife trade in November 2003, after an agent in Illinois received an unsolicited email message from McMaster offering "cat skins" for sale. The agent eventually purchased two Bengal tiger skins for \$15,300; a snow leopard skin for \$7,000 and a clouded leopard skin for \$4,500. In addition to his own website, McMaster offered to sell protected wildlife using other websites such as eBay and Taxidermy.net. McMaster was charged in December 2005 with two felony violations of the Lacey Act, a federal wildlife protection law, and two misdemeanor violations of the Endangered Species Act. McMaster pleaded guilty in federal court in January 2006.

*(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 20 April 2006)*

### FISHING FOR TROUBLE

Three Lake Huron commercial fishermen and their company have been ordered to pay a massive \$485,000 (CAD) for deliberately and systematically falsifying fishing reports and for taking more than their allocated quota of whitefish (*Coregonus dupeaformis*) from Lake Huron. William Jackson and his firm, which operates three gillnetting tugs and a retail/wholesale store in Southampton, Canada, fished Lake Huron under licenses issued annually by the Ministry of Natural Resources. All commercial fishing licenses have allocated quotas set for different species and for different areas of the lake. Commercial fishermen must submit accurate daily catch reports and then this information is used to determine total catches in comparison to allocated quotas, and to calculate royalties due to the government. The investigation began in the spring 2004 when discrepancies were noted between the fishing locations reported and through observations by a conservation officer with the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit. Acting under the authority of a warrant, the officers had a tracking device placed on one of the tugs. It confirmed that whitefish were being caught in one zone and then reported as being from another. Search warrants provided evidence revealing more than 15,454 kg (34,000 lb) of whitefish had been taken over the quota

in 2003 and more than 88,181 kg (194,000 lb) in 2004.

*(Canada Ministry of Natural Resources News Release, 24 May 2006)*

### RARE REPTILES DISGUISED AS STUFFED ANIMALS



© CRAWFORD ALLAN/TRAFFIC NORTH AMERICA

Both the Indian Star Tortoise (pictured above) and the Burmese Star Tortoise are listed on Appendix II of CITES and require a valid export permit to legally import these species.

In March 2006, a licensed animal importer Jonathon Sawyer was sentenced to 15 months in prison and two years of supervised release for illegally importing and exporting rare reptiles. The case started in 2003 when undercover agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delivered a package from Thailand marked "stuffed animals" to the Washington home of Sawyer. The package had been inspected by customs agents in Alaska who found it did not contain stuffed animals but instead four live Burmese Star Tortoises and two Green Tree Monitor Lizards. Both are species whose trade is restricted by international and U.S. law and Sawyer failed to obtain the required permits to bring them into the United States. Sawyer, a licensed animal importer and exporter, was aware of the regulations and how to present animals to customs and knowingly violated the law. Sawyer eventually admitted that he had shipped reptiles worth almost \$30,000 from the United States to a supplier in Thailand on seven different occasions between 2002 and 2003 including 20 Corn Snakes, 100

Leopard Geckos, one Albino Leopard Gecko, 14 Rhino Iguanas, and 98 Emperor Scorpions in boxes labeled "Stuffed Toy Animals." Authorities also arrested the man responsible for shipping the reptiles from Thailand when he made a trip to Florida in July 2003. Wee Soon Chye was sentenced in Florida to 37 months in prison for his smuggling with Sawyer and others in the United States.

*(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service News Release 10 March 2006)*

### TORONTO COMPANY CONVICTED FOR UNLAWFULLY IMPORTING CAVIAR

In November, Caviar Centre Inc was convicted by the Ontario Court of Justice — Criminal Division, for unlawfully importing sturgeon caviar into Canada from Turkey without a CITES permit. The company, one of Canada's premier caviar import and wholesale operations, was handed a fine of \$3,000 and ordered to forfeit the 126 kilograms of seized caviar with a retail value estimated at \$305,000.



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As of 2004, governments that are parties to CITES agreed to a universal caviar labeling system in order to help governments, traders and consumers distinguish legal caviar in trade from illegal caviar. In addition, any international shipments of sturgeon caviar must be accompanied by relevant CITES permits.

It is alleged that the caviar in question originated in the Caspian Sea Region where sturgeon populations are in a precarious state. The conviction concluded an investigation undertaken by Environment Canada officers in late 2004 and early 2005. The convicted company attempted to import caviar using falsified CITES permits.

*(Environment Canada News Release, 14 November 2006)*

## ROUTINE CHECKS UNCOVER TIGER PARTS AT BANGKOK AIRPORT

Thai Police detected and confiscated illegal wildlife parts, including the remains of six Tigers, during an inspection of cargo at Bangkok's Don Muang Airport in June.



Tigers face immense pressure due to habitat loss and poaching for their skins and for use in traditional medicines. Estimates suggest that there are less than 5,000 tigers left in the wild.

The cargo had been transported from Hat Yai, a Thai city near the Malaysian border, to Bangkok in the cargo section of a Thai Airways flight. Economic Police officers routinely check cargo for any possible contraband trafficked in from other countries and this time revealed three boxes of animal skulls and bones. Investigations continue into who was responsible for the smuggling and where the illegal wildlife parts originated. If discovered and convicted under Thai law, the traffickers face up to five years imprisonment or a fine of four times the value of the contraband, which in this case would total about \$80,000. Tigers are totally protected under Thai legislation, and listed in Appendix 1 of CITES, prohibiting all commercial international trade in the species.

(TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and WildAid Press Release 8 June 2006)

## TONS OF FROZEN PANGOLINS DETECTED IN HONG KONG

In July, Hong Kong Customs officers at Kwai Chung Custom house seized 4,400 kilograms of frozen pangolin carcass, worth about HK\$890,000. The

consignment was labeled as assorted frozen fishes and was shipped from Indonesia to Hong Kong in a 40-foot container on July 16, for re-export to mainland China. After inspection at the cargo examination compound, Customs officers found frozen pangolin carcasses hidden under frozen fish inside the container. Pangolins are listed on Appendix II of CITES and a zero annual export quota has been established for specimens removed from the wild and traded for primarily commercial purposes. Under the Hong Kong Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of "importing unmanifested cargoes" is liable to a maximum fine of HK \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years. Similarly, the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance states that any person found guilty of trading endangered species for commercial purpose is liable to a maximum fine of HK\$5 million and imprisonment for two years.

(Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government News Release, 22 July 2006)

## HUMPHEAD WRASSE SEIZURE ON SULAWESI ISLAND



The most desirable size for humphead wrasse in the live reef fish trade are "plate-sized," generally between 20-60 cm. Harvesting humphead wrasse at this size often means that the fish has not yet had a chance to reproduce which puts the next generation in jeopardy. A CITES export permit is required for international trade in this species.

An attempt at smuggling humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), occurred in June 2006 when 36 of the fish were seized at Manado airport, on Indonesia's Sulawesi Island. They had been destined for Hong Kong restaurants, where one kilogram of the rare fish fetches \$80-

\$130. In 2005, the species was added to Appendix II of CITES. Illegal trade is a growing concern and in north Sulawesi, where catches are prohibited, authorities carried out three seizures in five months. A total of 693 Napoleon fish, mostly still alive were seized.

(Cyber Divers News Network article, 15 July 2006)

## SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION EFFORTS EFFECTIVE IN MEXICO

The 2006 campaign for the protection of Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) breeding sites in



The Kemp Ridley sea turtle is the smallest of all eight species of sea turtles and is also unique in that it nests during daylight hours in large groups.

the Gulf of Mexico concluded during the first week of November. PROFEPA announced that this campaign focused on protecting and monitoring the births of Kemp's Ridley Turtles, which increased by 24% in 2006 from the previous year. PROFEPA dedicates human and financial resources during the months of March through November to protect the nesting sites from poachers because Kemp's Ridley Turtle nesting sites are found only in the Gulf of Mexico. Mexican law prohibits the use of sea turtles, a person can be convicted for nine years in prison if found with eggs or products from any species of sea turtle.

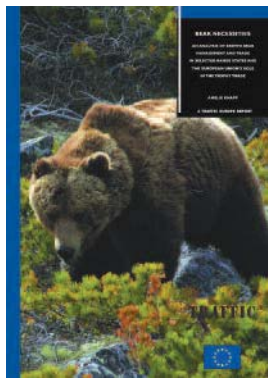
([www.profepe.gob.mx](http://www.profepe.gob.mx))





**The following reports were published in 2006 and 2007 by the TRAFFIC Network. Reports can be found at [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org).**

*A review of the trade in Aloe ferox, with a focus on the role of the European Union.* Amelie Knapp. TRAFFIC Europe Report for the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium. August 2006.



*Bear Necessities. An analysis of Brown Bear management and trade in selected range States and the European Union's role in the trophy trade.* Amelie Knapp. TRAFFIC Europe Report for the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium. April 2006.

*Catching on? Trade-related measures as a fisheries management tool.* M Lack. March 2007.

*Confronting Shark Conservation Head On.* M Lack and G Sant. December 2006.

*Conservation Implications of Allocation under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.* Willock A and Cartwright I. WWF Australia and TRAFFIC Oceania. November 2006.

*Conservation of Spiny Dogfish Squalus acanthias: A Role for CITES?* M. Lack. December 2006.

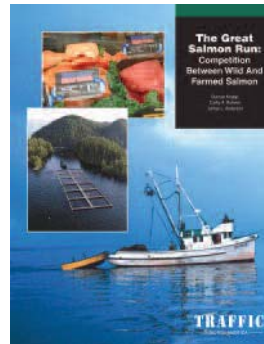
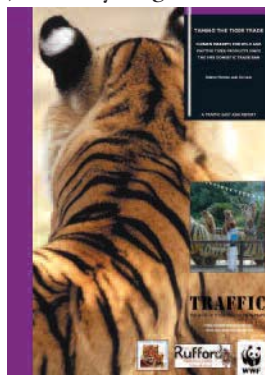
*Follow the Leader: Learning from experience and best practice in regional fisheries management organizations.* A Willock, M Lack. May 2006.

*Implementation of Article 16, Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97, in the 25 Member States of the European Union.* Tobias Garstecki. October 2006.

*Proceedings of the International Expert Workshop on Wildlife Detector Dogs 3-5 March 2006, Bad Schandau, Germany.* Felgentreu B (Ed). WWF Germany and TRAFFIC Europe, Frankfurt am Main. November 2006.

*Sport Hunting in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region: An overview.* Barnett, R. and Patterson, C. October 2006.

*Taming the Tiger Trade: China's Markets For Wild and Captive Tiger Products Since the 1993 Tomestic Trade Ban.* Kristin Nowell and Xu Ling. March 2007.



*The Great Salmon Run: Competition Between Wild and Farmed Salmon.* Knapp, G., C. Roheim and J. Anderson. March 2007.

*The Trade of the Roti Island Snake-necked Turtle Chelodina mccordi.* Chris R. Shepherd and Bonggi Ibarondo. February 2006.

*The Use of Trade-Related Measures in the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).* Presented to the meeting of the CCSBT Compliance Committee in Miyazaki, Japan Oct 2006. Glenn Sant TRAFFIC and Mary Lack. December 2006.

*Western Pacific Workshop on Policy, Enforcement and Sustainable Trade for the CITES Appendix II - listed Humphead/Napoleon Wrasse, Cheilinus undulatus 5 - 7 June 2006.* WWF Hong Kong, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Hong Kong SAR, IUCN and TRAFFIC. February 2007.

*Wildlife Trade in Central and Eastern Europe.* A review of CITES implementation in 15 countries. Kecse-Nagy, K., Papp, D., Knapp, A., von Meibom, S. December 2006.

*World shark catch, production & trade 1990 - 2003.* M. Lack, G. Sant. A TRAFFIC Oceania report commissioned by the Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Heritage. January 2006.

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We are in the process of updating our subscription database with reader's email addresses as part of our ongoing efforts to expand the reach of our newsletter, while working to reduce resource consumption. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter via email, please sign up at [www.worldwildlife.org/traffic](http://www.worldwildlife.org/traffic), or send an email to [tna@wwfus.org](mailto:tna@wwfus.org). As always, a PDF version of the newsletter is available at [http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/traffic\\_newsletters.cfm](http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/traffic_newsletters.cfm). We will randomly select five respondents who send us their email address by May 1, 2007 to receive a prize!

Below 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.

Date	Event	Details
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

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)

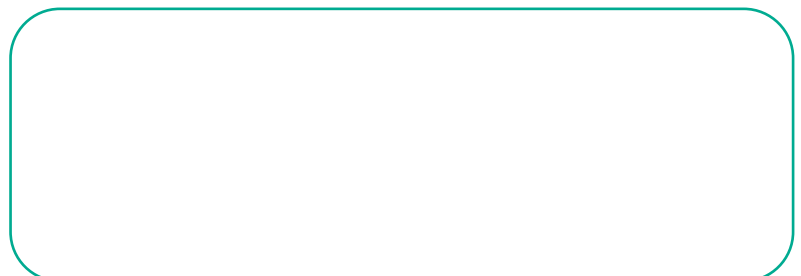
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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



Volumen 5 • Número 1 • March 2007

## COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL, LA CLAVE PARA CONTENER EL COMERCIO ILEGAL DE ESPECIES SILVESTRES

**A**SEAN-WEN es una iniciativa para crear la red más grande del mundo dedicada a vigilar la aplicación de la ley en materia de vida SILVESTRE.

Esta iniciativa, esta apoyada por un proyecto financiado por USAID y administrado por TRAFFIC y WildAid. Este informe del Sudeste Asiático explica por qué ASEAN-WEN es vital para la existencia futura de muchas especies amenazadas.

Cientos de pangolines (orden *Pholidota*) en bolsas de lona azul se encuentran encimados en la parte trasera del camión, a la espera de un viaje largo e incómodo. Cargados en el sur de Malasia, estaban en camino hacia el norte a través de Tailandia, rumbo a China. La carga del camión, como muchas otras, se matará por su carne y escamas, que se cree tienen propiedades medicinales. El Pangolín Malasio (*Mantis javanica*) está completamente protegido en Malasia, mas sin embargo, es el mamífero que más se comercializa en la región. Adicionalmente a la demanda por carne y sangre como alimento, y las escamas como ingredientes para la medicina tradicional, la piel del pangolín se curte para hacer una gran variedad de productos.

La sobreexplotación de las especies silvestres como el pangolín es un problema mundial. Los animales y plantas silvestres se comercializan en grandes cantidades para utilizarlos como carne, mascotas, ingredientes de la medicina tradicional, trofeos de caza, artículos de lujo y para zoológicos. Mientras que mucha de la comercialización es legal, la falta de la

intervención administrativa y la falta de recursos de las agencias gubernamentales para aplicar la ley, continúa empujando a muchas especies hacia su extinción. El Sudeste Asiático es especialmente vulnerable a los comerciantes sin escrúpulos, debido a la rica biodiversidad existente que abarca muchas especies raras y endémicas.

Las especies como el pangolín, la tortuga de cuello de culebra de la Isla Roti, el pez Napoleón, las orquídeas y los orangutanes son tesoros de la biodiversidad del Sudeste Asiático; pero su popularidad como mascotas, alimento y medicina está devastando las poblaciones silvestres de estas especies,

*continued on page 2*



© JAMES COMPTON/TRAFFIC SOUTHEAST ASIA

The ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network brings together the efforts of ten nations in Southeast Asia to help combat the illegal trade in endangered species of wildlife. Here an enforcement official in Thailand uncovers an illegal shipment of the Malayan pangolin.

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teniendo éstas y sus partes, una gran demanda en los mercados legales e ilegales. Por ejemplo, a principios de este año, oficiales forestales de Tailandia decomisaron alrededor de 250 pangolines y 64 tortugas negras de pantano. Con base en un informe confidencial, las autoridades inspeccionaron 60 contenedores que se suponía contenían tortugas de orejas rojas en un vuelo de Thai Airways International que volaba de Penang, Malasia, transitando en Bangkok en ruta a Laos.

Además, debido al desarrollo económico y al incremento en el poder adquisitivo en el Sudeste Asiático, ha crecido también la demanda de las especies que se encuentran fuera de la

región. Muchas tiendas de mascotas en Malasia tienen su inventario de Tortugas Estrelladas (*Geochelone elegans*), nativas de la India, Sri Lanka y Pakistán. A mediados de septiembre del 2006, los funcionarios Aduanales de India decomisaron casi 1,500 Tortugas Estrelladas destinadas a Malasia y se arrestó a un comerciante malayo de 33 años que traficaba peces ornamentales.

A través de los años, los criminales involucrados se han vuelto cada vez más sofisticados para evadir la ley. Por lo general, las operaciones de contrabando están mejor financiadas que las agencias para el cumplimiento de la ley encargadas de regular y vigilar el tráfico de especies silvestres. Sin embargo, los 10 Países miembros de la Asociación de las Naciones del Sudeste Asiático (ASEAN) han establecido un claro compromiso para revertir esta situación. En diciembre de 2005, los representantes ministeriales lanzaron la coalición más grande del mundo para el cumplimiento de la ley en esta materia, conocida como la Red para el Cumplimiento de la Ley para la Vida Silvestre (ASEAN-WEN), con el fin de facilitar la cooperación para la implementación de la ley y compartir inteligencia entre agencias gubernamentales nacionales y sus contrapartes internacionales.

El lanzamiento de esta red regional está directamente vinculada con la Declaración ASEAN en la CITES (Convención de Comercio Internacional de Especies en Peligro de Extinción de la Fauna y la Flora Silvestre) en 2004, que identificó una lista de compromisos que se lograrían a través del Plan de Acción Regional ASEAN sobre Fauna y Flora Silvestre 2005-2010.

Mientras que cada nación opera conforme a su jurisdicción, el aumento de la coordinación con otros países en la región es fundamental para erradicar el contrabando internacional. Los países ASEAN también han identificado el fortalecimiento de capacidades como una necesidad para mejorar las acciones de aplicación de las leyes.

Un generoso apoyo para el desarrollo de la red fue proporcionado por la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID), y la Oficina Regional Ambiental del Departamento de Estado en Bangkok que ha apoyado esta iniciativa desde el inicio.

El apoyo de USAID ha sido esencial para reforzar la red y refleja el compromiso de los Estados Unidos de apoyar a otras naciones para detener el comercio ilegal de especies silvestres. El Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos, el Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos y la Secretaría CITES, también han proporcionado apoyo y facilitación en el proceso.

En línea con las metas de ASEAN-WEN, TRAFFIC ha enfocado mucho de su trabajo de capacitación a los aeropuertos internacionales del Sudeste Asiático –puntos críticos del comercio de especies silvestres – para mejorar la intercepción de cargas ilegales de este tipo. Muchos más de estos talleres están programados para el año próximo. Otros esfuerzos se están realizando también para manejar el comercio ilegal en los países. En agosto del 2006, se impartió en Bangkok un curso de capacitación para la policía y funcionarios a cargo la aplicación de la ley sobre vida silvestre, por parte de el Proyecto de Apoyo de ASEAN-WEN.

Un ejemplo del impacto que ha tenido la capacitación, fue el decomiso de 15 Tortugas Radiadas (*Geochelone radiata*), especie en peligro de extinción, a principios de septiembre del 2006 en Bangkok, que arribaron de Madagascar. Las Tortugas Radiadas están listadas en el Apéndice I de la CITES, que prohíbe el comercio internacional de esta especie. Las tortugas estaban escondidas en el equipaje de un ciudadano de Madagascar que arribó al Aeropuerto Internacional de Don Luang. Además, se decomisaron 200 camaleones, de especies no identificadas.

Al equipo de oficiales a cargo de la aplicación de la ley fue motivado para actuar al enterarse por TRAFFIC, justo diez días antes, sobre las especies de reptiles en peligro de extinción (incluyendo la tortuga Radiada) que abiertamente se venden los fines de semana en el mercado Chatuchak de Bangkok. “De esto se trata: Acción. Queremos ver que los esfuerzos de capacitación traduzcan las políticas en verdadera acción para el combate del comercio ilegal de las especies silvestres,” dijo Chris Shepherd, Oficial de Programa Senior del Programa TRAFFIC del Sudeste Asiático.

(Adaptado de un artículo en el Green Heart de Loretta Ann Soosayraj de WWF Malasia.)

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## LVOLTEANDO LA MIRADA A CITES, Eh?...



En mayo del 2005, TRAFFIC Norteamérica publicó *CITES, Eh?: Un Revisión a la Implementación de la CITES en Canadá Conforme a WAPPRIITA*. Este informe proporciona un análisis a fondo así como una evaluación de la implementación de la CITES en Canadá. Este informe fue la primera revisión completa de la implementación de la CITES desde que Canadá promulgó en 1996 la Ley de Protección y Regulación del Comercio Internacional e Interprovincial de los Animales y Plantas Silvestres (WAPPRIITA), y los Reglamentos Comerciales para Animales y Plantas Silvestres (WATPR). El informe explora la administración y el cumplimiento de la ley en torno a la CITES por Canadá, e identifica las áreas que deben mejorarse. El objetivo del informe era garantizar que la CITES se implemente en Canadá con máxima efectividad.

En el informe se señala que las necesidades básicas de la Convención estaban siendo cumplidas, y que en algunas áreas, el gobierno canadiense estaba realizando una labor ejemplar para implementar la CITES. En especial, el desarrollo de una legislación nacional completa y efectiva para el cumplimiento de CITES y la emisión de permisos de exportación CITES en forma eficiente. Sin embargo, se encontraron otras áreas de ejecución débiles. Por ejemplo:

- Canadá no contaba con una política general básica para implementar la CITES.

- Canadá continuamente fallaba en cumplir los requisitos para reportar ante la CITES, y por tanto incumplía con una obligación fundamental de la Convención.
- La aplicación de la CITES en Canadá no era suficiente ni consistente en todo el país.

En total, el informe hizo 34 recomendaciones para mejorar las fallas en la aplicación de la CITES en Canadá, que en la mayoría de los casos se ligaban con una insuficiencia de recursos humanos y financieros dirigidos a la administración y el cumplimiento de la Convención. CITES no parecía ser una prioridad para el gobierno canadiense en su conjunto, ni para Environment Canada, que es el departamento encargado de garantizar que la Convención se implemente en forma efectiva.

A partir de mayo del 2005, y a raíz de éste informe, se han realizado importantes avances:

- En abril del 2006, Environment Canada fue anfitrión de una reunión nacional de autoridades de CITES (incluyendo TRAFFIC), para discutir la revitalización del programa canadiense para la CITES. El objetivo del taller fue evaluar el programa actual, identificar futuras necesidades de recursos, y examinar los distintos asuntos de la CITES desde una perspectiva de los asuntos diarios. El resultado deseado era un programa canadiense para la aplicación de la CITES más efectivo, con una visión de cooperación para el futuro.
- En octubre de 2006, Environment Canada empezó en forma efectiva a redactar un plan estratégico para la implementación de la CITES en Canadá.
- Todos los informes anuales para la CITES pendientes han sido enviados a la Secretaría. Los informes de 2004 y

2005 fueron entregados antes de la fecha límite requerida por la Convención.

- La Sección para la Vida Silvestre de Environment Canada, ha sido reorganizada en la Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED), con cambios importante en la estructura para reportar. El nuevo Director está dedicado a resolver los vacíos para el cumplimiento de la CITES.

TRAFFIC esta impresionado con la respuesta tan positiva que ha tenido el informe por parte del gobierno canadiense. Queda claro que las autoridades CITES canadienses están dedicadas a mejorar la administración y el cumplimiento de la Convención en Canadá, al igual que TRAFFIC. Ya se ha logrado un buen avance, y TRAFFIC está comprometido en apoyar estos esfuerzos para que la implementación de CITES en Canadá no solo continúe mejorando, sino que se convierta en un ejemplo positivo para el resto del mundo.

*(Contribución de Ernie Cooper, TRAFFIC Norteamérica)*

*El informe CITES Eh? Está disponible en la red de TRAFFIC Norteamérica:*  
<http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/pubs.cfm>

## OJO AL CUMPLIMIENTO DE LA LEY: COMBATIENDO EL SURGIMIENTO DEL CONTRABANDO DE MARFIL DEL ELEFANTE DE AFRICANO

El año pasado se presentó un importante aumento en aseguramientos de marfil de elefante africano en su ruta a Asia. Aproximadamente 21,500 kilogramos de marfil de elefante han sido decomisados a nivel mundial entre septiembre de 2005 y octubre de 2006.

AFRICAN ELEPHANT IVORY SMUGGLING			
Lugar del Decomiso	Marfil decomisado approx. (kg)	País de Origen	Fecha
Filipinas	6,000	Zambia	IX/2005
Filipinas	800	Kenia, Uganda (2 embarques)	X/XII/2005
Hong Kong PRC	6,500	Camerún (2 embarques)	V/2006
Taiwán	5,200	Tanzania (2 embarques)	VII/2006
Japón	3,000	Indonesia (en tránsito)	X/2006
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,500</b>		



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In 2005 and 2006, several large shipments of elephant ivory were discovered by enforcement officials in various ports in Asia. TRAFFIC is helping train enforcement officials on detection methods so as to stop this alarming trend.

Entre mayo y julio de 2006 casi 12 toneladas de marfil fueron decomisadas en Hong Kong y Taiwán, lo que potencialmente representa a 1,800 elefantes. Lo anterior, combinado con informes de extensa caza furtiva de elefantes en Chad en agosto del 2006, dio pie a cuestionamientos sobre el porqué de este resurgimiento ahora y cómo se puede detener. También se han recibido informes de caza furtiva a gran escala en partes de la República Democrática del Congo a finales del 2005. Parte del marfil está destinado a China, donde el crecimiento económico ha generado una creciente demanda de artículos de lujo, como las tallas de marfil. Se especula que el surgimiento actual en el comercio se debe a que las existencias acumuladas de marfil en China se están reduciendo.

Durante los decomisos de julio en Taiwán, dos embarques fueron interceptados con pocos días de diferencia, con más de dos y tres toneladas respectivamente, sumando un total de más de 1,200 colmillos y grandes secciones de colmillos de marfil. En mayo, un decomiso en Hong Kong proveniente de Camerún representó casi cinco toneladas de marfil. En su mayoría, los embarques provienen de Camerún y Tanzania y el marfil a menudo es escondido con astucia dentro de los contenedores de embarque, algunos con compartimentos secretos. En algunos casos, los

embarques han estado en tránsito en las Filipinas y algunos embarques fueron posiblemente destinados a ese país. Se suscitaron alegatos de corrupción en las Filipinas después de que un embarque de seis toneladas fuera decomisado en septiembre del 2005 mismo que “desapareció” de una bodega de Aduanas en mayo del 2006. El Departamento del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de las Filipinas presentó demandas penales en octubre del 2006 contra 21 personas, incluyendo 13 empleados de la Oficina de Aduanas, por estar implicados en el robo de los colmillos de elefantedecomisados.

TRAFFIC ha estado capacitando a funcionarios en el cumplimiento de la ley para detectar embarques de marfil y mejorar los controles del comercio de la vida silvestre en muchos países en Asia y África. Las pistas que ha recibido TRAFFIC en relación con la emergencia del comercio han sido suministradas a las agencias dedicadas al cumplimiento de la ley que investigan este alarmante problema. La INTERPOL y la Secretaría de CITES están trabajando para advertir a las agencias policíacas en los países fuente, de tránsito, y destino para interceptar estos embarques y romper las redes criminales cuando surgen las pistas. La investigación en África en relación a la fuente del marfil confiscado continúa, ya que es claro que no todo se origina en los países de exportación.

(Contribución de Sarah Janicke, WWF U.S.)

## ENFOQUE EN LAS PESQUERÍAS: LA NECESIDAD DEL RFMO DE IMPLANTAR MEJORES PRÁCTICAS

Las organizaciones regionales de administración de las pesquerías (RFMOs por sus siglas en inglés) son el principal mecanismo desarrollado por los Estados para regular la pesca en alta mar, en las aguas fuera de las jurisdicciones nacionales. Pero aún con 16 RFMOs activos en todo el mundo, muchas pesquerías se han colapsado o están a punto de la extinción comercial. Un nuevo informe de TRAFFIC: *Siga al Líder: Aprendiendo de la experiencia y la mejor práctica en organizaciones de administración regional de pesquerías*, publicado en mayo del 2006, señala algunos de los problemas que enfrentan las RFMOs, tales como la Comisión Iteramericana para el Atún Tropical o la Organización de Pesquerías del Noroeste del Atlántico. El informe ilustra tanto las prácticas efectivas como las inefectivas que se están llevando a cabo, al tiempo que indica cómo las RFMOs pueden ser más estratégicas y simplificadas para la obtención de mejores resultados.

Por ejemplo, en la Organización de Pesquerías del Noroeste del Atlántico, algunos Estados miembros que están insatisfechos con las cuotas acordadas, las han ignorado y unilateralmente han fijado las propias, mientras que algunos países miembros de la RFMO responsable del Atún de Aleta Azul, regular y conscientemente exceden sus cuotas. En forma alarmante, varios Estados aún no se han unido a las distintas RFMOs y están socavando los esfuerzos de los países responsables. Durante la última década, el manejo de las pesquerías de alta mar en aguas internacionales ha sido desafiado por las nuevas redes de arraste en aguas profundas que están enfocándose en la pesca de nuevos stocks pesqueros. Debido a que la mayoría de las RFMOs son lentas para adoptar medidas administrativas para estas nuevas pesquerías, muchas poblaciones de peces en alta mar, tales como el pez reloj naranjado (*orange roughy*), se han colapsado.

El informe recomienda que los Estados suscriban el Acuerdo de



poblaciones de peces de Naciones Unidas y el Tratado relacionado para la Promoción de Quejas sobre medidas de Conservación y Administración Internacional por Buques de Pesca en Alta Mar. Además, el informe destaca el enfoque precautorio y de manejo del ecosistema y aboga por que las RFMOs implementen estos principios.

(Compilado por Jill Hepp, TRAFFIC Norteamérica.)

## ¿Sabía Usted?

La demanda de turistas ricos de los Estados Unidos, Europa y Asia por lana shahtoosh está generando un aumento en la cacería furtiva del amenazado antílope Tibetano (*Pantholops hodgsonii*), localmente conocido como chiru. Los chales de shahtoosh, bien conocidos en el mundo de la moda por su calidad excepcional, están hechos con lana de chiru y se venden a miles de dólares por chal en el mercado negro. El Shahtoosh, que significa "rey de las lanas", se obtiene de la cacería y matanza del chiru, que habitan casi exclusivamente en la remota Meseta Tibetana-Quinghai. Un solo chal requiere la lana de entre tres y cinco chirus muertos. En 1900, alrededor de un millón de antílopes vivía en el medio silvestre; en la actualidad es posible que existan alrededor de 50,000 especímenes. Existen sustitutos bien conocidos del shahtoosh, incluyendo la pashmina, que se hace con lana de cachemira obtenida de cabras domésticas.

(Contributed by Sarab Janicke, WWF U.S.)



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## NOTICIAS DE MÉXICO

### CONSERVACIÓN DEL COCODRILO DE PANTANO



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In 2006, representatives from Guatemala, Belize and Mexico met to discuss the sustainable use status of Morelet's crocodile, (*Crocodylus moreletii*)

Durante el 2006, el gobierno mexicano emprendió varias acciones en relación con el uso sustentable del cocodrilo de pantano (*Crocodylus moreletii*). En abril, representantes de Guatemala, Belice y México se reunieron en la Ciudad de México en un taller trinacional con relación a la conservación y uso sostenible del cocodrilo de pantano. El objetivo del taller fue proporcionar actualizaciones

sobre los esfuerzos de conservación que cada país ha desarrollado en pro de la conservación de ésta especie. Las discusiones se enfocaron en el desarrollo de un plan regional para la conservación y uso sostenible de la especie. Al finalizar el taller, los representantes de los tres gobiernos suscribieron un acuerdo que manifiesta su intención de iniciar la elaboración de una estrategia regional, que permita el uso sostenible del cocodrilo de pantano en los tres países.

Después del taller, el gobierno mexicano presentó una solicitud formal a la UICN -Unión Mundial para la Naturaleza- para eliminar al cocodrilo de la Lista Roja que elabora esta organización. Esta solicitud se basó en los resultados que tuvieron evaluaciones recientes de sus poblaciones, las cuales indican una importante recuperación y sugieren que la especie ya no está en peligro de extinción. En 1982, la especie fue listada como "en Peligro" en la Lista Roja de la UICN, pero en años recientes ha sido modificada en su categoría a "Menor riesgo / Dependiente de Conservación".

(poscontribución de Gael Almeida, TRAFFIC Norteamérica)

### LAS ESPECIES PRIMATES DE MÉXICO ENFRENTAN UN FUTURO INCIERTO

Existen diversas causas relacionadas a la disminución de las poblaciones silvestres de primates en México: la destrucción de su hábitat y la comercialización ilegal de mascotas son dos de las causas más importantes. La tala de bosques continúa siendo una seria amenaza ya que los bosques tropicales en México están siendo deforestados a una tasa promedio de casi 559,000 hectáreas por año. La explotación forestal selectiva y la comercialización ilegal de mascotas están a menudo ligadas. Como la caoba es cada vez más escasa, los cortadores de madera buscan otras especies de madera comercialmente importantes muchas de las cuales, desafortunadamente, son también las principales fuentes de alimento de los primates. Además, las veredas y caminos de los talamontes permiten que los cazadores furtivos tengan fácil acceso al hábitat de los primates.

El comercio ilegal representa una enorme amenaza para los primates mexicanos porque en general no es detectado por las autoridades. Se cree que los cazadores furtivos corretean y



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In Mexico, primate species such as the Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pigra*) are at risk because of habitat loss and also because they are captured from the wild and illegally sold as pets.

molestan a pequeños grupos de monos en lugares muy pequeños del bosque, hasta que los animales se ven forzados a descender de los árboles. Entonces, matan a las hembras que van cargando a sus bebés y los infantes que sobreviven se venden a la orilla del camino o a distribuidores de animales que entregarán a los infantes a otros mercados o a clientes específicos.

En México, el comercio de monos vivos es una actividad muy redituable para los distribuidores intermediarios y finales, debido a que un bebe de mono aullador o de mono araña puede ser eventualmente vendido por más de lo que se ganaría con un salario mínimo mensual de \$1,200 pesos (aproximadamente US\$109). Aun cuando los cazadores furtivos locales sólo obtienen una cuarta parte de la cantidad total por la que se vendieron los animales, les representa una actividad redituable ya que con la venta de unos cuantos animales pueden ganar el equivalente al salario mínimo mensual nacional. Además, los cazadores furtivos locales pueden consumir la carne de los animales adultos o utilizar el cadáver con otros fines, como por ejemplo carnada para pescar.

La cacería y la comercialización no sólo reduce el tamaño de las poblaciones silvestres, también modifica la estructura demográfica (estructura edad/sexo) de la población, lo cual es muy perjudicial para los grandes primates, como los monos araña o los monos aulladores, debido a su baja tasa de fecundidad. Al atacar a las hembras -el elemento reproductivo más sensible- se ponen en peligro las poblaciones silvestres.

Lamentablemente, no existe información sobre el impacto del

comercio ilegal de primates en México y hay muy pocos campos cuantitativos de estudio que evalúen el efecto de la tala selectiva y de la cacería en comunidades rurales. Sin embargo, los datos de decomisos del gobierno revelan la alarmante magnitud del comercio ilegal en México. Por ejemplo, entre 1995 y 2000, un total de 398 monos araña nativos vivos y especímenes de monos aulladores (*Ateles geoffroyi*, *Alouatta palliata* y *Alouatta pigra*), fueron confiscados por la Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA). Los datos de las confiscaciones representan una parte desconocida del comercio ilegal total, ya que se considera que la mayor parte del comercio ilegal no es detectada.

Aun cuando los primates mexicanos están protegidos por ley (NOM-ECOL-059-2001), existen vacíos en el entendimiento científico y los programas de Gobierno que se enfocan a la protección de primates. Además, existe una urgente necesidad de llevar a cabo una investigación formal para determinar el estado de las poblaciones actuales y el impacto del comercio ilegal, antes de que se puedan señalar medidas adicionales de protección. La reciente adición al Artículo 60 de la Ley General de la Vida Silvestre que prohíbe el uso comercial de primates, incluyendo la importación de especímenes exóticos, también ha generado preocupaciones. Las consecuencias de esta decisión ciertamente ejercerán una mayor demanda de especies primates nativas en el mundo de las mascotas. El estado de conservación de los primates mexicanos tiene que ser revisado por CITES y por la UICN. Mientras tanto, los cazadores furtivos y los talamontes están infligiendo serios daños a las poblaciones silvestres.

(Contributed by Rosalía Pastor Nieto, *Baknikté / Ecología y Hábitat AC.- México*)

## NOTICIAS DE CANADÁ

### ENFOQUE EN EL ABULÓN DEL NORTE EN LA COLUMBIA BRITÁNICA

El abulón es un molusco tipo caracol que se encuentran en las aguas costeras de todo el mundo. Las aproximadamente 100 especies de abulón se encuentran dentro del género *Haliotis*. El abulón del Norte o pinto (*Haliotis kamtschatkana*) se

encuentra a lo largo de la Costa del Pacífico de Norteamérica, desde el norte de Alaska hasta Baja California, distribuido por fracciones en áreas expuestas o semi-expuestas a profundidades del bajo intermareal y submareal. La mayoría del abulón de la Columbia Británica se encuentra a una profundidad de menos de 10 metros. Son pequeñas especies de abulón, que alcanzan hasta 165 mm de longitud. Esta especie se adhiere al substrato rocoso con sus grandes pies musculosos. Es éste pie carnoso el que está muy cotizado como alimento y considerado un manjar en muchas cocinas.

La especie se cosechaba legalmente hasta 1990 cuando la institución de Pesquerías y Océanos de Canadá (DFO) implementó la prohibición para cosechar la especie. Posteriormente fue listada entre las especies amenazadas y fue legalmente protegida de acuerdo con la Ley de Especies en Riesgo de Canadá (SARA). Por lo anterior, cualquier cosecha de la especie es ilegal y viola la Ley de Pesquerías y SARA. El abulón del Norte también está enlistado entre las especies amenazadas en la Lista Roja de la UICN, y se incluye en la Lista Provincial de la Columbia Británica de especies amenazadas o en peligro.

En Canadá, las poblaciones de abulón del Norte continúan en declive a pesar de la protección legal. Muchas fuentes atribuyen esta disminución a la cosecha ilegal. El abulón tiene un alto valor en el mercado y es difícil hacer valer la ley en la agreste costa oeste de Canadá. La recuperación de esta especie ha sido difícil dado que el abulón crece en forma relativamente lenta, tardando de tres a cuatro años para madurar y reproducirse.

Sin embargo, los oficiales del DFO han estado trabajando con ahínco para detener la cosecha ilegal y el comercio de la especie y han hecho numerosos arrestos a cosechadores ilegales así como decomisos de abulón. El mayor operativo ocurrió en febrero de 2006 cuando se detuvo a furtivos con aproximadamente 11,000 especímenes - el aseguramiento más grande de abulón en la Columbia Británica. Ejemplos de otros decomisos y procesos en años recientes incluyen:

- Noviembre de 2004, el operador de una empresa de productos marinos de Vancouver fue multado con \$50,000 (CAD) por comprar y vender abulón.
- En octubre de 2005 una persona fue



multada con \$35,000 (CAD) por posesión ilegal de 196 piezas de abulón ilegalmente cosechadas en la Costa Norte de la Columbia Británica.

- En abril del 2006, oficiales de seguridad en el aeropuerto de Prince Rupert dieron aviso a los oficiales de Pesquería de que sospechaban de una mujer que había abordado un vuelo rumbo a Vancouver con un enfriador que contenía abulón. En el Aeropuerto Internacional de Vancouver, el enfriador de la mujer fue inspeccionado y reveló 34 piezas de abulón y una sustancial cantidad de dinero, todo lo cual fue confiscado.
- En mayo del 2006, La Policía Real Montada de Canadá decomiso 34 piezas de abulón y arrestó a una persona acusada de vender abulón en un centro comercial de Prince Rupert, en la Columbia Británica.

Se espera que la vigorosa observancia de la ley y las altas multas eventualmente reduzcan la marea de furtivos y permitan que en forma definitiva se recupere la especie. TRAFFIC apoya de manera activa las actividades científicas y la observancia de las leyes dirigidas a la conservación de esta especie, asimismo participa en el Grupo de Implementación de la Recuperación del Abulón (del Norte).

*(Contribución de Tania Shadbolt, TRAFFIC Norteamérica)*

## NOTICIAS DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

### UNA MULTA DEL TRIBUNAL UTILIZADA PARA COMBATIR EL COMERCIO ILEGAL DE VIDA SILVESTRE

Como dice el dicho “el crimen no paga”. Y en este caso, al criminal le costó una buena cantidad de dinero.

En abril del 2006, una mujer de Oregón, Deborah Walding, fue procesada por poner a la venta un ocelote, especie amenazada, en contravención de la ley de Especies Amenazadas de los Estados Unidos. Walding fue sentenciada a 10 meses en detención y se le ordenó proporcionar \$25,000 en servicio comunitario a TRAFFIC. Se sabe que existen pocos ocelotes, más o menos 70 especímenes en el medio silvestre de los Estados Unidos, la mayoría en el Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre de la Laguna Atascosa al sur de Texas. Estos gatos nocturnos están amenazados a lo largo

de su hábitat en Texas y Centro y Sudamérica, debido principalmente a la destrucción de su hábitat y al tráfico ilegal de sus pieles. Actualmente están protegidos por leyes nacionales e internacionales.

Walding fue sentenciada por el Juez de Distrito de los Estados Unidos Michael Mosman, quien dijo que esperaba que la sentencia enviara un mensaje para desalentar la venta ilegal de gatos exóticos y otros animales silvestres. Asimismo afirmó -“Estas son ofensas serias que llevan a reducir poblaciones de especies en el medio silvestre.” El Asistente del Procurador del los Estados Unidos, Dwight Holton procesó el caso.

TRAFFIC utilizará el pago de esta multa para brindar apoyo a los inspectores de vida silvestre y para investigar tendencias emergentes en el comercio de vida silvestre. Crawford Allan, Director en Funciones de TRAFFIC Norteamérica, celebró estas acciones, y dijo que “en tanto exista una ganancia existirá el comercio ilegal de especies silvestres. Los crímenes en contra de la vida silvestre tienen que presentarse ante los tribunales y la justicia debe responder de esta forma, con multas que impacten de manera importante las utilidades y la libertad de los criminales. Sin este fuerte efecto para desalentarlos, los mercados negros de plantas y animales silvestres florecerán.”

*(Comunicado de prensa de USFWS; 10 de abril del 2006; compilado por Jill Hepp TRAFFIC Norteamérica)*

### ENFOQUE EN EL COMERCIO DE PIELES EN NORTEAMÉRICA

De acuerdo con la Federación Internacional de Comercio de Pieles, en el 2005 la venta global de pieles aumentó por séptimo año consecutivo, alcanzando un total de \$12.77 billones de dólares. Aproximadamente el 15% de las pieles que se venden provienen de animales extraídos del medio silvestre y

Canadá y los Estados Unidos suministran un parte importante de estas pieles. Recientemente se inició una revisión sobre las tendencias actuales en el comercio de pieles de origen silvestre de Norteamérica para determinar si existen problemas en el cumplimiento de las leyes o si el comercio se estaba volviendo insostenible como resultado del aumento en el comercio de pieles.

Las ventas en Canadá y los Estados Unidos han seguido la tendencia internacional y han aumentado en años recientes. El trampeo de animales para obtención de pieles ha permanecido constante en Canadá desde 1998, pero la captura en los Estados Unidos ha disminuido de 6,096,783 pieles en 1996 a 2,284,604 en el 2003. México tiene una población muy pequeña de animales utilizados para la obtención de pieles y, por tanto, un comercio limitado. Los datos de comercio del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos y la CITES, indican que el número de pieles en el comercio Norteamericano está por debajo del número de pieles obtenidas del medio silvestre, y existe una cantidad mínima de actividad ilegal. La escala del comercio en México es pequeña con sólo 353,709 productos de piel exportados entre 1998 y 2005, que comparado con Canadá o los Estados Unidos, revela que el comercio es relativamente pequeño. Esto incluye un embarque de más de 350,000 piezas de adornos de piel. Sin embargo, existe una cantidad considerable de comercio ilícito que debe atenderse. Este examen inicial de fuentes secundarias sugiere que la industria de la piel parece estar bien regulada en Canadá y los Estados Unidos, con poca actividad ilegal registrada y que no se está sobreexplotando el recurso silvestre.

*(poscontribución de Tanya Wyatt, Candidata a PhD, Universidad de York, Escuela de Ciencias Políticas, Sociología e Investigación Social.)*

## STAFF NEWS

TRAFFIC North America is pleased to have Linda Downing join our team as a Senior Administrative Assistant in the Washington, D.C. office. Linda is a native of Nicaragua and has a B.B.A in Marketing from Marymount University.

# NOTICIAS

## SOBRE LA APLICACIÓN EXITOSA DE LAS LEYES

**TRAFFIC** Norteamérica continúa monitoreando los informes, noticias de eventos y procesos legales por comercio de vida silvestre en Norteamérica y en el mundo. A continuación se presenta una muestra para destacar las tendencias en el comercio y conservación de vida silvestre.

### SE SENTENCIA A PRISIÓN A UN HOMBRE EN POSESIÓN DE HUEVOS DE TORTUGA CAGUAMA



Sea turtles, such as the Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) are often illegally targeted for their meat and eggs. In Mexico, it is illegal to sell any products made from sea turtles.

El día 22 de junio, el mexicano, Adán Hernández Covarrubias, fue encontrado culpable por la posesión de 800 huevos de tortuga caguama y fue sentenciado a tres años de prisión y una multa de \$59,627 pesos (aproximadamente \$6,000 USD). Hernández y otras dos personas fueron detenidas el pasado mes abril de 2006 en el Mercado Central de la Ciudad de México mientras descargaban 6,000 huevos de Tortuga Caguama (*Caretta caretta*). Las tortugas

caguama son una especie en peligro de extinción que anida en las costas del Pacífico de México. Se cree que los huevos fueron probablemente recolectados en el estado de Oaxaca, México. La sentencia de las otras dos personas detenidas continúa pendiente. Esta detención fue posible gracias al trabajo coordinado entre la Procuraduría de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA), la Secretaría de la Marina y la Agencia Federal de Investigación.

([www.profepa.gob.mx](http://www.profepa.gob.mx); 22 de junio del 2006)

### SE REALIZA EL SEGUNDO OPERATIVO DE SELLAMIENTO EN CHARCO CERCADO, MÉXICO



Wildlife products such as cactus and reptile skins are often available in roadside stalls in places such as Charco Cercado, San Luis Potosi. PROFEPA and other enforcement agencies in Mexico are working to curb the illegal sale of wildlife.

El día 15 de junio la PROFEPA llevó a cabo el segundo operativo de sellamiento del 2006 en Charco Cercado, San Luis Potosí, una de los mayores puntos de venta de especies silvestres en México. Durante esta operación unos 1,000 vehículos fueron inspeccionados y aproximadamente 70 artículos de vida silvestre fueron decomisados. Se encontraron 25 especímenes de aves y serpientes que estaban lo suficientemente saludables para ser liberados de nuevo al medio silvestre. Los funcionarios también decomisaron distintos tipos de especies de cactáceas, junto con seis ruisenores, dos cachorros de coyote, y una cría de tecolote llanero (*Athene cunicularia*).

Este operativo forma parte de un programa continuo que pretende erradicar el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre en México, combatiendo el suministro de estos productos y cerrando

los mercados negros. Este operativo lo llevó a cabo la PROFEPA en colaboración con el Gobierno del Estado de San Luis Potosí y la Policía Federal Preventiva.

([www.profepa.gob.mx](http://www.profepa.gob.mx); 15 de junio del 2006)

### SE SENTENCIÓ A UN DISTRIBUIDOR POR INTENET DE VIDA SILVESTRE

Un hombre del Estado de Pensilvania, que vendió más de \$200,000 en partes, pieles y taxidermias de especies en peligro de extinción a través de Internet y en una tienda al menudeo en Port St. Lucie, Florida, fue sentenciado a 25 meses de prisión por un tribunal federal de Miami en abril. McMaster operaba una sitio web conocido como Deadzoo.com y una tienda al menudo, Exotic & Unique Gifts. Admitió que vendió partes de especies silvestres protegidas federalmente, incluyendo pieles de tigre, leopardo de la nieve, y jaguar, así como cráneos de gorila y taxidermias de tigres bebé, entre el 2003 y el 2004. Agentes especiales del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos empezaron a investigar el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre realizado por McMaster en noviembre del 2003, después de que un agente en Illinois recibió un mensaje no solicitado por correo electrónico de McMaster ofreciendo "pieles de gato" en venta. El agente eventualmente compró dos pieles de tigre de Bengala por US\$15,300; una piel de leopardo de las nieves por US\$7,000 y una piel de leopardo nuboso por US\$4,500. Además de su propio sitio web, McMaster ofrecía vender vida silvestre protegida utilizando otros sitios web, como eBay y Taxidermy.net. A McMaster se le sentenció en diciembre del 2005 con dos violaciones criminales a la Ley Lacey, una ley federal de protección a la vida silvestre, y dos faltas administrativas a la Ley de Especies Amenazadas. McMaster se declaró culpable en enero de 2006 frente a un tribunal federal

(*U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, 20 de abril del 2006)

### PESCANDO PROBLEMAS

Tres pescadores comerciales del Lago Hurón y su empresa han sido obligados a pagar la importante cantidad de \$485,000 (CAD) por la deliberada y sistemática falsificación de informes de pesca, así como por exceder su cuota asignada de pez blanco (*Coregonus dupeaformis*) en el Lago Hurón. William



Jackson y su empresa, que opera tres remolcadores con redes agalleras y una tienda al menudeo y al mayoreo en Southampton, Canadá, pescaban en el Lago Hurón bajo licencias emitidas anualmente por el Ministerio de Recursos Naturales. Todas las licencias de pesca comercial emitidas por esta dependencia tienen cuotas asignadas establecidas para diferentes especies y para diferentes áreas del lago. Los pescadores comerciales deben presentar informes diarios precisos sobre la pesca realizada y esta información se utiliza para determinar el total de la pesca comparado con las cuotas asignadas y para calcular las regalías que se adeudan al gobierno. La investigación inició en la primavera del 2004 cuando se notaron discrepancias entre los lugares de pesca reportados y las observaciones de un oficial de conservación de la Unidad de Administración de los Upper Great Lakes. Actuando bajo autoridad de un orden, los oficiales hicieron que se colocara un dispositivo de rastreo en uno de los remolcadores. Este dispositivo confirmó que se estaba pescando pez blanco en una zona mientras que se reportaba como procedente de otra zona. Las órdenes de búsqueda proporcionaron evidencia revelando que más de 15,454 kilogramos (34,000 libras) de pez blanco por arriba de la cuota se habían sacado en el 2003 y más de 88,181 kilogramos (194,000 libras) en el 2004.

*(Canadá, Ministerio de Recursos Naturales, Comunicado de Prensa, 24 de mayo del 2006)*

## REPTILES RAROS DISFRAZADOS DE ANIMALES RELLENOS

En marzo del 2006, un importador de animales con licencia, Jonathon Sawyer, fue sentenciado a 5 meses de prisión y a dos años de libertad supervisada por importar y exportar ilegalmente reptiles raros. El caso inició en el 2003 cuando agentes encubiertos del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos entregaron un paquete de Tailandia etiquetado como "animales disecados" a una casa en Washington de Sawyer. El paquete había sido inspeccionado por los agentes aduanales en Alaska quienes descubrieron que no contenía animales disecados sino cuatro Tortugas Estrelladas de Burma y dos Varanos arborícolas verdes vivos. Ambas son especies cuya comercialización está restringida por la



© CRAWFORD ALLAN/TRAFFIC NORTH AMERICA

Both the Indian Star Tortoise (pictured above) and the Burmese Star Tortoise are listed on Appendix II of CITES and require a valid export permit to legally import these species.

ley internacional y de los Estados Unidos y Sawyer incumplió al no entregar el permiso requerido para traerlos a los Estados Unidos. Sawyer, un importador y exportador de animales con licencia, conocía los reglamentos así como la manera en que deben presentarse los animales a las aduanas y a sabiendas violó la ley. Sawyer eventualmente admitió que en siete ocasiones diferentes entre el 2002 y el 2003, él había embarcado reptiles con un valor aproximado de casi US\$30,000 de los Estados Unidos a un proveedor en Tailandia, incluyendo 20 Víboras de maizal, 100 geckos Leopardo, 1 gecko Leopardo albino, 14 Iguanas Rino y 98 Escorpiones Emperador en cajas etiquetadas como "Animales de peluche". Las autoridades también arrestaron al hombre responsable de embarcar los reptiles en Tailandia cuando viajó a Florida en julio del 2003, Wee Soon Shye fue sentenciado en Florida a 37 meses de prisión por contrabandear con Sawyer y otros en los Estados Unidos

*(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Comunicado de Prensa, 10 de marzo del 2006)*

## EMPRESA DE TORONTO PROCESADA POR IMPORTAR CAVIAR DE MANERA ILEGAL

En noviembre, Caviar Centre Inc. fue procesada ante el Tribunal de Justicia de Ontario - División Penal, por importar, de manera ilegal, caviar de esturión a Canadá proveniente de Turquía sin un

permiso CITES. A la empresa, una de las principales importadoras de caviar premier y operaciones al mayoreo, se le impuso una multa de \$3,000 y se ordenó el decomiso de los 126 kilogramos de caviar asegurado con un valor estimado en CAD\$305,000.

Se asume que el caviar en cuestión es de la Región del Mar Caspio donde las poblaciones de esturión se encuentran en un estado precario. La sentencia concluyó una investigación emprendida por funcionarios de Environment Canada a finales del 2004 y principios del 2005. La empresa sentenciada intentó importar caviar utilizando permisos CITES falsificados.

*(Environment Canada, comunicado de Prensa, 14 de noviembre del 2006)*



© WWF CANON EDWARD PARKER

As of 2004, governments that are parties to CITES agreed to a universal caviar labeling system in order to help governments, traders and consumers distinguish legal caviar in trade from illegal caviar. In addition, any international shipments of sturgeon caviar must be accompanied by relevant CITES permits.

## REVISIÓN DE RUTINA DESCUBRE PARTES DE TIGRE EN EL AEROPUERTO DE BANGKOK

En junio pasado, la Policía tailandesa detectó y confiscó partes ilegales de especies silvestres, incluyendo los restos de seis Tigres durante una inspección de carga en el Aeropuerto Don Muang de Bangkok. La carga había sido transportada de Hat Yai, una ciudad tailandesa cerca de la frontera con Malasia, hacia Bangkok en la sección de carga de un vuelo de Thai Airways. Los funcionarios de la Policía Económica revisan las cargas de manera rutinaria para detectar el posible contrabando procedente de otros países y esta vez reveló tres cajas de cráneos y huesos de animales. Las investigaciones continúan para ver quien es el



© HOWARD BUFFET

Tigers face immense pressure due to habitat loss and poaching for their skins and for use in traditional medicines. Estimates suggest that there are less than 5,000 tigers left in the wild.

responsable del contrabando y de donde son originarias las partes ilegales encontradas. Si se descubre y sentencia de conformidad con la ley tailandesa, los traficantes enfrentarían cinco años de prisión o a una multa por cuatro veces el valor del contrabando que, en este caso, ascendería a más o menos \$80,000. Los tigres están totalmente protegidos conforme a la ley tailandesa y se listan en el Apéndice 1 de CITES, prohibiendo todo el comercio internacional de la especie.

*(TRAFFIC Sudeste Asiático y WildAid, Comunicado de Prensa, 8 de junio del 2006)*

## TONELADAS DE PANGOLINES CONGELADOS FUERON DETECTADOS EN HONG KONG

En julio, oficiales de Aduanas de Hong Kong, en la oficina de Aduanas de Kwai Cheng, confiscaron 4,400 kilogramos de cadáveres congelados de pangolín, con un valor aproximado de HK\$890,000. El envío estaba etiquetada como “pescados varios congelados” y se embarcó de Indonesia a Hong Kong en un contenedor de 40 pies el día 16 de julio para ser re-exportado a la zona continental de China. Después de inspeccionar en un punto de revisión la carga, los oficiales de Aduanas encontraron cadáveres congelados de pangolín escondidos bajo pescado congelado dentro del contenedor. Los pangolines están listados en el Apéndice II de CITES, y se estableció una cuota cero de exportación anual para especímenes sacados del medio silvestre y con fines comerciales. Conforme a la

Ordenanza de Importación y Exportación de Hong Kong, a cualquier persona que se le encuentre culpable de “importar carga no manifestada” se le consigna con una multa máxima de HK\$2 millones y siete años de prisión. De igual forma, la Ordenanza de Animales y Plantas (Protección de Especies Amenazadas) señala que cualquier persona culpable de comerciar con especies en peligro de extinción para fines comerciales es responsable de una multa máxima de HK\$5 millones y dos años de prisión.

*(Hong Kong Gobierno Regional Administrativo Especial, Comunicado de Prensa, 22 de julio del 2006)*

## ASEGURAMIENTO DE PEZ NAPOLEÓN EN LA ISLA SULAWESI



© WWF/CANON DARRIN JEW

The most desirable size for humphead wrasse in the live reef fish trade are “plate-sized,” generally between 20-60 cm. Harvesting humphead wrasse at this size often means that the fish has not yet had a chance to reproduce which puts the next generation in jeopardy. A CITES export permit is required for international trade in this species.

Un intento por contrabandear el pez napoleón (*Cheilinus undulatus*) ocurrió en junio de 2006 cuando 36 peces fueron confiscados en el aeropuerto de Manado, en la Isla Sulawesi de Indonesia. Estaban destinados a restaurantes de Hong Kong donde un kilogramo de este raro pescado cuesta entre \$80 y \$130. En el 2005, la especie se incluyó en el Apéndice II de CITES. El comercio ilegal es un problema creciente, y en el norte de Sulawesi, donde la pesca está prohibida, las autoridades llevaron a cabo tres aseguramientos en cinco meses. Un total de 693 peces Napoleón, en su mayoría aún vivos, fueron decomisados.

*(Cyber Divers, Comunicado de Prensa, Artículo, 15 de julio del 2006.)*

## ÉXITO EN LOS ESFUERZOS DE CONSERVACIÓN DE LA TORTUGA MARINA EN MÉXICO



© STEVEN MORELLO

The Kemp Ridley sea turtle is the smallest of all eight species of sea turtles and is also unique in that it nests during daylight hours in large groups.

La campaña del 2006 para la protección de los sitios de anidación de la Tortuga Lora (*Lepidochelys kempii*) en el Golfo de México concluyó durante la primera semana de noviembre de 2006. La PROFEPA anunció que esta campaña se enfocó en proteger y monitorear los nacimientos de Tortugas Lora, la cual aumentó en 24% en el 2006 respecto al año anterior. La PROFEPA dedicó recursos humanos y económicos durante los meses de marzo a noviembre para proteger de los recolectores furtivos, los lugares donde anida la Tortuga Lora, debido a que estos sitios se encuentran únicamente en el Golfo de México. La ley mexicana prohíbe el uso de tortugas marinas, y una persona puede ser sentenciada a nueve años en prisión si se le encuentra con huevos o productos de cualquier especie de tortuga marina.

*(www.profepa.gob.mx)*





## NUEVAS PUBLICACIONES DE LA RED TRAFFIC

**Baje las versiones de varios de los informes de Traffic Norteamérica que se encuentran en <http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/pubs.cfm>**

*A review of the trade in Aloe ferox, with a focus on the role of the European Union.* Amelie Knapp. TRAFFIC Europe Report for the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium. August 2006.



*Bear Necessities. An analysis of Brown Bear management and trade in selected range States and the European Union's role in the trophy trade.* Amelie Knapp. TRAFFIC Europe Report for the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium. April 2006.

*Catching on? Trade-related measures as a fisheries management tool.* M Lack. March 2007.

*Confronting Shark Conservation Head On.* M Lack and G Sant. December 2006.

*Conservation Implications of Allocation under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.* Willock A and Cartwright I. WWF Australia and TRAFFIC Oceania. November 2006.

*Conservation of Spiny Dogfish Squalus acanthias: A Role for CITES?* M. Lack. December 2006.

*Follow the Leader: Learning from experience and best practice in regional fisheries management organizations.* A Willock, M Lack. May 2006.

*Implementation of Article 16, Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97, in the 25 Member States of the European Union.* Tobias Garstecki. October 2006.

*Proceedings of the International Expert Workshop on Wildlife Detector Dogs 3-5 March 2006, Bad Schandau, Germany.* Felgentreu B (Ed). WWF Germany and TRAFFIC Europe, Frankfurt am Main. November 2006.

*Sport Hunting in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region: An overview.* Barnett, R. and Patterson, C. October 2006.

*Taming the Tiger Trade: China's Markets For Wild and Captive Tiger Products Since the 1993 Domestic Trade Ban.* Kristin Nowell and Xu Ling. March 2007.



*The Great Salmon Run: Competition Between Wild and Farmed Salmon.* Knapp, G., C. Roheim and J. Anderson. March 2007.

*The Trade of the Roti Island Snake-necked Turtle Chelodina mccordi.* Chris R. Shepherd and Bonggi Ibarondo. February 2006.

*The Use of Trade-Related Measures in the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).* Presented to the meeting of the CCSBT Compliance Committee in Miyazaki, Japan Oct 2006. Glenn Sant TRAFFIC and Mary Lack. December 2006.

*Western Pacific Workshop on Policy, Enforcement and Sustainable Trade for the CITES Appendix II - listed Humphead/Napoleon Wrasse, Cheilinus undulatus 5 - 7 June 2006.* WWF Hong Kong, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Hong Kong SAR, IUCN and TRAFFIC. February 2007.

*Wildlife Trade in Central and Eastern Europe.* A review of CITES implementation in 15 countries. Kecse-Nagy, K., Papp, D., Knapp, A., von Meibom, S. December 2006.

*World shark catch, production & trade 1990 - 2003.* M. Lack, G. Sant. A TRAFFIC Oceania report commissioned by the Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Heritage. January 2006.

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The National Fish and Wildlife Federation  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
Seaworld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
United Kingdom FCO Global Opportunities Fund  
United States Agency for International Development  
United States Department of State  
The Wallace Global Foundation

## SE REQUIERE: SU DOMICILIO ELECTRÓNICO. SE OFRECE RECOMPENSA

Estamos en el proceso de actualizar nuestra base de datos de suscripción con los domicilios electrónicos de nuestros lectores, como parte de un esfuerzo continuo para ampliar el alcance de nuestro boletín, mientras trabajamos para reducir el consumo de recursos. Si está interesado en recibir el boletín vía correo electrónico, por favor suscríbese a <http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/traffic.cfm> o envíe un correo electrónico a [tna@wwfus.org](mailto:tna@wwfus.org). Como siempre, una versión PDF de este boletín está disponible en [http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/traffic\\_newsletter.cfm](http://www.worldwildlife.org/trade/traffic_newsletter.cfm). Cinco personas entre aquellas que nos envíen su correo electrónico serán seleccionadas al azar a más tardar el 1 de abril del 2007 para que reciban un premio.

Below 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.

Date	Event	Details
Ene 4 a mayo 4 2007	Revisión por parte de Canadá de las propuestas extranjeras	Propuestas extranjeras recibidas: propuesta de revisión de especies de SA; revisión de propuestas para resoluciones de MA / SA & MA determina las posibles posiciones canadienses / copias de propuestas extranjeras y posibles posiciones enviadas a las autoridades canadienses / lista de propuestas y posición tentativa enviada al público / el público y las autoridades canadienses invitados a una audiencia pública
Abril 2007	Reuniones públicas de USFWS	USFWS también publicará anuncios de reuniones públicas aproximadamente 2 meses antes de COP14, para recibir opiniones públicas sobre nuestras posiciones con respecto a los temas de COP14
~1 mes antes de la Reunión NAR	Consulta pública canadiense sobre propuestas extranjeras	Consulta pública sobre las propuestas extranjeras / posición canadiense planteada sobre cada propuesta anunciada / resumen al público sobre las diligencias
Abril/Mayo 2007	Reunión regional norteamericana	Reunión regional norteamericana
Mayo 1 2007	Inscripción a COP, CITES	Las inscripciones de observadores aprobadas deben ser enviadas a la Secretaría un mes antes de COP14.
Junio 3-15 2007	COP 14	La Haya, Países Bajos

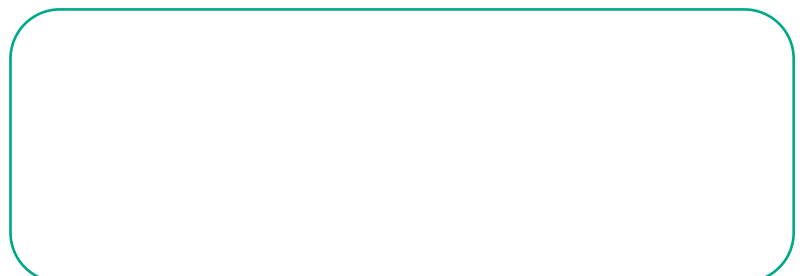
Para obtener información sobre notificaciones específicas de la CITES, diríjase al Secretariado de CITES, United Nations Environment Programme, 15, Chemin des Anemones, Case Postale 456, 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland. Correo electrónico: [cites@unep.ch](mailto:cites@unep.ch), sitio web: [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)

## TRAFFIC

NORTH AMERICA

c/o World Wildlife Fund-US  
1250 Twenty-Fourth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

TRAFFIC trabaja para asegurar que el comercio de plantas y animales silvestres no represente una amenaza para la conservación de la naturaleza.





# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## Global Network to Stop IUU Fishing



© Hartmut JUNGUS / WWF-Canon

The International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) Network is an association of over 40 nations working together to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing throughout the world. The MCS Network was established to provide a mechanism for fisheries law enforcement professionals to share information and experiences as they monitor the increasingly complex harvesting and marketing of fish internationally. The rise in illegal activities that has accompanied globalization underscores the need for cooperative law enforcement across national borders.

IUU fishing often occurs when a vessel enters the national waters of another country, without the legal right to fish there, and unlawfully harvests vital natural marine resources. IUU fishing also occurs on the high seas outside the jurisdiction of any one nation. IUU fishing costs the world's fishing nations an estimated \$4 billion to \$9 billion dollars a year and harvests living marine resources in an unsustainable manner.

The key to detecting and preventing IUU fishing is for governments and regional fishery management organizations to work together to determine where suspected IUU vessels are fishing, what they are catching, who is benefitting, ('beneficial owner') and how fish product is moving in the global marketplace. Ultimately, fish needs to be tracked from harvest to consumption (ocean to plate tracking). It must also be determined where IUU fish product is comingled with legitimate fish product.

Obtaining this level of information poses significant challenges and requires that governments have collection and analytical capabilities that may far exceed their current resources. Where such information gathering is attempted, governments focus their resources on illegal activities within their home waters. Currently, the information gathered by governments is not readily shared and is unavailable in a single, globally accessible database.



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The ability to act decisively once illegal activity is detected is critical to combating IUU fishing. As the collection and sharing of accurate and timely information on IUU activity increases, the monitoring of both legal and illegal operations is facilitated. Effective monitoring, control, and surveillance is at the heart of effective fisheries management.

But regardless of the laws and regulations enacted and the technology brought to bear on the IUU fishing dilemma, if the means and will to enforce those policies is absent the illegal operators will prevail. Effective MCS increases the risk of detection and prosecution for IUU operators, while giving the economic advantage back to legal fishers.

It is the goal of the MCS Network to unite nations against the common threat of IUU fishing. Success cannot be achieved by any one country acting unilaterally, but requires a partnership of nations willing to maintain a strong, united front. The network seeks to reach this lofty yet achievable goal through

- efficient information exchange
- facilitation of communication between member nations
- development of cooperation and information sharing capabilities among members
- fisheries data analysis
- joint training opportunities to enhance operational effectiveness and enhance the skills of enforcement personnel

Common problems exist in fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance all over the globe, no matter what resources are available. This year the MCS Network is sponsoring the 2nd Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop, which will be hosted by the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate in Trondheim, Norway, August 7-11, 2008 (<http://www.gfetw.org/>). This workshop is designed to bring together MCS practitioners from around the world to share information, enforcement techniques, and strategies and also to build a more cohesive international fisheries enforcement community. At the workshop, both traditional enforcement methods and innovative new approaches will be presented. Workshop topics range from MCS National, Regional and International Cooperation to The Future of IUU Deterrence.

In today's global economy countries face a multitude of challenges to fisheries-related MCS. IUU fishers can be well financed and are often difficult to detect and apprehend on vast oceans. Illegal product can be moved fairly easily through unscrupulous markets and is often comingled with legal product, making it even more challenging to identify. These challenges, combined with weak fisheries laws and lack of adequate enforcement resources make the fight against IUU fishing extremely difficult. It is critical to use all the tools available and partner with colleagues worldwide to address the global IUU fishing crisis. It is the goal of the International MCS Network to facilitate this much-needed cooperation and win the fight against IUU fishing in the global arena.

For more information please go to <http://www.imcsnet.org/> or contact [MCS.Network@noaa.gov](mailto:MCS.Network@noaa.gov)

*Contributed by Beth Lumsden, MCS Network Coordinator, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement*

## **TRAFFIC and Partners Develop Standards for Sustainable Collection of Medicinal Plants**

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) are collected around the world for a variety of purposes including traditional health care, herbal dietary supplements,

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United Kingdom Department for International Development  
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food ingredients and natural beauty products. The international MAP market is a multibillion dollar trade network and millions of people, especially in developing countries, depend on MAP as their primary source of health care. MAP consumption is also high in developed countries, where the popularity of traditional medicine and herbal remedies is growing rapidly.



Unfortunately, this extensive worldwide consumption has led to the unsustainable harvest of many MAP species—an estimated 15,000 are threatened to some degree as a result of overharvesting and ecosystem loss. The majority of MAP species are collected from the wild. Cultivation is not a practical solution for many MAP species, due to technical, economic and ecological factors that hinder cultivation practices. It is therefore imperative to ensure the sustainability of wild collection.

In February 2007, version 1.0 of the **International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants** (ISSC-MAP) was officially launched. The development of the ISSC-MAP is a joint initiative of the Medicinal Plant Specialist Group (a division of IUCN's Species Survival Commission), WWF Germany, TRAFFIC and Germany's Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, or BfN) in cooperation with several other partners.

The new standard can be used by a wide range of MAP industry stakeholders, including private companies, government agencies and communities of MAP collectors. The purpose is to provide stakeholders with a set of practical, detailed guidelines on which to base their policies, management plans and sourcing practices. The ISSC-MAP implementation process is currently in the trial and development stage. A diverse set of trial projects have begun, and the subsequent feedback will be incorporated into version 2.0 of the ISSC-MAP, which is set for release in 2009.

*Contributed by Tamar Norkin, University of Maryland Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development Graduate program, as part of a larger research project prepared for TRAFFIC North America.*

## TRAFFIC and WCS Join Forces to Standardize Trade Data Collection

In March 2008, nine TRAFFIC experts from around the world joined experts from the Wildlife Conservation Society for a workshop in Thailand focused on improving research methods in wildlife trade monitoring. Both organizations have recognized the need to address increasingly complex wildlife trade issues as well as the need to be able to compare data, and the workshop focused on developing standard tools for use in monitoring wildlife trade chains. Experts in multiple disciplines including economics, biostatistics, species identification, veterinary medicine and wildlife trade monitoring participated in a critical evaluation of current monitoring methods and discussed practical ways to achieve our goal of constantly improving the rigor of our research.



Shannon Barber-Meyer

The eventual output of this workshop will be a research methods handbook, *Monitoring Wildlife Trade Chains from Source to Consumer* (working title). TRAFFIC and WCS are striving to use the best scientific methods available to analyze trade data so that this information has a stronger impact when presented to decision makers involved in the conservation of wildlife and the regulation of wildlife trade. Working collaboratively is proving highly cost effective at resolving some of the more complex challenges posed by the monitoring of wildlife trade and countering illegal and unsustainable elements.

*By Dr. Shannon Barber-Meyer, TRAFFIC North America*

## Did You Know?

Even though all seven species of marine turtles are listed in Appendix I of CITES and are classified as endangered or critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, a number of factors still present a threat to their survival. Major threats include harvesting/poaching of turtle eggs; use of turtles for food, oil, leather, shell; accidental bycatch; and pollution. Turtles take a long time to reach maturity and breed, hence the increasing pressures on populations lead to declining numbers. Marine turtles play a vital role in the marine ecosystem, feeding on smaller prey as well as providing food for larger predators. Buying sustainably produced souvenirs and avoiding products made from threatened species such as marine turtles is an easy way to conserve these amazing creatures.



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*Contributed by Aradhna Mather, intern, TRAFFIC North America*

## U.S. Congress Holds Hearing on Illegal Wildlife Trade

On March 5, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing titled "Poaching America's Security: Impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade." The purpose of the hearing was to identify possible links between illegal wildlife trade and national security, and explore possible links to terrorism. Witnesses representing the U.S. government, the CITES Secretariat, and various NGOs outlined the critical conservation issues posed by illegal wildlife trade and the difficulties in ensuring that adequate laws are on the books to address it, adequate enforcement of those laws is implemented, and follow-through on prosecution is thorough. A supporting research document was produced by the Congressional Research Services to explore the issues and provide evidence of links ([http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34395\\_20080303.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34395_20080303.pdf)).

Links were drawn between the trade and organized crime, as well as health-related threats such as communicable diseases transmitted by wildlife, but it seemed that few direct connections to funding terrorism through wildlife trafficking could be established. However, links could clearly be made between illegal wildlife trade and organized crime, and organized crime and terrorism, so the general message coming out of the hearing was that resources should be allocated to explore this possible connection further.

TRAFFIC and our partner organizations provided recommendations to the Committee for follow-up, and we hope that the hearing will prove to have been an important step in getting all branches and levels of the U.S. government to recognize the severity and implications of the issue of illegal wildlife trade and to begin to work collaboratively toward more holistic, well-resourced solutions.

*Contributed by Leigh Henry, TRAFFIC North America*

## Elephant Ivory Case Results in Donation to TRAFFIC in Canada

In 2005, Canada Border Services Agency officers detected a parcel of small carvings at the International Mail Center in Vancouver, British Columbia. Environment Canada officers were contacted to identify the contents of the parcel, which were found to be made from ivory of the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), a CITES-listed species.



© Canadian Wildlife Services / WWF-Canon

Further investigation revealed that while in Hong Kong, Yuk Ming (Peter) Ho sent the parcel in question to his residence in Richmond, British Columbia, using a fake name and Hong Kong address. In October 2007, Mr. Ho pleaded guilty to illegally importing



over 30,000 pieces of African elephant ivory.

The defendant was ordered to pay a CAD\$9,000 fine, forfeit all of the seized ivory (worth over CAD \$100,000 retail), and pay an additional CAD \$9,000 to TRAFFIC in support of conservation programs related to African elephants. During the investigation, TRAFFIC provided information and documentation on the conservation impacts of illegal trade in elephant ivory. This was one of the largest ivory cases ever investigated by Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Division. The last major seizure of elephant ivory was in 2000, when over 4,300 items were seized in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

*Contributed by Tanya Shadbolt, TRAFFIC North America*

## **National University of Mexico Develops Economic Model to Finance Ecosystem Restoration**

Adding value to natural resources and ensuring sustainable use can be a way to discourage the illegal trade in wildlife and encourage long-term viability of species. For example, hunting in the United States generates about US\$20 million a year. In Mexico, the hunting market is still emerging and the legal framework under which hunting is managed is the Management Unit for Wildlife Conservation (Unidad de Manejo para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre, or UMA). Under this legal framework, the holder is the owner or legal tenant of the land (no matter the type of tenure) where the activity takes place.



© Anthony B. Rath / WWF-Canon

The National University of Mexico (UNAM) has formed a task force headed by Dr. Raul Garcia Barrios to develop a mathematical model to explore the initial conditions necessary for a UMA to become an economic tool to finance and promote ecological restoration.

The UMAs have generated important economic and environmental benefits in the northern part of Mexico, while reducing poaching, improving environment health, and maintaining environmental goods and services. A single hunting season in northern Mexico produces an economic input of around MX\$120 million, which is considered only 13 percent of its potential. The use of UMAs as a management tool has also become popular in northeastern Mexico, and they are beginning to be used in the central and southern parts of Mexico.

The UMA management framework still needs to integrate significant environmental, social and economic considerations, as well as strengthen the administrative structure and process for the consolidation of this scheme. Additionally, the UMAs need to address negative impacts such as social polarization, introduction of exotic species and translocations of subspecies.

Model results show that the hunting of white-tailed deer in UMAs can provide an economic incentive for ecological restoration, because restoring habitat can support a larger population of deer. However, the scheme only works if a balance between the habitat and the hunting activity is maintained to ensure sustainability.

In order for this approach to be used as a tool for sustainable use and ecological restoration, it is necessary to (a) encourage policies that support hunting, (b) reduce the opportunity costs for the hunter, (c) ensure that the holder of the UMA receives payments for environmental services, and (d) reduce the cost of habitat restoration. Currently, the model has many limitations, but the results provide a new working hypothesis that can contribute to ecological restoration efforts in Mexico.

For further information please contact Luz Marie Arguelles at [luzmaria@ciencias.unam.mx](mailto:luzmaria@ciencias.unam.mx)

Contributed by Luz Marie Arguelles, Graduate Student, UNAM

## Mexico Implements Marine Turtle Protection Program

The Federal Attorney General for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) is implementing programs to protect marine turtle nesting beaches on the Pacific Coast of Mexico. PROFEPA, along with the Mexican Navy and personnel of the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP), are conducting a number of activities, including



© Peter C.H. Pritchard / WWF-Canon

- night patrols along the nesting beaches to ensure that no poaching of turtles or turtle eggs occurs
- protection of egg nesting areas
- patrols to ensure that fishing vessels are using Turtle Excluder Devices as required by legislation NOM-002-CFSP-1993
- patrols of markets and restaurants in ports and beaches to stop the consumption of turtle eggs and meat
- road checkpoints to prevent the trafficking and sale of sea turtles or sea turtle products

Seven species of marine turtles visit nesting beaches in Mexico. The best known are the leatherback, olive ridley, and green turtles. Harvest of all species has been prohibited in Mexico since 31 May 1990. Destroying nesting sites or collecting, possessing or capturing marine turtles or their eggs is punishable in Mexico by fines of between 300 and 3,000 days' minimum wage, and a prison sentence of between one and nine years. In 2007, PROFEPA conducted a total of 1,178 surveillance patrols at major Mexican beaches and marine areas, contributing to the protection of more than 1.3 million nesting females and the seizure of 62,634 eggs that were being sold illegally.

*PROFEPA Press Release 11 March 2008*

## Enforcement Successes in the News

### International Queen Conch Smuggling Operation Busted Open

Canadian and U.S. courts recently handed down several decisions as a result of Operation Shell Game, an 18-month-long investigation into the unlawful import and export of queen conch *Strombus gigas*. This was one of the largest U.S.-Canadian endangered species smuggling cases in years, with over 111,000 pounds (50,349 kilograms) of endangered queen conch shipped to the United States and Canada from Colombia and Haiti without the proper permits. The investigation involved federal wildlife officers in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, as well as special agents from both the USFWS and NOAA Office for Law Enforcement in New York and Florida.



© Michel Roggo / WWF-Canon

In January, two defendants, Janitse Martinez, 34, and Ramon Placeres, 58, both of Miami, were sentenced to two months imprisonment and one year of supervised release in federal District Court in connection with a conspiracy to smuggle large quantities of queen conch in violation of U.S. laws. Additionally, a criminal fine of US\$10,000 was imposed against Placeres.

Also in January, Pacific Marine Union Corporation of Vancouver, British Columbia, entered a guilty plea in Vancouver Provincial Court to two counts under the Wild



Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA) and was fined a total of CAD\$78,566.94 (~US\$77,048) of which CAD\$10,000 (~US\$9,806) will be paid into the Environmental Damages Fund. In 2005, Pacific Marine Union Corporation unlawfully imported and re-exported over 24,000 kilograms (52,911 pounds) of queen conch from Haiti to the United States. The queen conchs were declared as either clams or whelk meat, which are not endangered species.

Queen conch is a commercially valuable seafood product and is a protected species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Since 1992, queen conch has been listed on Appendix II of CITES so to engage in trade in queen conch, all imports or exports must be accompanied by a CITES export certificate from the country of origin, or a re-export permit from a country of re-export. The USFWS's National Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, conducted DNA analysis of the seafood product and confirmed that the product was queen conch and not whelk as indicated on the shipping documents.

*Department of Justice News Release, 25 January 2008; NOAA News Release, 11 October 2007; Environment Canada News Release, 8 January 2008*

### **NOAA Assesses Half Million Dollar Penalty**

NOAA has assessed a US\$510,000 civil penalty and two-year permit suspension to the operator of the fishing vessel *Western Sea* for multiple violations of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. The 51-count Notice of Violation and Assessment alleges that Daniel S. Fill, the vessel's operator, failed to report roughly 15 million pounds (6.8 million kgs) of herring (*Clupea spp.*) harvested in the Gulf of Maine between May and August of 2007.



© NOAA NMFS

NOAA requires owners or operators of herring vessels issued a federal fishing permit to report all species caught during each trip, regardless of whether they are retained or discarded. "Herring in the Gulf of Maine is managed by a quota system," said Special Agent James MacDonald of NOAA Fisheries Service's Office of Law Enforcement Northeast Division. "Non-reporting on this scale significantly undermines NOAA's ability to effectively manage and conserve this fishery."

*NOAA News Release, 17 October 2007*

### **Environment Canada Seizes Endangered Marine Species**

Environment Canada has laid 14 charges against Jayson Daeninck and Saltwater Connection of Winnipeg for allegedly illegally importing protected wildlife species from Indonesia. Ten of the charges stem from the alleged importation without a permit of approximately 9,508 kilograms (over 20,000 pounds) of live rock and stony corals, as well as live species of giant clams and seahorses. These species are protected under CITES and Canadian legislation - WAPPRIITA.



*Environment Canada News Release, 12 March 2008* © Jurgen Freund / WWF-Canon

### **Florida Aquarium Shop Owner Illegally Harvests Corals**

A Florida man was sentenced to three months in federal custody and fined US\$2,000 for illegally harvesting and transporting live corals from the Bahamas. The defendant, Lawrence W. Beckman, 57, of Lake Park, was sentenced in federal District Court in West Palm Beach in connection with his illegal importation of approximately 500 pounds (227 kg) of live rock, coral, and sea fans illegally

harvested from Bahamian waters.

Beckman had pled guilty in October 2007 to failing to obtain written permission from Bahamian authorities to harvest hard and soft coral species within the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, all in violation of the U.S. Lacey Act. According to the indictment filed in this matter, and statements during court proceedings, in October 2002 Beckman made a commercial harvesting trip to the area of West End in the Bahamas in order to acquire merchandise to sell in his aquarium supply business in Lake Park.

After securing 500 specimens of gorgonians (commonly referred to as sea fans) and 500 pounds of live rock and coral, Beckman returned to Florida. En route, the Coast Guard spotted his boat running without required navigation lights and intercepted the vessel.

During a safety and document check, Coast Guard boarding officers located the contraband corals in specially equipped "live wells" and in a converted fuel tank below a hatch cover in the main cabin, and took the vessel to the Coast Guard Station at Lake Worth Inlet. Beckman admitted to the Coast Guardsmen that he had been on a commercial harvesting trip in the Bahamas and that he did not possess the necessary permit allowing him to harvest marine resources.

*Department of Justice News Release, 20 December 2007*

### **Caimans Found Slaughtered in Brazil**

The state Environmental Protection Agency in the Brazilian state of Amazonas reported that the skinned and salted corpses of over 700 black caimans (*Melanosuchus niger*) were found in a nature reserve in Brazil's Amazon jungle, apparently destined to be used as food in local restaurants. The dried caiman corpses weighed around eight tons and were discovered in the 2.5 million-acre (one million hectares) Piagacu-Purus Sustainable Development Reserve.

The caimans were found during ordinary enforcement inspections on floating barges that are typical in that region. Agency directors expressed surprise at the find and suggested that it was indicative of a large-scale commercial operation.

*Associated Press, 1 April 2008*

### **Operation Toothwalker Successful**

From 2003 to 2008, the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) in Manitoba, Canada, worked with WED officers from other regions, headquarters and the USFWS in order to further an investigation related to potentially illegal activities involving walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) hunting and trophies exported from Nunavut.

This investigation resulted in the seizure of two walrus skulls with tusks, four individual tusks, one walrus baculum, one individual walrus tooth and one illegally imported cheetah skin. Numerous charges were laid in the United States which resulted in fines totaling US\$18,325. All seized items were forfeited to the U.S. government.



© Michel Roggo / WWF-Canon

*Submitted by Richard Labossiere, Wildlife Enforcement Directorate, Environment Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba*

### **Ivory Seized in Southern China**

On March 19, forestry policemen in the Guangxi Autonomous Region of southern China, seized 790



kilograms of ivory, including 139 whole elephant tusks, from a truck on the local highway from Pingxiang to Nanning. The longest tusk was 1.83 m in length and the diameter of the thickest one was 20 cm. Overall, the value of the seizure was over CNY 36,000,000 (~US\$5 million). The confiscated ivory was transferred to the provincial wildlife rescue center according to China's policy. The case is under further investigation.



© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

Translated by Xu Ling, TRAFFIC East Asia, from <http://www.news.sina.com.cn/> and <http://www.news.gxnews.com.cn/>

### Tonnes of Pangolins Discovered in Vietnam

The seizure of 23 tonnes (50,706 pounds) of pangolins (*Manis spp.*) in a week by enforcement officers in Vietnam was an alarming reminder of the huge scale of the illegal trade in these animals between Southeast Asia and China. On March 6, Customs inspectors and enforcement officers seized more than 16 tonnes (35,274 pounds) of pangolins at the port of Hai Phong, 100 km east of Hanoi. It was the largest seizure of pangolins, or scaly anteaters, ever in Vietnam.



© Mark Auliya/TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

Only a week earlier, on February 29, around 7 tonnes (15432 pounds) of pangolin carcasses and scales were seized by customs at Hai Phong. This seizure was estimated to contain around 2,460 pangolin carcasses and 900 kg (1,984 pounds) of scales. Both of the shipments originated in Indonesia, where pangolins are completely protected by Indonesia's national law. Vietnam is known as an important transit point in the illegal wildlife trade network in Asia. Since 2000, pangolins have been under a CITES Appendix II "zero quota," meaning no commercial international trade is allowed. However, pangolins continue to be reported for sale as meat and traditional medicines in many Asian countries. No suspects have been detained, but investigations are ongoing.

*TRAFFIC Greater Mekong Program Press Release, 17 March 2008*

### International Tuna Smuggling Operation Results in Conviction

In March 2008, George. A. Townsend III of St. Petersburg, Florida, entered a guilty plea in connection with his involvement in the illegal importation of more than 11,000 pounds (around 4,989 kg) of yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) from Trinidad and Tobago into Miami, a violation of the U.S. Lacey Act.



© Ezequiel Navio / WWF-Canon

Townsend owned and operated a Canadian registered commercial longline fishing vessel, *UNDA*. As part of its commitment to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Canadian law prohibits any person on board a Canadian vessel such as the *UNDA* from fishing or trans-shipping fish in waters other than Canadian fisheries waters, unless the vessel holds a license issued by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The *UNDA* did not hold the required license, and on 7 June 2005 Townsend caused approximately 11,063 pounds (5,000 kg) of yellowfin tuna to be shipped in foreign commerce from Trinidad and Tobago to a seafood dealer in Miami, contrary to Sections 65.(1) and 68 of Canada's Fishery (General) Regulations. Sentencing has been scheduled for June 2008.

*Department of Justice, 10 March 2008*

## Guilty Pleas in Marine Turtle Smuggling Case

In August 2007, 11 individuals were indicted in Denver following a multiyear undercover investigation by USFWS Special Operations dubbed *Operation Central*. In January, Jorge Caraveo of El Paso, Texas, and Carlos Leal Barragan of Jalisco, Mexico, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Denver to felony charges in connection with the smuggling of sea turtle and other exotic skins into the United States. Also pleading guilty were Chinese nationals Fu Yiner and Wang Hong, and Oscar Cueva of McAllen, Texas. Caraveo, Leal Barragan and a number of other defendants were arrested on 6 September 2007.



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As acknowledged in the plea agreement, Caraveo received sea turtle and other exotic skins and boots from his codefendants in Juarez, Mexico, and brought the skins and boots into the United States in violation of U.S. and international law. Leal Barragan sold sea turtle skins to customers in Mexico and undercover agents in the United States. He then sent the skins to Caraveo for smuggling across the border into the United States. As payment for the skins, Leal Barragan received international wire transfers from Colorado to his Mexican bank account.

According to the plea agreement, Caraveo smuggled into the United States wildlife products with a total fair market value of between US\$200,000 and US\$400,000.

*Department of Justice News Release, 29 January 2008*

## Trouble for Tigers in Vietnam

Two tigers that died of disease at the Hanoi Zoo were improperly sold to a Vietnamese animal trafficker for about US\$8,000 each. Officials discovered this when they were investigating another case, in which two live tigers were found in a car being driven through Hanoi. Further investigation uncovered four frozen tiger bodies at a house where the tigers were most likely going to be used to make traditional medicines.



© Wil Luitjff / WWF-Canon

In September 2007, police discovered two frozen tigers in a fridge and two soup kettles filled with animal bones in an outdoor kitchen in Hanoi. The animal parts were cooked to make traditional medicines which can be sold for about US\$800 per 100 grams. Last year, 8 men were jailed for up to 11 years for poisoning a tiger in a zoo and selling it for US\$15,000 in southern Tien Giang Province.

*Reuters, 10 January 2008*

## PROFEPA Seizes Birds at the International Airport in Mexico City

Inspectors with Mexico's Federal Attorney General for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) recently seized 37 live birds at the International Airport of Mexico City before they could be illegally taken out of the country by a Mexican citizen destined for Germany. The seized birds included at least one species, Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) which is listed as "under special protection" by Mexican legislation and the remainder of the birds (although not considered at risk by the Mexican Legislation and not included in CITES) did not have the required paperwork to certify their legal origin.



© PROFEPA Archive

This was the third time in less than a year that seizures of wildlife were made at this



airport. The first occurred in May 2007, when a foreign national of German origin tried to transport 63 live birds on a flight to Amsterdam. The second case was in January of this year, when 82 birds of various species were seized before they could be taken on a flight to France.

*PROFEPA Press Release, 10 March 2008*

# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## Tigers in Captivity: Gaps in U.S. Regulatory System



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On July 31 of this year, TRAFFIC North America released a new report, *Paper Tigers?: The Role of the U.S. Captive Tiger Population in the Trade in Tiger Parts* by Doug Williamson and Leigh Henry. This report highlights the gaps in U.S. regulations for tigers held in captivity and how this could make the big cats a target for illegal trade. We found that there are no reliable regulatory mechanisms to keep track of captive tigers in the United States. While the report shows no evidence that these tigers are currently a supply source for the international black market, these weak U.S. regulations could leave them vulnerable to illegal trade unless the issue is addressed immediately. Any supply of tiger parts into the black market can stimulate trade and consumer demand, which could pose a further threat to already-dwindling wild tiger populations.

According to the report, the U.S. government has no way to determine how many tigers there are in captivity within its borders, where they are, who owns them, or what happens to their body parts when they die. Captive tigers include animals bred in zoos, used for entertainment in carnivals or promotional exhibits, housed at rescue facilities, and owned privately. In many states there are no controls on individuals keeping tigers as pets. Current estimates indicate that there are more than 5,000 tigers in captivity in the United States, more than exist in the wild. A registration scheme for all captive tigers and a means to monitor disposal of dead tigers is urgently needed, according to the report.

Tiger populations are fast declining worldwide due to poaching for illegal trade and to habitat and prey loss. One of the leading threats to the species' survival is the global demand for their bones, skins and other body parts for use in fashion and some traditional forms of Asian medicine. There are around 4,000 tigers remaining in the wild.

The international treaty that controls trade in wildlife, CITES, has agreed to a series of decisions and resolutions for its 174 member governments to implement to help protect tigers from illegal trade. Since 2000, a Resolution agreed upon by all CITES member countries, including the United States, has urged governments to ensure that they had effective management and controls in place to stop captive tiger parts from entering illegal trade. According to

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WWF and TRAFFIC, the United States lacks a comprehensive management system for captive tigers, which means that the government has not implemented the CITES Resolution it agreed to.

CITES member countries also decided last year, by consensus, that countries should not breed tigers on a commercial scale for trade in their body parts. The report shows that while no tigers are bred on a commercial scale in the U.S. for this specific trade, there is a lack of regulation on the federal and state level, which could leave the door open for illegal trade.

WWF and TRAFFIC recommend that, among other steps, the federal government rescind exceptions to laws that exempt certain categories of captive U.S. tigers from regulation, specifically under the Captive-Bred Wildlife Registration system. We also recommend that all persons or facilities holding USDA licenses for exhibition or breeding and dealing in tigers be required to report annually on the number of tigers held, births, mortality and transfer or sale.

A copy of the report can be downloaded at <http://www.worldwildlife.org/who/media/press/2008/WWFBinaryItem9751.pdf>

Contributed by Leigh Henry, TRAFFIC North America

## Did You Know?

Did you know that about half of the states in the U.S. allow private ownership of tigers? And that nine of these states require no license, permit, or registration to keep these animals?

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 United Kingdom FCO Global Opportunities Fund  
 United States Agency for International Development  
 United States Department of State  
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**Table 3. State controls on Tiger breeding in the United States**

State	Tigers Allowed as "Pets"?	Breeding of Privately held Tigers allowed?	Breeding Exemption under license permitted?	State	Tigers Allowed as "Pets"?	Breeding of Privately held Tigers allowed?	Breeding Exemption under license permitted?
Alabama	Yes	No*	Yes	Nebraska	No	No	Yes
Alaska	No	No	No	Nevada	No Law	No Law	No Law
Arizona	No	No	Yes	New Hampshire	No	No	Yes
Arkansas	No	No*	Yes	New Jersey	No	No	Yes
California	No**	No	Yes	New Mexico	No	No	No
Colorado	No	No	Yes	New York	No	No	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	No	Yes	North Carolina	No Law	No Law	No Law
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida	No	No	Yes	Ohio	No Law	No Law	No Law
Georgia	No	No	Yes	Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	Yes	Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes
Idaho	No Law	No Law	No Law	Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes
Illinois	No	No	Yes	Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	South Carolina	No Law	No Law	No Law
Iowa	No Law	No Law	No Law	South Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kansas	No	No	Yes	Tennessee	No	No	Yes
Kentucky	No	No	Yes	Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	Yes**	No	Yes	Utah	No	No	Yes
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Vermont	No	No	No
Maryland	No	No	Yes	Virginia	No**	No	No
Massachusetts	No	No	Yes	Washington	Yes**	No	Yes
Michigan	No	No	Yes	West Virginia	No Law	No Law	No Law
Minnesota	No	No	Yes	Wisconsin	No Law	No Law	No Law
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Wyoming	No	No	Yes
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes				

\* Must spay/neuter animals  
 \*\* Grandfather Clause permitting keeping of Tigers owned prior to Ban

## NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES

### TRAFFIC North America Presents Congressional Testimony

On September 16, 2008, the House of Representatives Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and the Oceans held an Oversight Hearing on the impacts that U.S. consumer demand is having on the illegal and unsustainable trade of wildlife products and ongoing and proposed efforts to increase public awareness about these impacts. The hearing panel included, among others, Mr. Benito A. Perez, the Chief, Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Mr. Michael Kowlaski, the CEO of Tiffany & Co.; and Crawford Allan, director of TRAFFIC North America. Mr.



© Blake J. Androff

Perez gave insights into the role and activities that the USFWS had been undertaking to combat illegal trade and raise consumer awareness of the issue. Mr. Kowalski explained how a private company like Tiffany's can have a role in both raising awareness of the threats of unsustainable trade in wildlife, like precious corals used for jewelry, and in developing wise purchasing policies. The panel and Committee also generally agreed that efforts to influence consumer and industry buying behaviors had only just scratched the surface and should be greatly enhanced.

In his testimony, Mr. Allan provided an overview of how the United States has played a leading role in the global wildlife trade and proposed a series of recommendations to ensure that the United States reduces negative conservation and socio-economic impacts of illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade. These recommendations included closing certain regulatory gaps. He told the panel that wildlife trade needs to be a greater political priority, and that implementing agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must be given the necessary resources to raise awareness and insure the success of undercover investigations and inspection programs.

The panel stressed that the countries affected by U.S. consumer demand need assistance with implementing their wildlife trade laws. Allan highlighted the important role that the United States, with the support of organizations such as WWF and TRAFFIC, has been playing in supporting international capacity-building efforts such as the CITES Support Program for the CAFTA-DR (The Central America-Dominican Republic-United States Free Trade Agreement), and the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network. The U.S. leadership of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) was an example of a positive global initiative for heightening political will and developing resources to combat the challenges. TRAFFIC asked that the House Subcommittee encourage further U.S. investment in addressing illegal wildlife trade at home and abroad.

Crawford Allan's testimony can be found at

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/wildlifetrade/WWFBinaryitem10062.pdf>

More information on the hearing can be found at: [http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_jcalpro&Itemid=54&extmode=view&extid=210](http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=54&extmode=view&extid=210).

*Contributed by Linda Downing, TRAFFIC North America*

## NEWS FROM MEXICO

### TRAFFIC North America-Mexico Donates Inspection Equipment to PROFEPA

TRAFFIC North America-Mexico donated USD30,000 worth of animal handling equipment to Mexico's Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA) Seaports, Airports and Borders Program, to assist enforcement officers in their day-to-day activities involving the inspection of shipments, handling, and transportation of wildlife. This donation is part of a collaboration agreement between PROFEPA and TRAFFIC focused on supporting PROFEPA in effectively tackling illegal wildlife trade and control of legal trade.



© TRAFFIC

The equipment, which will provide much-needed tools to help Mexico's border inspectors monitor and take appropriate action to control wildlife trade at the country's borders, was officially handed



over to PROFEPA at an event in Mexico City on September 22, 2008. During this event, Gustavo Gonzalez, under-prosecutor for industrial inspection, which oversees the Seaports, Airports and Borders Program, accepted this donation from Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC North America's Mexico representative. The donation included 2,294 technical tools to be distributed among the 72 ports, airports, and border inspectorates in the country.

This donation is part of larger three-year program led by TRAFFIC, generously supported by the Strategic Programmes Fund of the United Kingdom. The project aims to strengthen the capacities of enforcement officers in Mexico on wildlife trade issues, including the implementation of CITES. The capacity-building program has developed specialized training materials for enforcement officials and training workshops have been provided to 80 percent of PROFEPA's Seaports, Airports and Borders Program staff. In addition, more than 100 enforcement officials have been trained from the Federal Police, General Attorney's Office, Federal Agency of Criminal Investigations, and Customs; and to some Guatemalan institutions that work along the southern border of Mexico.

*Contributed by Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC North America*

## Wildlife Trade Workshop Held with Central American Authorities

A tri-national workshop on wildlife trade regulation for CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and the enforcement authorities of Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador was held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in June 2008. This workshop was a multi-stakeholder partnership and combined the efforts of two U.S. government funded projects. The two projects were TRAFFIC's capacity-strengthening project for the CAFTA-DR (The Central America-Dominican Republic-United States Free Trade Agreement) countries, funded by the U.S. Department of State and the USAID funded Conservation of Central American Watersheds project, implemented by WWF Central America Regional Office. The objective of the workshop was to increase communication, promote collaboration and strengthen the capacities of government agents responsible for management of wildlife trade and combating illegal elements.

Attendees received specialized materials and training on practical topics identified as priorities in close coordination with authorities in each country. There were 47 participants, including 11 expert instructors. Officials in attendance included the Honduran agriculture minister and the UNEP CITES Secretariat from Geneva. Instruction was provided on national legal frameworks, CITES regulations, species identification and handling skills and development of effective tools to improve communication and the implementation of border controls.

The workshop was an example of effective partnership between a wide array of stakeholders and TRAFFIC and WWF gratefully recognize the collaboration of the governments of El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, as well as the U.S. Department of State, USAID, U.S. Department of Interior, CCAD (La Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo), UNEP CITES Secretariat and other participants at the workshop.

*Contributed by Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC North America*

## Mexico Prohibits Use and Trade of All Wild Parrots

A recent legislative amendment was made to Article 60 Bis 2 of the Wildlife General Law in Mexico (Ley General de Vida Silvestre), whereby specimens of the parrot family Psittacidae, native to Mexico, cannot be captured for subsistence or commercial purposes. The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) can issue collection permits for these species for conservation and research purposes only. Permits for research will be approved only for certified academic institutions. Imports, exports and re-exports of any bird of the family Psittacidae, native to Mexico, are also prohibited. Psittacidae species not included in the Article will remain subject to the regulations of other laws and international treaties that Mexico is party to. The captive breeding facilities legally functioning and registered by SEMARNAT can continue reproducing the species concerned for conservation purposes only.



© Adrian Reuter  
TRAFFIC North America

The following species are included under the amendment: *Aratinga holochlora*, *Aratinga holochlora*

*brevipes, Aratinga holochlora brewsteri, Aratinga strenua, Aratinga brevipes, Aratinga nana, Aratinga canicularis, Ara militaris, Ara macao, Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha, Rhynchopsitta terrisi, Bolborhynchus lineola, Forpus cyanopygius, Forpus cyanopygius insularis, Brotogeris jugularis, Pionopsitta haematotis, Pionus seniles, Amazona albifrons, Amazona xantholora, Amazona viridigenalis, Amazona finschi, Amazona autumnalis, Amazona farinosa, Amazona oratrix, and Amazona oratrix tresmariae.*

*Contributed by Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC North America*

## NEWS FROM CANADA

### New Environmental Law Enforcement Officers on Duty Across Canada

On 23 July 2008, 42 new environmental law enforcement officers completed basic training and are now ready to work across Canada. The officers were hired and trained as part of the Canadian government's 2007 budget commitment of USD22 million to increase the number of on-the-ground enforcement officers and to ensure that smugglers, poachers and polluters are held accountable for violations of environmental laws. This resource allocation was a recommendation promoted in the TRAFFIC report on Canada's implementation of wildlife trade regulations, called "CITES Eh?" by Ernie Cooper (download at <http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/wildlifetrade/WWFBinaryitem4934.pdf>)

Environment Canada's enforcement personnel conduct inspections and investigate potential offenses under a number of acts and regulations including the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999; the Species at Risk Act (SARA); the pollution provisions of Canada's Fisheries Act; the Migratory Birds Act and Regulation; and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA). They help ensure that companies, government agencies and the general public comply with regulations that protect Canada's environment.

TRAFFIC commends Environment Canada on its commitment to increase the strength of its enforcement team. This is a great step toward building up Canada's capacity to regulate wildlife trade.

*Contributed by Jill Hepp, TRAFFIC North America*

## Enforcement Successes in the News

### Long-Awaited Sentencing in Ivory Smuggling Case

On 6 August 2008, Tania Julie Siyam was sentenced in Akron, Ohio, to serve 60 months in prison and pay a USD100,000 fine for smuggling ivory into the United States from Cameroon. The sentence, handed down by U.S. District Court Judge John R. Adams, is the result of a multiyear, international investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Cleveland, Ohio.

Siyam was indicted by a federal grand jury in Cleveland on 3 March 2004 on two U.S. Lacey Act felonies and two smuggling felony counts for activities relating to the illegal commercial trafficking of raw African elephant ivory from Cameroon to the United States. At the time of the indictment, Siyam, a 32-year-old Canadian citizen, was being held by Canadian officials for extradition to the United States. Pursuant to treaties established between the U.S. and Canada, and after numerous Canadian hearings over nearly four years, Siyam was finally extradited to the United States to face criminal charges on 21 December 2007. On 21 March 2008, Siyam plead guilty in U.S. District Court in Akron to the four federal felony charges.



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*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Press Release, 7 August 2008*

### PROFEPA Seizes Over 100 Threatened Birds

PROFEPA (Attorney General for the Protection of the Environment) officers in Nuevo Leon, Mexico,



announced on 18 October 2008 that they had seized more than 100 birds from the Casa de los Loros in Nuevo Leon in the state of Monterrey. The owners of this parrot exhibition were unable to present the required documentation to prove the legal possession and origin of the birds. Among the birds confiscated were yellow-headed parrots (*Amazona oratrix*), yellow-neck parrots (*Amazona auropalliata*), orange-fronted parakeets (*Aratinga canicularis*), military macaws (*Ara militaris*) and red-crowned parrots (*Amazona viridigenalis*), all of which are protected by Mexican regulation NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2001 and found on the Mexican redlist of species in danger of extinction. On top of the required fine of USD149,895, an additional fine was imposed because of violations of the General Wildlife Law.

*PROFEPA Press Release, 18 October 2008*

## Mexican Authorities Seize Threatened Cycads

A total of 284 cycad plants (*Dioon edule*) were seized on 16 October 2008 at the bus terminal of San Luis Potosí, as a passenger attempted to take them to Mexico City for sale. The seizure of the cycads -- an endemic, threatened palm of the Huasteca Potosina region of Mexico - was achieved thanks to an anonymous tip received by PROFEPA. Inspectors found the smuggler in possession of six sacks containing cycads, and they verified that the plants were protected by law (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2001). The individual was arrested by the state police when he was unable to present the required documentation of legal origin and possession.



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*PROFEPA Press Release, 17 October 2008*

## Sentencing Continues in U.S. Marine Turtle Case

On 9 October 2008, the U.S. Justice Department announced the sentencing of a seventh individual accused in a case of trafficking protected wildlife products. Martin Villegas Terrones, a Mexican national, was sentenced to 24 months in prison for his role in a smuggling operation that was trafficking in protected marine turtle species. Along with the prison term, Villegas was sentenced to three years of supervised release.



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Villegas plead guilty on 11 March 2008 to federal smuggling charges in connection with the sale and shipment of endangered marine turtle skins and skin products from Mexico to the United States. Importation of marine turtles or marine turtle products into the United States for primarily commercial purposes is strictly prohibited by CITES and U.S. law. Villegas and 10 others were indicted in Denver, Colorado, in August 2007, following a multiyear undercover investigation named *Operation Central*. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Branch of Special Operations arrested Villegas and six other defendants on 6 September 2007.

All seven defendants arrested as a result of this investigation have now plead guilty and been sentenced. These include Chinese nationals Fu Yiner and Wang Hong; Mexican nationals Carlos Leal Barragan, Esteban Lopez Estrada, and Martin Villegas Terrones; Oscar Cueva of McAllen, Texas; and Jorge Caraveo of El Paso, Texas.

*U.S. Department of Justice Press Release, 9 October 2008*

## Indonesian Police Destroy 13.8 Tons of Pangolin Meat

In August 2008, police in Palembang, South Sumatra, destroyed 13.8 tons of seized pangolin (*Manis javanica*) meat and scales in the presence of high-ranking national police officers and officials from other agencies. Officers from the provincial and national police forces had confiscated the meat and hides of this rare and protected scaly anteater, or pangolin, in a raid on 30 July 2008. The raid disrupted a major factory based processing operation of pangolins captured in the wild. South Sumatra Police Chief Inspector Gen. Ito Sumardi



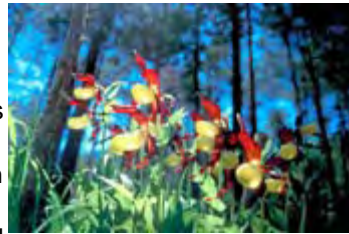
© Stephen Hogg / WWF Malaysia

D.S. said police had named three suspects so far, one from Malaysia and two from Sumatra. Smuggling pangolin meat is in violation of Indonesian law and carries a maximum sentence of five years jail time and a Rp 100 million (~USD \$9,350) fine.

*The Jakarta Post, 30 August 2008*

## Orchid Smuggler Stopped

In August 2008, a Florida orchid seller admitted in U.S. District Court in Miami that he smuggled wild orchids out of the Philippines. Fort Lauderdale businessman Mac Rivenbark plead guilty to smuggling more than 1,400 orchids into Miami International Airport in 2005. This violation of the U.S. Lacey Act carries a five-year maximum prison sentence and stiff fines. Rivenbark admitted that he falsely claimed in paperwork that the orchids were grown artificially, when in fact they were collected in the wild by a relative in the Philippines and shipped to him.



© Anton Vorauer / WWF Canon

*U.S. Department of Justice Press Release, 12 August 2008*

## Sentencing on Illegal Importation of Stuffed Tiger

At a hearing on 8 August 2008, U.S. District Court Judge D. Lowell Jensen sentenced 31-year-old Nicki Phung to six months home confinement and three years' probation for her role in illegally importing a stuffed and mounted tiger from Vietnam. The judge also ordered her to pay USD5,000 in restitution to a nonprofit organization that protects great cats, including tigers, throughout the world. Prosecutors say Phung plead guilty on 16 April to violating the U.S. Lacey Act for her role in importing the stuffed tiger, which she listed as a "stuffed toy." The U.S. Attorney's office said Phung admitted that she imported the tiger from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, into San Francisco International Airport in December 2007 without obtaining an export permit from Vietnam or an import permit from the United States. Tigers are listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and are protected by CITES. The prosecution resulted from a three-month investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

*U.S. Department of Justice Press Release, 8 August 2008*

## Thousands of Marine Turtle Eggs Seized in Oaxaca, Mexico

As part of the permanent campaign that aims to protect marine turtle species at risk in Mexico, PROFEPA staff in the state of Oaxaca seized more than 30,000 Olive Ridley turtle eggs in August 2008. The eggs were collected from nesting beaches to supply the illegal trade. Thirteen suspects were detained in a conspiracy to collect and trade turtle eggs for consumption. Olive Ridelys (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) arrive on Oaxaca's beaches each August. During this time, PROFEPA staff in this region increase their operations on the beaches, highway control points and markets in order to prevent poaching and illegal trade.



© WWF International / Malaysian Photo Service

*PROFEPA Press Release, 3 September 2008*

## Nigerian Leopard Skin Smuggler Sentenced to Six Months Custody

Earlier this year, TRAFFIC provided written testimony in a landmark U.S. District Court case involving illegal leopard trade from Nigeria. The defendant in the case had claimed an exemption to law based on religious grounds. If the court had ruled in his favor, it would have opened a legal loophole and set a dangerous precedent. However, in April 2008, the court ruled against the defendant, and the judge cited TRAFFIC's testimony in his decision as justification. In August 2008, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California announced that Moses Oladele Adeyemo, of Lagos, Nigeria, was



© Neyret & Benastar / WWF Canon



sentenced to 6 months custody, 5 years probation and ordered to pay \$10,000 in restitution for smuggling four leopard skins into the United States from Nigeria. Mr. Adeyemo pleaded guilty on July 29, 2008 to smuggling and wildlife violations under the Lacey Act. According to the plea agreement, Mr. Adeyemo admitted that on May 28, 2001, he imported into the United States a shipment containing four leopard skins sewn with three naguehyde bags, from Lagos, Nigeria, to Oakland, California. Customs officers examined this package at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and found the four leopard skins concealed with the naguehyde bags. Mr. Adeyemo admitted that he did not have, nor had he applied for, a permit to export the leopard skins from Nigeria or a permit to import the leopard skins into the United States. Additionally Mr. Adeyemo admitted that on September 11, 2007, as he entered the United States at SFO, federal agents found that he had concealed within an undergarment on his person numerous large cat teeth, including leopard teeth. The prosecution is the result of a two year investigation by agents of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Maureen Bessette is the Assistant U.S. Attorney who prosecuted the case with the assistance of Laurie Best.

*U.S. Department of Justice Press Release 1 August 2008 and contributions from Leigh Henry, TRAFFIC North America*

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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## TRAFFIC Aids Wildlife Trafficking Prosecution in Minnesota



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In the fall of 2005, octogenarian Pa Lor was stopped at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport upon returning home from her native country of Laos. Lor was attempting to smuggle over 1,300 wildlife parts into the United States. Parts of serow, douc langur, Asian elephant, slow loris, clouded

leopard, pangolin and many other protected species were confiscated. All of these products were destined for Lor's booth at the International Market Place in St. Paul, to be sold as traditional Hmong medicines and talismans.

This seizure was the jumping off point for a multi-agency investigation into the wildlife smuggling operation of Lor and her daughter, Tia Yang, which lasted more than three years. The investigation was a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

During the investigation, the FWS conducted two undercover operations at Lor's booth leased in the name of Tia Yang during which parts of endangered species were sold to FWS agents. During one of the undercover buys, Lor detailed how she was able to smuggle these items into the United States and even warned the undercover agent to be careful transporting the items, since they were illegal.

On July 25, 2008, Pa Lor and Tia Yang, both of Minnesota, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to smuggle wildlife into the United States. On January 13, 2009, both women were sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Joan Ericksen to two years of probation. Judge Ericksen stated that, "to the extent that you were dealing these animal parts for drug purposes, you were a drug dealer." In addition, Yang was sentenced to five months home confinement and 40 hours of community service, and ordered to pay a US \$9,000 fine. As part of Lor's sentence, she also agreed to work with federal officials to

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As it has done in numerous wildlife trafficking cases over the years, TRAFFIC provided a letter to the judge in this case to stress the impact that such crimes have on threatened and endangered species, the habitats on which they depend, and the resources of the country of origin. In this most egregious case, TRAFFIC specifically highlighted the plight of Asian elephants, pangolins and slow lorises, all species threatened by illegal trade and protected by CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The FWS special agent in charge of the case said that these letters were critical in convincing Judge Ericksen of the seriousness of the crimes.

*Contributed by Leigh Henry, TRAFFIC North America*

## Did You Know?

### ***New Rules on Caviar***

Did you know that there are new rules for how much caviar you are allowed to bring back with you when traveling? To ensure the sustainability of the trade in sturgeon and paddlefish caviar, the limit on the quantity individuals can carry with them while traveling internationally (without being required to obtain CITES permits) has been reduced from 250 grams to 125 grams.



© Edward Parker / WWF-Canon

As of September 15, 2008, anyone entering or leaving the United States may import or export no more than 125 grams of sturgeon or paddlefish caviar as part of their personal effects. For the import or export of any greater amount, permits are required and the permits are for the entire quantity, not just the amount exceeding 125 grams. This change in

rules has taken place to comply with amendments made to CITES resolutions regarding personal effects (Res. Conf. 13.7) and sturgeon (Res. Conf. 12.7) at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in June 2007.

The American paddlefish is classified by the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* as vulnerable due to the increasing demand for caviar and the increasing competition for the fish's food and habitat. The ban on import of beluga caviar remains, as beluga sturgeon is a threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

*Contributed by Aradhna Mather*

## NEWS FROM THE U.S.

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Largest-Ever Timber  
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**TRAFFIC**  
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of Interior  
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of State  
WWF Japan

## Six Countries Named in IUU Fishing Report

In January, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) submitted the first-ever report to the U.S. Congress identifying nations whose fishing vessels were engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in 2007 or 2008. Those countries were France, Italy, Libya, Panama, the People's Republic of China and Tunisia.

According to NOAA's report, the identified nations had fishing vessels that did not comply with measures agreed to under various international regional fishery management organizations. For example, in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, fishing vessels from the identified nations were using illegal fishing gear, fishing during a closed season, or not complying with reporting requirements. Failure to report catch and effort data to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas hampers the ability of that fishery management body to conduct vital stock assessments used to manage stocks like the severely depleted eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.



In the Pacific Ocean, vessels from an identified nation violated an international rule requiring any vessel fishing for tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean be listed in the vessel register for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the regional fishery management organization that manages tuna stocks in that area.

The identification of nations follows two years in which NOAA's Fisheries Service, working with the U.S. Department of State, conducted extensive outreach at bilateral and multilateral meetings to inform fishing nations of the new international measures to combat IUU fishing under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act.

The act, signed into law in 2007, amends the High Seas Driftnet Moratorium Protection Act to require the U.S. to strengthen international fishery management organizations and address IUU fishing and the bycatch of protected living marine resources. Specifically, the Moratorium Protection Act now requires the secretary of commerce to identify in a biennial report to Congress those foreign nations whose fishing vessels are engaged in IUU fishing and illegal bycatch. The act also requires the secretary to certify whether these identified nations stopped IUU fishing and the bycatch of protected resources.

The identification will be followed by consultations to urge nations to adopt corrective measures. Following consultations, NOAA will formally certify whether or not each of the six nations has adopted effective measures to stop IUU fishing. If a nation is found to be engaged in IUU fishing, that nation's vessels may be denied entry into U.S. ports and the President may prohibit imports of certain fish products from that nation or take other measures. NOAA's report to Congress also includes information on the status of living marine resources around the globe and multilateral efforts to improve stewardship of these resources.

TRAFFIC is hopeful that the process of identifying and certifying nations will encourage more countries to take corrective action to stop IUU fishing voluntarily, as this is a major problem that needs to be addressed globally.

*Adapted by Jill Hepp, TRAFFIC North America, from NMFS press release, January 13, 2008*

## NEWS FROM MEXICO

### A Sustainable Approach to Building CITES Capacity in Central America



The signing of the United States-Central America-Dominican Republic (CAFTA-DR) Free Trade Agreement provided an unprecedented opportunity to promote environmental cooperation between the US and the CAFTA signatory countries and to support capacity building in the regional related to environmental concerns including wildlife trade and the implementation of CITES. As a key part of this initiative, in June and October of 2008, TRAFFIC and WWF held workshops on wildlife trade regulation for CITES management and scientific authorities and the enforcement authorities of five Central American countries. The training session focused on sustainable management of wildlife, regulation of wildlife trade, and enforcement.



Costa Rican reptile expert Pompilio Campos joined nearly 20 other experts to work with over 100 workshop participants. Among them were officials that implement and enforce regulations related to wildlife trade from 30 different institutions in Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. The workshops were jointly supported by the U.S. Department of State under CAFTA-DR and the U.S. Agency for International Development's Central American Watersheds Project. The partners involved in supporting the implementation were TRAFFIC, the United States Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and WWF Central America Regional Office.

The workshops were welcomed by governments in the region as a clear indication of commitment to collaborating on sustainable conservation practices, as well as an effort to promote cooperation and communication among countries.

*"The training has been useful ... information was directly provided by the experts and other experienced participants. Support materials and documentation with global applicability were given to us, as well as very valuable scientific information. Through the presentation of guides, procedures and materials, this workshop has helped improve [our] effectiveness in the implementation of CITES,"* commented Rene Salgado, director's assistant at CENDEPESCA in El Salvador.

TRAFFIC is focused on making sure its capacity building efforts are long lasting in the region. Additional trainings will be held in the coming months focused on training trainers, and wildlife handling equipment will be supplied to wildlife inspectors in each of the CAFTA-DR countries to help support their work. TRAFFIC is also working on establishing a partnership with a regional training institute to develop a lasting wildlife trade curriculum in the region. By strengthening long term capacity to better implement CITES, the unique biodiversity of the CAFTA-DR countries will be protected for the long-term.

*Contributed by Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC North America*

## **International Workshop Looks at CITES Non-Detriment Findings**

An International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) was held in Mexico (Cancun, Quintana Roo) November 17-22, 2008. NDFs are a key element in the proper implementation and effectiveness of CITES.

CITES Parties supported the workshop based on recognition of the need to continue developing their capacities for the proper implementation of the Convention. Scientific authorities are continually challenged to develop NDFs, which determine whether a particular export could have negative impact on the survival in the wild of the species concerned. The workshop was attended by 103 participants from 33 countries in the six CITES regions (i.e., Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America and Oceania).



Participants were from academia, scientific institutions and CITES authorities directly involved in NDF formulation for particular taxa.

Mexico's Scientific Authority, CONABIO, organized and led the workshop supported by an International Steering Committee, who defined the workshop's objectives, functioning and experts' attendance. The Steering Committee was composed of representatives of 13 different Parties, covering all CITES regions, the Presidents of both the Animals and Plants Committees, the CITES Secretariat, and 8 representatives of IGOs and NGOs.

The main goal of the workshop was to provide CITES authorities with guidance on the processes needed to formulate NDFs by building on existing work, so the central provision that an NDF requires for the export of Appendix I and Appendix II species can be better implemented. The workshop aimed to deliver two main products:

1. general guidelines (principles and criteria) that summarize the different approaches and paths followed by scientific authorities along the NDF decision-making process;
2. taxon-based guidelines (principles and criteria) for developing NDFs for taxa commonly found in trade (e.g. review and summarize basic parameters, field evaluation and analysis methodologies, develop risk-assessment checklists or stepwise approaches to conducting resource assessments, review monitoring systems and management elements, as well as other procedures for setting of quotas for off-take and export).

Other outcomes from the workshop included a compilation of background documents, 60 case studies showing different approaches to the development of NDFs, and a directory of experts working on CITES NDF formulation with their contact information.

Other sponsors that supported CONABIO in the development of this workshop were Mexico's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the UK Embassy in Mexico, TRAFFIC, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the SCI Foundation First for Wildlife, the Species Survival Network (SNN), the Humane Society International (HSI), the European Union and other CITES Parties through the CITES Secretariat.

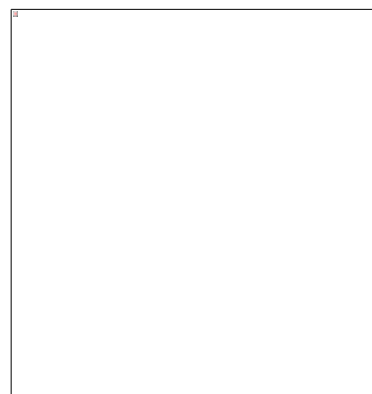
These wide array of participants and supporters hope this effort will significantly contribute to the correct implementation of CITES and increase its effectiveness by ensuring trade in its listed species is sustainable. The participation of a number of Central American experts was made possible as part of a project supported by the U.S. Department of State through the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) CITES Support Program.

*Contributed by Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC North America*

## NEWS FROM CANADA

### **TRAFFIC Canada and Environment Canada Sign MOU**

TRAFFIC Canada and Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation on furthering the implementation and enforcement of wildlife trade regulations in Canada.





It is the first such agreement between the WED and a nongovernmental organization. The signing took place on February 24, 2009 and was witnessed by delegates to the International CITES E-commerce workshop, held in Vancouver, Canada, including representatives from CITES Parties worldwide, the CITES secretariat, INTERPOL, World Customs Organization, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Canada Border Services Agency.

Collaboration between TRAFFIC and Environment Canada to assist with capacity building has previously been on an ad hoc basis. The MOU will allow the pooling of resources and the establishment of collaborative structures. The new agreement will help reduce illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade through better implementation and enforcement of CITES regulations; and improved monitoring of trade trends and emerging priorities through joint compilation and analysis of wildlife trade data. The two organizations will also undertake joint activities to raise awareness of wildlife trade-related issues, to share technical expertise, and to train enforcement personnel.

Environment Canada described the signing of the MOU as a milestone in increasing collaboration with key partners and in demonstrating its commitment to working with NGOs. "TRAFFIC and WED's close cooperation will have a significant impact on regulating wildlife trade in the region, and we look forward to a continuing productive partnership," commented Ernie Cooper, Canadian national representative for TRAFFIC North America.

*Source: Journal entry on traffic.org, Feb. 27, 2009*

## **Internet Wildlife Trading Comes Under Spotlight**

Following allegations that criminals were using web-based auction sites to sell illegally obtained wildlife products such as ivory and caviar, the CITES Secretariat, organized an international CITES E-commerce workshop, co-hosted by Environment Canada. The workshop was held in Vancouver, BC (Canada) from February 24-26th, 2009 and was attended by government representatives from Argentina, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States. Participants from the European Community, ICPO-Interpol, the World Customs Organization, eBay, CEEweb for Biodiversity, the Polish Society for Nature Conservation "Salamandra", IFAW, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Species Survival Network, and TRAFFIC were also represented.

The purpose of the workshop was to examine the way in which wildlife and wildlife products are traded via the Internet. Some of the main topics of discussion were the problems associated with regulating and monitoring legal wildlife trade via the internet, and combating the illegal trade in wildlife facilitated via internet. Two specific matters were identified and discussed for the duration of the workshop: the concept of a complete ban of advertisements for CITES Appendix I species; and who is ultimately responsible for proving the items advertised are of legal origin —the country where it was advertised, or the person(s) advertising the sale. No consensus on either matter was reached and no recommendations were adopted by the workshop.



At the workshop, Ernie Cooper, Canadian regional representative for TRAFFIC, presented the results of TRAFFIC's research into e-commerce. That research included a discussion of an eight-month study of the Chinese-language Internet and an investigation into the sale of critically endangered Kaiser's spotted newts.

TRAFFIC first drew attention to the use of Internet auction sites for trading ivory in the United States through its report *Tackling the Ivories: The Status of the U.S. Trade in Elephant and Hippo Ivory*. According to the report, between February and May 2004, an average of 1,000 elephant ivory items per

week were advertised on the Internet. Just last year, following the advice of TRAFFIC and others, well-known Internet auction site eBay announced a ban on all ivory sales, because of difficulty in policing the trade.

The participants of the workshop put forth a number of recommendations to address the issue of the illicit wildlife trade via the Internet. These recommendations included:

- the establishment of agreements of memoranda of understanding between Parties and Internet auction sites to remove CITES-listed species lacking required documentation;
- amending regulation legislations to include wildlife trade via Internet;
- creating an Internet code of conduct;
- conducting scientific research on the impact of Internet on wildlife crime; and
- to raise public awareness on illicit Internet wildlife trade.

*Sources: Journal entry on traffic.org, Feb. 24, 2009, and press release on cites.org, Feb. 20, 2009*

## **Court Awards TRAFFIC Support After Tiger Conviction**

A traditional Asian medicine importer based in Canada was convicted of possessing and attempting to sell medicines (pharmaceuticals manufactured in Asia) containing parts from tigers and other protected species, and a portion of the fine was awarded to TRAFFIC. Wing Quon Enterprises Ltd. pleaded guilty on February 17, 2009, in a Richmond Provincial Court. The company was fined CA \$45,000 (US \$36,000), and the court awarded CA \$40,000 (US \$32,000) to TRAFFIC to help further its work in monitoring wildlife trade.

The company was also ordered to forfeit the seized medicines and products including those made from other CITES listed species, including rhinoceros, bear, musk deer, pangolin, costus root, and agarwood.

*Source: traffic.org, Feb. 19, 2009*

## **Enforcement Successes in the News**

### **U.S. Border Patrol Agent Pleads Guilty**

In April 2009, U.S. Border Patrol Agent Rene Soliz pleaded guilty to animal trafficking charges, the Justice Department said. Soliz tried to import rare tortoises in a package labeled as containing 50 live scorpions. When a U.S. Fish and Wildlife inspector opened the package, he found 14 live leopard tortoises and one dead leopard tortoise.

Soliz entered his guilty plea in Texas, on charges that he illegally attempted to receive 15 Tanzanian leopard tortoises without the required permit. The tortoises are listed on CITES Appendix II and their importation requires declaration with permits and correct transportation conditions. Soliz faces a maximum one-year sentence and will resign from the Border Patrol.

*Source: Reuters, April 15, 2009*

### **Six Arrested for Smuggling African Elephant Ivory**

Six defendants were arrested in on December 3, 2008, for conspiring to smuggle African elephant ivory from Cameroon, the Ivory Coast and



Uganda into the United States. The arrests took place in New York, New Jersey, Virginia and Texas.

To avoid detection, the ivory was shipped in parcels labeled as containing wooden snakes, guitars and statues. The complaint alleges that defendants Kemo Sylla and Seidou Mfomboutmoun paid one trafficker US \$15,000 to courier a shipment of ivory from Cameroon into the United States. However, most of the ivory was sent via parcel through JFK International Airport, accompanied by fraudulent shipping and customs documents. The maximum term of imprisonment for any defendant convicted of smuggling is 20 years.

*Source: Department of Justice news release, December 3, 2008*

## **Wildlife Traffickers Detained in Durango, Mexico**

In August 2008, a ruling was made for the detention of six people who had engaged in the trafficking of birds in Durango, Mexico. The defendants were found with a shipment of 313 birds destined for sale in Mexican cities bordering the United States. In the shipment there were 250 Half-Moon Conures or Orange-Fronted Conures (*Aratinga canicularis*), 36 Lilac-Crowned Amazons or Finsch's Amazons (*Amazona finschi*), and two White-Fronted Amazon parrots (*Amazona albifrons*).

The detention order found that the detainees committed environmental crime by transporting wild endemic species. Possible jail terms range from 1 to 9 years.

*Source: profepa.gob.mx, Aug. 5, 2008*

## **Shark Seizure in Revillagigedo Islands, Mexico**

A boat carrying 100,000 kilos of shark and 300 kilos of sailfish was seized 1 mile East of Socorro Island, Mexico, in September 2008. Authorities from Naval Military Region VI of the Mexican Navy seized the boat and its contents, including its fishing gear, in the core zone of the protected area around the Revillagigedo Islands.

*Source: profepa.gob.mx, Sept. 3, 2008*



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## **Largest-Ever Timber Seizure in Mexico**

In December 2008, Mexican authorities carried out the largest seizure of illegally logged timber ever known in Mexico. The operation happened after authorities had carried out 12 searches at various sawmills.

The enforcement officers seized nearly 9.5 million cubic meters of roundwood, with a market value exceeding 14 million pesos, over USD1 million. The seizures took place in the buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve of the Monarch Butterflies in Michoacan, Mexico. Also seized were 40 pieces of equipment and 8 vehicles.



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Two people were arrested for this and other environmental crimes. They are being investigated by the Special Unit for Crimes Against the Environment. This unit coordinated the investigation with the support and participation of 284 people from various government agencies, among them the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

## Poacher Convicted for Lion Poaching

In India during February 2009 an enforcement case concerning the poaching of the endangered Asiatic Lion resulted in convictions for 16 poachers including Prabhakar Keshav Gajakosh Gajakosh, a local politician and a notorious poacher. When arrested, Gajakosh was in possession of 23 leopard skins, 3 tiger skins and 20 river otter skins. According to officials, he is part of an illegal wildlife trade network that spreads across the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka. He was handed over to the Gujarat state police for allegedly selling lion parts.

*Source: The Times of India, Feb. 26, 2009*



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Downloadable versions of many of TRAFFIC North America's reports can be found at: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/wildlifetrade/item4912.html>, and at <http://www.traffic.org/>.

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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



The E-newsletter of TRAFFIC North America



September 2012

## In This Issue

## From the Director's Desk

Wildlife crime has been on my mind more than ever recently; it's hard to sleep at night after reviewing the latest figures on global seizures of elephant ivory or on rhino poaching in South Africa. The talk resonating in the media about conservation of flagship species tigers, rhinos and elephants includes phrases such as "massive surge in demand for endangered species in Asia" and "poaching for trade is out of control and off the charts." It looks like 2012 will break the record set last year in South Africa of 448 rhinos killed for their horns. There was more illicit ivory in trade last year than in any year since the 1989 ivory trade ban was established - this is shocking. It is evident to law enforcement experts and conservation groups alike that organized crime groups see the high profits and low risks in wildlife trafficking and have increased their illicit operations. And the connections clearly reach into North America, where there has been an increased detection of illegal ivory imports. We've even seen rhino trafficking crime rings being busted in the U.S.

## From the Director's Desk

Strengthening the Capacity of Wildlife Officials in Mexico

Environment Canada Holds First National Coral Workshop

TRAFFIC Supports WWF Wildlife Trade Campaign

Study Looks at Coral Use in Canadian Beading Industry

TRAFFIC Investigates Illegal Trade in Black Coral

While it may seem that an unavoidable crisis is unfolding, there is a great deal of hope as we work to galvanize a major global push-back to overcome the surge in wildlife crime. TRAFFIC is supporting an international wildlife trade campaign launched by WWF in August 2012. The campaign calls for leveraging the resources of our respective global networks to coordinate action in delivering sustainable solutions and to get wildlife crime treated as a serious offense by governments and stakeholders. The outlook for improvement is promising, as we're hearing a willingness to collaborate from major enforcement organizations, including INTERPOL and the governments in Central Africa, South Africa, China, the UK and the U.S.

**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

is a joint programme of



**Produced with the generous support of the Hendrickson Foundation**

More information about our wildlife trade campaign is included in this newsletter. Also, you will find a story on TRAFFIC's work in Mexico to help combat wildlife crime in the region in partnership with Mexican authorities and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thank you for reading our newsletter, and please forward it to colleagues and friends.

Crawford Allan  
Regional Director  
TRAFFIC North America

## Strengthening the Capacity of Wildlife Officials in Mexico

The capacity of Mexico's wildlife management and law enforcement officials received a boost during a national training workshop organized by TRAFFIC and held in Mexico City February 22-24. The training was done with the support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the framework of the Wildlife Without Borders program.

Trainers promoted sustainable practices and the sound implementation of existing legal frameworks. Workshop participants were given information and support materials on national and international legal frameworks, national wildlife policies and management schemes. There were practical sessions on specimen identification and handling, to make the necessary tools and knowledge available to those in charge of ensuring the conservation of plants and animals from wild origin. The training was carried out in close collaboration with Mexico's General Attorney for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA) and the Wildlife Directorate of the Environmental Ministry (SEMARNAT).

The more than 30 leading experts who served as workshop instructors came from government agencies and the academic sector, including the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), the National University of Mexico, NGOs and the Office of Law Enforcement of the USFWS. Participants included all 31 state delegations of SEMARNAT, representatives of eight state governments, and enforcement staff from over 20 PROFEPA delegations from around the country.

Because this was the first time that wildlife management officials and enforcement authorities came together for a joint training on this topic, the workshop also strengthened interagency coordination and synergies.

*Contribution by Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC North America–Mexico*

## Environment Canada Holds First National Coral Workshop

The first National Coral Identification Workshop for Environment Canada's wildlife officers was held in Vancouver, B.C., March 6-8, 2012. Presentations were made by officers from various jurisdictions and by invited experts from the United States and Canada. Discussions covered the topics of coral trade in Canada and CITES regulations. To address the current challenges with identification and enforcement, the workshop offered identification training on precious, semiprecious and live corals.



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This workshop was the first joint output of the MOU between TRAFFIC and Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Directorate. The MOU was signed in February 2009, the first of its kind between the directorate and a nongovernmental organization. Its purpose is to facilitate cooperation between the two organizations on furthering the implementation and enforcement of wildlife trade regulations in Canada. Per the MOU, the two organizations will undertake joint activities to raise awareness of wildlife trade-related issues, share technical expertise and train enforcement personnel.

The workshop, which was attended by 25 wildlife officers and coral experts, was well received.

*Contribution by Tanya Shadbolt, TRAFFIC North America–Canada*

## TRAFFIC Supports WWF Wildlife Trade



## Campaign

In August 2012, with strong support from TRAFFIC, WWF launched its first-ever global wildlife trade campaign. Under the slogan (in the US) “Stop Wildlife Crime: It’s Dead Serious,” the campaign seeks to mobilize international attention and resources to combat wildlife crime. Efforts will focus on poaching and trafficking in elephant ivory and rhino horn from Africa to Asia and on stemming the demand for endangered species products such as tiger parts in Asia.

A steady buildup of political will and programs to combat wildlife crime by governments and institutions—such as INTERPOL, World Customs Organization, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, CITES and the World Bank—has led WWF to believe that there is fertile ground for a campaign approach to coordinating and bolstering existing efforts by partners. In the face of the significant and rapid rise of the criminal enterprises that threaten conservation, TRAFFIC is dedicated to supporting the efforts of partners like WWF to meet the wildlife crime challenge.



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The campaign goals include developing policy and advocacy measures that achieve the treatment of wildlife crimes as serious crimes. To draw attention to the actions WWF is promoting to combat wildlife crimes, a series of events will take place in forums that include the UN, CITES CoP16, Central African Forest Commission, the Fuller Symposium on Conservation Crime. Several reports will be published, and we will support enforcement activities and promote awareness activities. WWF hopes the conservation community, governments and other partners will join them in this international push and coordinate efforts to seriously impact wildlife crime.

*Contribution by Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC North America–USA*

## Study Looks at Coral Use in Canadian Beading Industry

Coral has been used in the making of jewelry dating as far back as 25,000 years. Today, precious and semiprecious corals used in the jewelry and beading industry draw high prices and nearly global market demand. The Hawaiian precious coral industry has been estimated to generate US\$70 million per year in recent years, and Italy’s red coral industry has been estimated to generate more than US\$230 million per year.

The market for coral in the fashion industry is for both finished and unfinished jewelry products. Coral trade is profitable and extensive, providing ample incentive for continuing harvest. This demand has led to rapid depletion and overharvest of coral in some areas.

A study on the extent of the coral-for-jewelry trade was done in 2011 and early 2012 across five Canadian cities: Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver and Calgary. The information collected was used to estimate the extent of trade, to identify what species are in trade, and to indicate whether the trade should be a conservation concern. This study provides the first quantitative data on the extent of this trade in Canada.

The results identified six main coral groups in trade: Coralliidae spp. (red and pink coral), Antipatharia spp. (black coral), Scleractinia spp. (stony coral), Heliopora coerulea (blue coral), Melithaeidae spp. (sponge coral) and Isididae spp. (bamboo coral/sea bamboo). Close to 14,000 strands of coral beads were identified in a total of 44 beading supply shops and wholesaler outlets across the cities surveyed. Four of these coral taxa (Coralliidae spp., Antipatharia spp., Scleractinia spp. and Heliopora coerulea) are listed under CITES, and as such they require CITES permits to enter Canada. The other two coral taxa identified (Melithaeidae spp. and Isididae spp.) are not listed by CITES and so do not require CITES permits.

The majority of corals identified in trade (86% Isididae spp., 7% Melithaeidae spp.) are not listed by

CITES. Isididae spp. was found in every store surveyed, had the highest volume compared to other corals, and also varied the most in shape, size and colors available.

The study highlighted challenges with enforcement in Canada and the poor regulation of Isididae spp. and Melithaeidae spp. At this stage there is insufficient evidence to indicate whether the trade in precious and semiprecious coral beads is of conservation concern, as there is very little information on the harvest of the non-CITES-listed corals in trade. Nevertheless, there are indications to suggest this trade is not being regulated effectively.

The study also identified a lack of knowledge of corals in general on the part of both consumers and traders, some of whom could not even recognize the products as being corals. Educational and outreach materials are needed so consumers can make informed choices about their purchases.

*Contribution by Tanya Shadbolt, TRAFFIC North America–Canada*

## **TRAFFIC Investigates Illegal Trade in Black Coral**

This is the story of how one successful investigation into illegal trade in black coral led to the funding of TRAFFIC research that will further the goal of reducing that very trade.

On August 9, 2009, a business in Taiwan sent a shipment of 10 boxes labeled as “plastic of craft work” to a company in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. The company based in Taiwan, Peng Chia Enterprise Co. Ltd., had been under surveillance for more than two years as part of an investigation known as “Operation Black Gold.” Partnering in the investigation were the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA and Customs officials. The “black gold” in this case was black coral—the real contents of the shipment falsely labeled as “plastic of craft work.”



Black corals (Antipatharia) are a group of deepwater, tree-like corals that encompasses about 150 known species in seven families. Since 1981, all Antipatharia species have been listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Appendix II, which requires authorized permits for trade in the species. In the case cited above, the black coral had been sourced from a Chinese supplier, who illegally shipped the coral from Hong Kong to St. Thomas without the required CITES permits. After a U.S. Customs Contraband Enforcement team flagged the shipment as suspicious, wildlife officials moved in to seize the shipment and make arrests.

As a result, on June 23, 2010, the owners of Peng Chia were arrested and charged with falsifying documents and providing illegal black coral to jewelry manufacturing companies. On July 15, 2011, the company to which Peng Chia had supplied the illegal black coral, GEM Manufacturing LLC, pleaded guilty to violations of the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act, and in October 2011 they were ordered to pay fines totaling US\$1.8 million. (The black coral contained in the confiscated shipment had been worked into jewelry and other items that was worth more than US\$2.17 million.)

In May 2012, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) granted some of the funds from the court settlement of Operation Black Gold to TRAFFIC to conduct an investigation into the illegal harvest and trade of black coral between Asia and the U.S. and its territories. The aim is to develop a better understanding of the dynamics of the trade—from source countries, to trade routes, to markets. The study will focus on priority hotspots where trade and harvest of black coral are the most extensive and most threatening to the conservation of the species. By exposing gaps in monitoring, control and surveillance of the harvest fisheries, the supply chain and the international trade, this TRAFFIC/NFWF study will highlight where new measures and actions may have a



positive impact on the conservation of black corals.

Black coral is termed a “precious coral”—and indeed its luster, fine texture, and resilience under the crafting process has increased consumer demand, which has in turn driven up prices. As its availability in the Caribbean has dwindled (due to overharvest for the tourism industry), harvest in Asia has expanded to maintain supply. Industry insiders say that the black market is significant and may total an incredible 50 percent of all trade.

Illegal trade seriously threatens the conservation of the black coral species. It undermines marine conservation efforts and the efforts of CITES to regulate harvest and trade. Complicating attempts to mitigate these threats is the serious lack of data on the scale and nature of the illegal trade. The complexities of the supply chain in the Operation Black Gold story—a business in one territory, sourcing in another, and supplying to a third—are just one example of the huge challenge this trade presents to the enforcement of wildlife trade laws and international protections. The TRAFFIC/NFWF study should shed new light on how best to advance the conservation of black coral.

### *Contribution by Ben Freitas, TRAFFIC North America–USA*

[1] U.S. Department of Justice. June 23, 2010. “Taiwanese couple sentenced to prison for illegally trading protected black coral.” <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/June/10-enrd-733.html>

[2] Tsounis G, Rossi S, Grigg R, Santangelo G, Bramanti L, Gili J. 2010. The exploitation and conservation of precious corals. *Oceanography and Marine Biology: An Annual Review*, 2010, 48, 161-212. p. 171. [http://icta.uab.cat/99\\_recurso/1290691375991.pdf](http://icta.uab.cat/99_recurso/1290691375991.pdf)

[3] Prior to 2007, Peng Chia was issued CITES export permits by authorities in Taiwan to ship black coral, but since 2007, they had been unable to obtain permits because they were unable to produce a legitimate certificate of origin.

[4] *Ibid.* The majority of trade in processed black coral is for jewelry, although a large proportion of the exports are semi finished products (such as beads).

[5] Tsounis 2010. P. 184

[6] There are also substantial sustainability issues involving the legal component of the trade given the limiting of the scope of CITES, where in many countries around the world, worked jewelry of black coral being carried by travelers as personal-effects is generally exempt from requiring permits. While the carrying of curios by travelers can appear to hold minor challenges for the sustainability of species, black corals are widely available in popular traveler destinations, particularly in the Caribbean, where tourists can easily purchase worked coral.

[7] There are major challenges in identifying much of the products in trade, namely the high volume trade in beads for jewelry. There is also a challenge with black coral being bleached to make it resemble the more valuable gold coral and this is not regulated under CITES.

## **Responding to National Geographic’s “Ivory Worship”**

The October issue of National Geographic magazine features a cover story entitled “Ivory Worship”, by Bryan Christy, which spotlights the ongoing illegal trade in elephant ivory. TRAFFIC welcomes efforts to expose the challenges of the current crisis of illegal elephant ivory trade and poaching. But TRAFFIC experts believe this article contains numerous errors and misrepresentations, especially regarding the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) and the role two CITES-condoned “one-off sales” of legal ivory have played in escalating demand.

TRAFFIC would like to emphasize the critical role that robust statistical methods utilized by ETIS play in providing information to decision makers on underlying trends and characteristics of the ivory trade. Although this article criticizes ETIS, revelations presented by the author come directly out of the body of work that ETIS has delivered over the years. Conclusions drawn in this article overlook data-substantiated findings provided to the author by TRAFFIC and WWF, and instead support unsubstantiated speculations. The author also incorrectly states that TRAFFIC was allowed to remain at the closed session of the CITES Standing Committee in August 2011. TRAFFIC was expelled from the session along with other conservation organizations. Even in the absence of any further legal trade, TRAFFIC believes poaching and illegal trade will continue to

rise as long as source countries, transit countries and consumer countries fall short in terms of their legislation and enforcement.

For further information on this issue, contact: Crawford Allan, Regional Director, TRAFFIC North America (Crawford.allan@wwfus.org).

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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## Historic Agreement Reached for the Tiger

Leaders from the 13 tiger-range countries endorsed a Global Tiger Recovery Program when they met at an unprecedented International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, November 21-24, 2010. The recovery program aims to ensure a doubling of the world's wild tiger population by 2022. The estimated number of wild tigers has plummeted from 100,000 a century ago to as few as 3,200 today.

This is the first time such a high-level meeting has taken place to save a single species. The tiger is under threat from ever-diminishing habitats, but even more imminently from poaching and the trafficking of its parts, especially in Southeast Asia and India. The forum was hosted by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and was attended by heads of government and ministers from the tiger-range countries, including Wen Jiabao, Premier of China's State Council.

Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC, addressed the forum on the topic of illegal trade. He focused on the results of a recent TRAFFIC investigation, which found that parts from at least 1,069 tigers had been illegally trafficked over a decade in 11 of the tiger-range countries.

Key to the Global Tiger Recovery Program's success in addressing illegal tiger trade will be the effectiveness of enforcement efforts by the tiger-range countries, aided by close regional and international cooperation. The International Tiger Forum highlighted strengthening regional law enforcement activities through bilateral and multilateral arrangements, including the ASEAN-WEN (ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network), SAWEN (South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network) and bilateral protocols between key tiger-range countries.

The cost of implementing the recovery program is an estimated US\$350 million. Several governments and organizations committed significant sums toward tiger conservation at the forum. The U.S. government will allocate an additional US\$9.2 million to combat illegal poaching and trafficking. WWF Director Jim Leape said his organization aims to mobilize US\$85 million over the next five years, and actor and environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio announced a US\$1 million donation to support WWF's tiger work.

Overall, the forum was a major success that should herald a new era of high-level attention to the challenges tigers and other

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**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

is a joint programme of



wildlife face from poaching, trade, conflict and environmental degradation.

*Contributed by Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC North America*

### **Consortium Formed to Combat Wildlife Crime**

On November 24, 2010, Secretary-General of CITES John Scanlon announced the formal creation of a new consortium to fight wildlife smuggling. The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC, or "eye-quick") comprises five member organizations:

- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
- INTERPOL (the international police organization)
- UNODC (the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)
- The World Bank
- WCO (the World Customs Organization)

These intergovernmental organizations have the majority of the world's governments as Parties or Member States. The consortium aims to support government efforts to stop crimes involving poaching, trafficking, trade, illegal killing, and habitat degradation. Scanlon said the goal of ICWC was "to introduce a new era to wildlife law enforcement by drawing upon the complementary skills of the consortium."

*Source: CITES Secretariat, November 2010*

### **TRAFFIC SUPPORT IN CENTRAL AMERICA**

#### **Strengthening CITES Non-detriment Findings**

A capacity-building workshop was held November 15-18, 2010, to formulate Non-detriment Findings (NDFs) and strengthen the implementation of CITES in Central American countries. The initiative was part of several resolutions adopted at the CITES 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, the workshop included contributing to the preparation of guidelines for NDFs, with an emphasis on species like queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) and big leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), the two most traded species from the region.

Participating were delegates from Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize and Panama. Among the experts invited to share their knowledge were representatives from the Mexican National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), the CORALINA organization, IUCN, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service of NOAA, and the CITES Secretariat.

The workshop aimed to improve the capacities of the CITES Authorities of the region to formulate Non-detriment Findings (NDF), in order to regulate trade of species in Appendix I and II following the principle that "a permit is granted when a Scientific Authority has advised that the import / export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species". The NDF is based on the analysis and evaluation of available scientific information.

The initiative was developed by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Environmental Agency of the Central American Integration System (SICA), in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service of NOAA, the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, and TRAFFIC. The workshop was funded by the U.S. Department of State in support of the Central America Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR).

*Contributed by Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC North America - Mexico*

#### **Enforcement Inspection Equipment Donated to CAFTA-DR Countries**

TRAFFIC North America donated over 600 items to the Dominican Republic government to support law enforcement officers, Customs officials, and other authorities in their daily activities involving wildlife trade. This was the first of six shipments of animal-handling and shipment inspection equipment to CAFTA-DR (Central America Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement) countries. The equipment includes leather protective gloves, animal transportation boxes, snake hooks, goggles, and restraining nets worth approximately US\$60,000.

This initiative is supported by the U.S. Department of State as part of a wider project to strengthen

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wildlife trade control capacities in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The goal is to diminish the health risks (for both handlers and animals) posed during wildlife shipment inspections and related animal handling and transportation activities.

This donation complements other TRAFFIC activities in the region such as efforts to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to conserve and sustainably manage wildlife, and to implement relevant national and international legal frameworks such as CITES. TRAFFIC believes that these efforts will contribute to improved enforcement of wildlife trade laws and better management of wildlife resources.

*Contributed by Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC North America Mexico*

## NEWS FROM MEXICO

### Early Success for New PROFEPA Program for Circuses

As part of the National Inspection and Monitoring of Wildlife Program, PROFEPA launched the National Inspection Subprogram for Circuses in September 2010. This involved a series of inspections on the source of wildlife being used in circuses in Mexico. The results are now in from the inspections of the first five circuses selected. In total 65 animals were seized. Of these 17 were seized as a precautionary measure due to the lack of documentation necessary to prove their legal origins. Some examples of the species seized were:

- Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris*)
- Black bear (*Ursus americanus*)
- Spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*)
- Bison (*Bison bison*)
- Dromedary camel (*Camelus dromedarios*)
- Llama (*Lama lama*)



© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

Source: [www.profepa.gob.mx](http://www.profepa.gob.mx), September 2010

### The Sustainable Use of Wildlife in Mexico

Mexico is one of the top ten most biologically diverse countries globally. This biological richness has historically favored the use and trade of plant and animal resources of wild origins for centuries. This practice continues today with wildlife specimens valued purely from a practical and economic standpoint but also for cultural, religious and traditional significance. Many of the species that are part of Mexico's great biological and cultural heritage are seriously threatened by causes such as habitat destruction for timber exploitation, single-crop farming, opening of grazing areas, tourism development, and industry.

The unsustainable and illegal use of wildlife and their parts and products are of particular concern. Mexico's use and trade in wildlife is prolific and varied—Mexico is a source of wildlife, a consumer, and a transit country for trade. And even though fauna and flora have always been an integral part of the Mexican culture, people lack knowledge of their current status, existing threats, legal frameworks, and the ecological and socioeconomic benefits of these natural resources.



© Mira-Bai Simon, WWF Mexico

A significant percentage of wildlife trade activities in Mexico are not legal. Wildlife crime impacts wildlife populations and has a negative ripple effect on economic and social fronts. Illegal trade that brings invasive, non-native species and diseases into the country can cause significant disruption of native ecosystems, also resulting in social and economic strain.

In the last few years, Mexico has recognized the need to promote sustainable use schemes for these natural resources. Sustainable practices for wildlife use can generate significant benefits in the

long term, while preventing the local extinction of species and degradation of natural environments. The challenges are many but the opportunities are significant. TRAFFIC has developed a strategic support framework for Mexico to help ensure that the opportunities are maximized and challenges reduced.

Under the strategic support framework for Mexico TRAFFIC has identified potential areas of intervention that would benefit Mexico and its wildlife:

1. Enhance the role of science in the management of wildlife subject to use and trade
2. Strengthen the legal framework and capacities to manage wildlife resources
3. Encourage people's participation in wildlife-related decision-making processes
4. Invest in sufficient resources for wildlife management

5. Introduce strong disincentives to discourage illegal wildlife trade
6. Strengthen coordination between authorities and public policies related to wildlife
7. Promote legal markets for sustainably produced and harvested wildlife
8. Educate and inform the decision makers, consumers and industry on priority wildlife issues that need to be addressed
9. Develop public and private sector partnerships to coordinate and sustain efforts to protect wildlife from illegal and unsustainable use

TRAFFIC North America reiterates its commitment to collaborating on these efforts and seeks partners to assist with implementing this strategic support framework. We aim to maintain the rich biodiversity of Mexico while supporting the needs of community livelihoods.

*Contributed by Adrian Reuter and Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC North America - Mexico*

## **ENFORCEMENT SUCCESSES IN THE NEWS**

### **PROFEPA Seizes Iguanas, Turtles, Armadillos in Chiapas**

During a public transport vehicle search on August 11, 2010, PROFEPA (Mexico's Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection) in Chiapas seized six green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*), 13 casquito turtles (*Kinosternon scorpioides*), eight cruzalluchi turtles (*Staurotypus salvinii*), and two armadillos (*Dasyops novemcintus*).



© Roger Leguen / WWF-Canon

The operation took place in the coastal region of the Lacandona jungle in Chiapas, and was carried out with the participation of 12 PROFEPA inspectors, 17 members of the State Police, and two members of the State Agency of Investigation from the Mexican Army. The animals were transferred to the city of Tapachula de Cordova and Ordonez for rehabilitation and future release in the Biosphere Reserve of the Crossroads.

The same operation also rescued six ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) nests containing a total of 688 eggs, found on the beaches of the Costa Azul Ejido in the municipality of Pijijiapan. The turtle eggs were delivered to the Tortuguero camp of the Nature and Ecology History Institute for incubation.

Source: [www.profepa.gob.mx](http://www.profepa.gob.mx), August 12, 2010

### **Illegal Logging Suspects Detained in Michoacán**

Inspectors from PROFEPA-Michoacán seized 11 vehicles and over 16 cubic meters of pine and oak in the indigenous community of Cheran, in the place known as Puente Quemado, in September 2010. This was a joint operation with the National Defense Secretariat (SEDENA) and several state and municipal police forces in the area of the Meseta Purépecha. They detained 10 people suspected of illegal logging. All of the vehicles, the wood, and the suspects were transferred to the federal prosecutor in Morelia, Michoacán, who will decide the legal status of the detainees.



© Fletcher & Baylis / WWF-Indonesia

Source: [www.profepa.gob.mx](http://www.profepa.gob.mx), September 2010

### **Yukon Enforcement Blitz Finds Over 50 Violations**

Environment Canada conducted an import/export border blitz at the Beaver Creek border crossing in Yukon Territory, September 12-24, 2010. Officers uncovered more than 50 violations of federal and territorial laws, including the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act. They made 23 seizures or detentions involving whole, or parts of, protected species such as walrus, black bear, grizzly bear, sea otter, caribou, moose, eagle (feathers), coyote, dall sheep and bowhead whale. Enforcement actions included written warnings, seizure of goods, and tickets issued under the Yukon Wildlife Act. Some of the violations have led to further investigations which may result in additional charges.



© GaryAndJoanieMcGulfin.com / WWF-Canada

Source: Environment Canada, <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=7CDD0C4E-7B44-4EEA-8D11-89225BB64647>, October 8, 2010

### **Businessman Pleads Guilty to Illegal Ivory Trading**



On October 28, 2010, Joseph Barringer, 55, pleaded guilty in federal court in Orlando to violating the Endangered Species Act in connection with the illegal export of African elephant ivory through an online auction site. Barringer's business, Cue Components, in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., manufactured custom pool cues and parts, including parts made from elephant ivory.



© WWF CARPO/Peter Nges

He sold ivory-laden pool cues to an undercover police officer of the London Metropolitan Police (Scotland Yard) who was working in coordination with special agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. According to documents filed in court, federal agents seized 197 pounds of elephant ivory and cut ivory pieces, including 24 elephant tusk tips.

As a result of his sale of the pool cue to the undercover officer, Barringer was charged with a misdemeanor violation of the Endangered Species Act for knowingly engaging in trade of ivory specimens contrary to the provisions of CITES, and without a CITES export permit and re-export certificate. The offense carries a maximum sentence of one year of imprisonment, one year of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$100,000, or twice the gross gain accruing from the crime. The case is being prosecuted by Senior Trial Attorney Richard A. Udell of the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Ambrose of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division.

*Source: Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, October 28, 2010*

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**Downloadable versions of many of TRAFFIC North America's reports can be found at:**  
<http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/wildlifetrade/item4912.html>, and at  
<http://www.traffic.org/>.

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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## From the Director's Desk: 2011 Achievements

The year 2011 has been a time of contrasts—with many new challenges, but also one of the most hopeful times I can remember.

Attention to wildlife crime is increasingly being elevated to higher political levels through a number of potentially powerful initiatives such as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and INTERPOL's Project Predator. There are some strong developments in regional enforcement networking in South Asia and Central America. There is a growing recognition that wildlife trade is a driver of positive and negative impacts for wildlife conservation and that the significance of the impacts cannot be ignored.

Our team in North and Central America has had some major successes that have helped to bolster our own impacts. The establishment and evolution of ROAVIS, the Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network, is a testament to a strong public and civil society sector initiative to get some concerted cooperation and shared learning behind mitigation of wildlife crime in the region. You can learn more about ROAVIS partners and progress in this e-newsletter.

Major resource use and trade in forest and marine products such as timber and fish are in the limelight more than ever. Resources are threatened by illegal, unregulated and unreported harvest and trade. This is undermining sound sustainable management and equitable sharing of natural resources, right down to the community level.

At TRAFFIC, we have developed a series of strategic approaches, projects, and investigations into these challenges. We have made progress toward raising funds for projects that will develop long-term solutions, like keeping illegally sourced products out of supply chains that reach into the region. Some insights into recent developments are explored in these pages.

Regarding marine issues, we have just completed an analysis of the import of ornamental species from coral reefs into the United States. This will help us understand the trade dynamics and the role the U.S. plays in this often opaque harvest from reefs across the globe.

In 2011, our wildlife specimen identification gurus at TRAFFIC Canada published an incredible and enormous identification guide to precious corals in trade. This will be a definitive resource for government agencies, conservation groups, academia and others. It is available on request—and free of charge—to any relevant institution.

The E-newsletter of TRAFFIC  
North America



March 2012

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**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

is a joint programme of



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The sheer volume of illicit wildlife commodities being smuggled from Africa to Asia underscores the need for strong enforcement and new solutions that reduce demand for endangered species. Urgent steps are being taken to position quick fixes, backed by long-term strategies. TRAFFIC facilitated bilateral exchange missions between countries like South Africa and Vietnam, and led a global rhino horn trafficking crisis workshop this year. The TRAFFIC International Demand Reduction Experts Workshop is an example of a new initiative that seeks ways to impact demand in Asia.

While there are many challenges ahead, joint-effort initiatives are reaching the highest levels of political attention and are really paying off. TRAFFIC is part of the global community doing this work, and we continue to seek new partners and new ways to mitigate the threats to wildlife from illicit and unsustainable trade. Please consider joining this mission by collaborating with us in some way.

*Contribution by Crawford Allan, Regional Director, TRAFFIC North America*

## International Consortium Breaks New Ground

There have been successes in tackling wildlife crime at national and regional levels, but a global approach has never been tried—until now.

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) is a collaborative effort by five key intergovernmental organizations responsible for enforcement, wildlife trade and development internationally. The consortium will support the wildlife law enforcement community in apprehending perpetrators of wildlife crime and bringing them to justice. ICCWC seeks to support development of law enforcement efforts without being detrimental to the livelihoods of poor and marginalized rural communities.

The ICCWC partners are INTERPOL, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank, the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Secretariat, which chairs the alliance. There has never been a more visible attempt to take wildlife crime seriously at the global level. ICCWC has helped to push the issue up the agenda of a number of international fora and has started major initiatives like Project Predator, an international operation to tackle illegal trade in Asian big cats.

Resolutions by INTERPOL and UNODC are also testament to the organizations themselves taking the stand that wildlife crime, while not the traditional arena of law enforcement, is an important threat to address. There is now significant understanding that wildlife crime has broader impacts and links—including to organized crime—than had been previously thought. (See <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc.shtml>)

*Contribution by Crawford Allan, TRAFFIC North America, November 2011*

## Roaring Forward from the Tiger Summit

During 2010, the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese lunar calendar, tiger range countries took action, individually and collectively, for the continued survival and recovery of the species in the wild.



© WWF-Indonesia/Tiger Research Team

The tiger summit in Russia marked a pivotal moment in tiger conservation and changed the political landscape. The Global Tiger Recovery Programme was adopted and a Leaders' Declaration committed us all to doubling the wild tiger population by 2022, the next Year of the Tiger.

The Year of the Tiger was a year of action. The South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) was established and the Parties to CITES agreed to strengthen CITES Resolution 12.5 on conservation of and trade in tigers.

All tiger range countries made major strides in tiger conservation. Bhutan established a tiger conservation fund to compensate owners for livestock killed by tigers. Cambodia formally designated Seima Protected Forest. India and China agreed to share information on wildlife crime, especially illegal trade in tigers and their derivatives. India also declared Sahyadri as the 39<sup>th</sup> tiger reserve, doubled the daily allowances of all field staff working in tiger reserves, and launched an online tiger

mortality and seizures database called TigerNet. Malaysia passed a new Wildlife Conservation Bill which provides significantly higher penalties and mandatory jail terms for wildlife crime. In Myanmar the Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve was extended to 17,477 km<sup>2</sup>. Nepal established Banke National Park and a National Tiger Conservation Committee under the leadership of the prime minister. Russia added Korean pine, a tree critical to the habitat of the Amur tiger, to the list of trees which cannot be logged. Vietnam established an Inter-agency Committee for Wildlife Trade Control.

The 13 tiger range countries have continued to meet and are developing a monitoring system for the implementation of the Global Tiger Recovery Program. Each country has a National Tiger Recovery Program. In March 2012, they will meet to evaluate progress made in the year after the summit.

*Contribution by Barney Long, Asian Species Manager, Species Conservation, WWF-US*

## TRAFFIC NA Publishes Guide to Corals in Trade

After three years of research and production, TRAFFIC North America-Canada published the *Guide to the Identification of Precious and Semi-precious Corals in Commercial Trade*. It is the most comprehensive reference currently available on this topic.

This guide is focused specifically on those taxa that are commonly found in commercial trade, and therefore comprise the great majority of precious and semi-precious corals available.

The skeleton of almost any hard coral could be made into beads, jewelry and similar products. Products made from precious and semi-precious corals command high prices and near-global market demand. As a result, their trade is extensive and profitable, and provides ample incentive for their harvest.



© Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon

Unfortunately, most of these coral species have life-history characteristics that make them particularly vulnerable to overexploitation: extreme longevity, late age of maturity, slow growth and low fecundity. In some cases, discovery of commercially viable coral beds has led to rapid overexploitation. In addition, the use of destructive bottom trawls and dredges to harvest corals in some regions not only removes the corals—which provide critical habitat for sessile invertebrates—but also damages bottom features and destroys the bottom-dwelling organisms in their paths.

The international scope of the trade in corals requires that countries manage and enforce trade regulations, and international agreements such as CITES, concerning these species. Although many coral species are protected by CITES, the ability of the Parties to regulate their trade has been limited by the lack of resources designed to identify CITES-listed corals. The *Guide to the Identification of Precious and Semi-precious Corals in Commercial Trade* should fill this knowledge gap, enabling better enforcement of regulations.

The development and production of this publication was made possible thanks to generous funding from the Kingfisher Foundation, the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, The Ocean Foundation, Vale Inco and WWF-Canada. The guide is available in English, French and Spanish and will soon be available for free download from TRAFFIC websites. Printed copies in English are available on request from Ernie Cooper of TRAFFIC North America ([ecooper@wwfcanada.org](mailto:ecooper@wwfcanada.org)).

*Contribution by Ernie Cooper, TRAFFIC North America, December 2011*

## Workshop Addresses Pressures on Pacific Sharks

In December 2011, TRAFFIC North America in Canada hosted a three-day workshop on the management and conservation of Pacific sharks. The focus was on Canada, but the discussions were broader and covered the subject on the entire West Coast of North America. The workshop brought together relevant stakeholders, including Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), fishers and representatives of fishing associations, environmental NGOs, academics, and shark specialists from Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska.





© Jürgen Freund / WWF-Canon

They came to discuss the most pressing issues for sharks in Pacific Canada. Attendees considered three overarching categories: science, policy/management and on-the-water practice. The goal was to produce a list of the most important issues, gaps and/or questions within these categories, as well as cross-cutting topics related to shark conservation and management on the Pacific coast. Participants also discussed next steps and decided to create an informal West Coast shark group that will meet every two years to keep the collaboration moving.

Proceedings of the workshop will be available by April 2012 and will include the priorities for actions to be taken to ensure the conservation of Pacific sharks. This workshop was generously funded by the Canadian federal government's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

*Contribution by Ernie Cooper, TRAFFIC North America, December 2011*

## **TRAFFIC Runs Training Courses in Costa Rica**

A pilot course on CITES and a "train the trainer" course were held in close coordination with Universidad de Cooperación Internacional (UCI) in Costa Rica in early September. TRAFFIC convened some of the best national, regional and international experts to teach the curriculum, which was developed based on identified priorities, existing resources, and previous related experiences in the region. Twenty-six participants from an array of institutions responsible for CITES implementation in five CAFTA DR (Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement) countries participated.



Sessions during the five days of these two events covered

- international legal frameworks and wildlife trade-related agreements, with a strong focus on CITES as an international instrument for regulating trade
- practical methods for species identification and handling
- the use of existing tools (databases, experts directories, identification guides, manuals, interactive training courses) for improved CITES implementation and capacities strengthening
- sharing experiences with interagency cooperation to combat illegal use and trade of wildlife
- a trainers module on didactics and in-house training design

The training explored the potential of a modular, semi-virtual training course with a comprehensive curriculum. The course will be offered to CITES management authorities, scientific authorities and enforcement officials, as well as other interested groups in the Central American and Caribbean countries.

These events, supported by U.S. Department of State under the CAFTA DR cooperation framework, were successful. Participants followed up by sharing the materials provided and instruction received with colleagues and institutions in their home countries.

*Contribution by Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC North America, November 2011*

## **ROAVIS Officially Begins Its Work in Wildlife Enforcement**

The Central American and Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network (ROAVIS) held its first official meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador, September 26-27. One of the most important outcomes of this meeting was the identification of key actors and priorities for ROAVIS, as well as the identification of existing and needed mechanisms to strengthen this network and guarantee its future effectiveness.

Participants were selected from four key agencies in each country: police, customs, prosecutors and CITES management



authorities. Attending were 46 delegates representing eight countries, including all parties to the CAFTA DR plus Belize and Panama. The event was inaugurated by Hernán Rosa, Minister of the Environment in El Salvador and President of Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), and Mitchel Fergusson, Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador.

Following the ROAVIS meeting, the first training to strengthen wildlife-related law enforcement under the ROAVIS framework took place September 28-30. Police, customs officials, prosecutors and other enforcement authorities from all the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic received training on priority topics including current wildlife markets and trends in the region; the threat of unsustainable and illegal practices; practical aspects of identification and handling of specimens; evidence, investigations, and intelligence; and existing tools and instruments that can support their efforts to combat wildlife crime.

The training provided comprehensive materials to promote further capacity-building efforts by the attendees in their home institutions, and participants committed to follow-up actions.

Both events were organized by TRAFFIC in coordination with U.S. Department of Interior and with the support of the U.S. Department of State under the CAFTA DR cooperation framework. Also collaborating were experts from recognized institutions such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interpol, the Central American Environmental Prosecutors Network, UNAM and TRAFFIC.

*Contribution by Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC North America, November 2011*

### **“Train the Trainer” Modules Welcomed**

TRAFFIC developed eight “train the trainer” modules on wildlife trade-related topics identified as priorities in the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. The eight topics are overview of wildlife trade, cycads, reptile handling, reptile skin identification, Psittacine handling, marine turtles, bio-safety and ivory identification.

The format will provide users with all the materials necessary to train their colleagues and others connected to these topics, including the high rotation of new government staff in the region who are assigned to work on wildlife trade-related issues. The modules are being distributed to the CITES management authorities from each CAFTA-DR country.

TRAFFIC has received extremely positive feedback about these materials. Users have found them easy to implement and practical in their daily activities. Central American countries have expressed commitment using the modules to train more personnel in their own countries.

*Contribution by Paola Mosig, TRAFFIC North America, November 2011*

### **Defining ‘Legal’ Timber: The US Lacey Act and the European Timber Regulation**

What is legal timber? Which laws need to apply and be complied with to determine whether timber traded is in compliance with local, national or international regulations and legislation? These are fairly simple questions, but the answers can be quite complex and open to interpretation. The European Union (E.U.) and the United States have taken slightly different approaches to defining legality and ensuring that their markets are kept clear of illegally sourced timber.



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In 1997, the G8 decided on an action program for forests, including a statement that there is a global illegal logging problem, with many governments acknowledging that there are significant volumes of illegal timber in their domestic trade markets. While the problem is linked to broader issues such as bad governance, unequal markets, marginalized people living in forests, forest degradation and loss of biodiversity, the global debate on best solutions for forest protection has increasingly focused on what needs to be done to combat illegal timber. In response, it is interesting to compare the approaches being developed in the main global consumer markets of the U.S. and the E.U.



The E.U. based its initial efforts upon a G8 Resolution of 2003 on forest protection and formulated the EU strategic response called the “Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) action plan.” In the E.U., the two most relevant elements to the approach were supporting exporting countries in efforts to control illegal timber—including a licensing system for legal timber exported to the E.U.—and developing a European regulation to prohibit illegal timber. In 2010, Europe adopted such a regulation.

The U.S. had taken measures to tackle illegal logging over decades but lacked the legal basis to effectively control illegal timber reaching its domestic market. A major lobbying push initiated in 2005 saw a process evolve driven by concerns from industry and civil society groups due to domestic market and conservation impacts of illegal timber trade. The U.S. passed an amendment to the Lacey Act in 2008 to ban imports of illegal timber and plants and establish import declaration protocols.

The intention of the E.U. timber regulation was similar to the amended U.S. Lacey Act and they have two fundamental common approaches: It is a crime to trade illegal timber, and traders have to exercise due care to avoid and reject illegal timber in their supply chain. This leads to the basic requirements that in order to import to the U.S. and E.U. traders now have to know where timber products originated, what species they are made of, and the volume of each species in the shipment. These due-care requirements have led to the establishment of a timber importation practice: Importers and buyers must know the origin of the raw material and establish basic traceability of timber products through the supply chain.

However, the application of these regulatory mechanisms is not yet complete; many rules and procedures are still being developed, and they are being applied in a gradual way so as not to overwhelm the industry. For example, the declaration requirements for a range of timber products have not yet been defined under the U.S. Lacey Act amendment.

It is important to note that it is not yet clear what the definition of legal timber is for each country of export, as “legal” relates to a series of related laws, regulations and ordinances that vary from country to country, and from state level to local level in some cases. There needs to be a formal selection of which laws are applicable in each major timber-exporting country so that importers and law enforcement can really understand whether the products imported are of legal origin.

TRAFFIC and the WWF Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) have developed and tested a method to undertake this selection process for countries. The method will inform due-care efforts for the industry and importers/buyers, but also for law enforcement agencies of the U.S. and the E.U. Case study examples are available and the method is now being applied through cases studies of a new set of countries.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Common framework to assess legal timber, see <http://gftn.panda.org/?193890/Exporting-in-a-Shifting-Legal-Landscape>

*Contribution by Ulrich Malessa, TRAFFIC North America*

## Status Update on Timber & Fisheries

Timber and fish are globally traded, high-volume commodities taken from natural systems. The impact of this trade on ecosystem integrity and biodiversity cannot be underestimated. For marine ecosystems, the U.S.-EU Joint Statement to Combat IUU Fishing (see following article) points in the right direction for the conservation of this natural resource: collaborating to help those who supply responsible fish and squeezing out those who are involved in illegal fishing.



© Seamus Murphy / WWF-Canon

There remains a long way to go from lofty words on paper to actual enforcement and shutting down markets for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fish. But the agreement is an important step in having a global impact on marine conservation. And might this commitment also be an inspiring example for preventing the illicit supply on the timber market?

Globally, the EU and the U.S. combined are the largest market for products made out of timber. Challenges arise as emerging markets demand more supply from international markets and also consume more of the timber and fish domestically. Future initiatives will need to take into account these trends as they work to insure responsible and sustainable production of fish and timber. Policy makers will need to consider whether future activities on timber or the current collaboration on

fisheries will squeeze the operating space for illegal actors, or simply shift the illegal supply to less sensitive markets. If this question is not dealt with, legislation may clean up the US and EU timber and fish markets, but the illegal products will be harvested and diverted to other markets.

Furthermore, enforcing legislation against illegal timber and IUU fish is a complex issue, which usually starts with controlling the legal trade. The fish and timber trades need an improved analysis and understanding of the legality of the products entering trade in order to improve control the flow of illegal product. Providing guidance to the corporate sector and tracing the legal product, as well as improving cooperation and enforcement efforts among responsible market regulators, are measures of the utmost importance.

Despite the challenges that remain, the first steps on collaborating to control the legal trade have been agreed on for fish and are a welcome move toward closing markets to illegal products. Similar collaboration between the U.S. and the EU on the timber trade would be timely, especially as there is already legislation in place on both sides of the Atlantic to combat the entry of illegal timber products into their markets.

*Contribution by Ulrich Malessa and Benjamin Freitas, TRAFFIC North America*

## **U.S. and EU Join Forces to Combat IUU Fishing**

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is one of the principal impediments to sustainable fisheries management around the world. IUU fishing accounts for about 20% of global catch and over 30% of catch in some regions.<sup>[1]</sup> With an estimated global value of US\$10 billion to US\$23.5 billion per year (representing between 11 and 26 million MT)<sup>[2]</sup>, IUU fishing has a significant and negative impact on both ecosystems and livelihoods.

On September 7, 2011, the United States and the European Union signed a Joint Statement to Combat IUU Fishing, pledging to clamp down on IUU fishing and to prevent illegal seafood from entering the stream of commerce. The U.S. and the EU provide huge markets for seafood, together commanding 55% of global seafood imports. If pursued appropriately, the Joint Statement could have major impacts for fisheries sustainability, food security and domestic jobs.

The U.S. and the E.U. have already put in place regulatory measures to combat IUU fishing. For example, the U.S.'s High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act provides tools for the U.S. to identify nations engaged in IUU fishing and take subsequent action. The E.U.'s IUU Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 blocks seafood importation without required certification. While important, such individual actions by the U.S. or the E.U. will not be enough to address the global IUU problem without sufficient coordination. Major seafood importing nations must work together to improve global fisheries management systems and to send clear and consistent signals that IUU harvested fish will not find a place in the global marketplace.

As part of their commitment to combat IUU fishing, the U.S. and the EU have agreed

- to work together to support the adoption of effective management measures in regional and international organizations—measures such as strengthened monitoring, control, and enforcement mechanisms in regional fisheries management organizations, and development of multilateral catch documentation and certification requirements
- to promote tools that prevent IUU operators from benefiting economically from their illegal activities
- to exchange information on IUU activities
- to encourage ratification and implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement
- to promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources while preserving marine biodiversity

<sup>[1]</sup> MRAG and Fisheries Ecosystems Restoration Research, Fisheries Center, University of British Columbia, "The Global Extent of Illegal Fishing," April 2008, p. 16

<sup>[2]</sup> Agnew DJ, Pearce J, Pramod G, Peatman T, Watson R, et al. (2009) Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing. PLoS ONE 4(2): e4570. Doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0004570

*Contribution by Benjamin Freitas, Fellow, TRAFFIC North America*



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<http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/wildlifetrade/item4912.html>, and at  
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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## From the Director's Desk

It is impossible to miss the heightened alarm being sounded over the acute and seemingly unstoppable rise in the poaching and trafficking of wildlife such as elephants and rhinos. But even as the world is experiencing this tragic and sometimes bewildering surge in wildlife crime, there has been a major mobilization of efforts in response to it--and that makes me hopeful that the tide will turn.

WWF and TRAFFIC responded by launching a global campaign called "Stop Wildlife Crime," and some of the outcomes from that dedicated call to action are highlighted in this edition. The conservation and enforcement communities are battling to regain control in ways that both help protect species and disrupt criminal networks. With champions at the highest levels of government and new resources and partnerships emerging, there is a way forward.

At CITES COP16 in Bangkok this past March, the theme of wildlife crime was pervasive and governments were in no mood for delays and excuses. It was heartening to see such a positive response to conservation and science priorities overcoming vested interests and politics--for example, member nations voted to list shark species that had been blocked in the past.

Our team in Mesoamerica has been busy supporting area governments as they develop ROAVIS, the Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network. This edition of TRAFFIC includes an update from the annual ROAVIS meeting, which was a successful demonstration of how wildlife enforcement networks can be important mechanisms for building collaborative solutions between nations.

And congratulations are due to Tanya Shadbolt and Ernie Cooper of TRAFFIC Canada for producing a definitive report on the trade and management of polar bears. It is a strong platform on which to base the fine-tuning of future policy and management responses to the changing environment faced by the species.

Thank you for reading our newsletter, and please forward it to colleagues and friends.

Crawford Allan  
Regional Director  
TRAFFIC North America

## Raising the Issue of Wildlife Crime to the Highest Levels

In October 2012, WWF and TRAFFIC launched the Stop Wildlife Crime campaign, a year-long push to secure high-level commitments to turning the tide on the rampant illegal trafficking in species such as elephants, rhinos, and tigers. Following are some highlights from the campaign to date.

### 2012 Fuller Symposium on Conservation Crime

WWF and TRAFFIC brought together experts and innovators in fields related to wildlife crime at the 2012 Fuller Symposium on Conservation Crime, held at National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., on November 14. The event drew over 300 participants per session and 1,350 live web broadcast viewers. Highlights included high-profile speakers such as Robert Hormats, the U.S. under secretary of state for economic growth, energy, and the environment. The opening presentation by TRAFFIC North America's regional director, Crawford Allan, set the theme for the event; it was based on a report that he and Anita Akella wrote for the symposium called Dismantling Wildlife Crime. [Video footage of the presentations is available here.](#) The executive summary of [Dismantling Wildlife Crime may be downloaded here.](#)

### WWF-TRAFFIC Experts Workshop on Wildlife Crime

The Fuller Symposium was followed by a day-long Experts Workshop on Wildlife Crime which focused on the theme "Rethinking Conventional Responses: Integrated Approaches in the Fight Against Wildlife Crime." This workshop was organized by WWF and TRAFFIC North America, and convened over 100 experts from the wildlife conservation, development, forestry, finance, markets, defense, technology, media and marketing, and enforcement sectors for information-sharing and debate on key issues pertaining to wildlife crime. Participating experts sought to identify where integrated responses can leverage benefits to conservation and further effective policies in

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the areas of development, security, and governance. An outcome document has been produced which summarizes dialogue and lists urgent and actionable recommendations. [A summary is available for download here](#). The detailed document has been disseminated to participating experts and is available upon request by emailing [Rachel.kramer@wwfus.org](mailto:Rachel.kramer@wwfus.org).

### Hillary Clinton Diplomatic Event on Wildlife Trafficking

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered an address on U.S. plans to help tackle wildlife trafficking internationally during a special diplomatic event at the U.S. Department of State on November 8, 2012. This was a massive boost for global efforts to elevate the issue of wildlife crime to the highest political levels. Secretary Clinton described a series of efforts and initiatives that the U.S. government will take forward, including an intelligence review examining the links between wildlife crime and security issues, particularly in Africa. Funding was announced for an IUCN and TRAFFIC project called Wildlife TRAPS, with \$1.5 million designated to address wildlife trafficking between Africa and Asia. As a panelist at the event, TRAFFIC North America's Crawford Allan talked about TRAFFIC's work in response to the alarming recent rise in rhino and elephant poaching. Emphasis was also placed on the role the United States can play to help convene and catalyze new responses to the crisis internationally.



### CITES Marks 40 Years at COP16 in Bangkok

The 178 governments that are parties to CITES met in March on the 40th anniversary of the creation of the international wildlife trade treaty. At the end of two weeks of heated debate, side events, and media melee, the triennial conference had produced some strong and positive decisions. The decisions to list five shark species and manta rays sent a strong signal of hope that CITES can at last attempt to tackle the dramatic decline in sharks brought about by demand for their fins. Timber trade controls also were strengthened, with governments voting unanimously for more sustainable and legal trade in timber products. Wildlife crime was subject to detailed attention and a number of decisions were made to take on these problems and hold governments accountable where they have been failing. If some African and Asian states do not take measures to deal with ivory and rhino horn trade over the next year, the CITES Standing Committee will review the option of punitive measures against them. In a welcome move that followed some pressure from WWF and TRAFFIC's Stop Wildlife Crime campaign, Thailand's prime minister opened the meeting with the announcement that Thailand would reform its domestic ivory laws. Those laws contain loopholes that have made Thailand the world's second-largest black market for ivory. [Results of the meeting may be downloaded here](#).



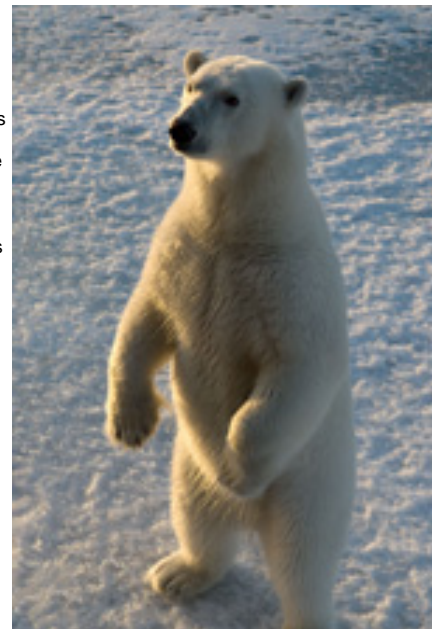
### New TRAFFIC Report on Trade in Polar Bears

TRAFFIC has completed a comprehensive report on the international trade and management of polar bears. In *Icon on Ice: International Trade and Management of Polar Bears*, authors Tanya Shadbolt, Geoff York, and Ernest W. T. Cooper examine the most recent data available on the international trade and the management regimes for each range state. They also provide information on the conservation status of the species and recommendations for improving the conservation and management of the global polar bear population into the future.

According to the report, polar bears appear to be well-managed in most range states, and illegal hunting does not seem to be a concern. The biggest threat to polar bears is the effect of climate change on their habitat. And of course, changes to the Arctic ecosystem will affect not only polar bears, but also the livelihoods of Arctic communities.

The legal hunting of polar bears is part of an Arctic cultural identity that links to the environment and contributes to a traditional subsistence economy. The hunt provides food and clothing, as well as income made from the sale of polar bear parts and derivatives--and the legal international trade in polar bear parts and derivatives does not currently appear to be a significant threat to the species. Although the value of skins has increased in recent years, and demand for skins has increased in some countries (notably China), the total number of skins exported from 2005 to 2009 did not increase significantly.

Polar bears are subjected to threats that vary from region to region, in different ways and over differing time scales. More consistent reporting of trade data and improved analysis and monitoring of trade in the species will help ensure international trade does not become a significant threat in the future. Adaptive frameworks that rapidly assess new information will help ensure that harvest and trade will not detrimentally impact the conservation of the species. Successful management will result in a population that is healthy, stable, and resilient to threats. The [report is available for download here](#).



### Second Annual ROAVIS Regional Meeting and Training Workshop

In September 2010, the Environmental Prosecutors Network of Central America and the Dominican Republic (DR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SICA (the Central American Integration System) to establish the Central American and DR Wildlife Enforcement Network (called ROAVIS, for its Spanish acronym). ROAVIS is a regional structure that aims to achieve effective and sustained wildlife law enforcement within and between the countries involved. Since that time the region's governments, with funding from the U.S. government, have worked together to build ROAVIS. The latest focal effort was the second annual ROAVIS meeting and training workshop, which took place in Managua, Nicaragua, on December 12-15, 2012.

The presidency of ROAVIS was then held by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Justice, which invited the participation of key agencies in each



country, including the police, customs, CITES management authorities, and prosecutors. The event was inaugurated by the general prosecutor and director of the Ministry of Justice, Sr. Julio Centeno; Ms. Christine Dawson, from the U.S. Department of State; and Sr. Adrian Reuter, from TRAFFIC North America-Mesoamerica. [During the meeting, the presidency of the Environmental Prosecutors Network (and consequently of ROAVIS) was handed over from Nicaragua, represented by Jose Ruben Gutierrez, to Costa Rica, headed by Sergio Valdelomar.]

The meeting heard updates since ROAVIS last met in El Salvador (September 2011), with some impressive results showing that ROAVIS has facilitated many of the activities that required multinational cooperation to succeed. This undoubtedly encourages those involved to continue working collaboratively toward ROAVIS objectives. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Justice of Nicaragua, and coordinated by TRAFFIC in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Interior, with the support of the U.S. Department of State. On hand were experts from the CITES Secretariat, Interpol, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Central American Environmental Prosecutors Network, the Mexican CITES Scientific Authority (CONABIO), and representatives of the regional fisheries organization OSPESCA. They provided training on topics such as shark finning, coral trade, species identification, coordination of complex investigations, and wildlife law enforcement.

Participating countries took a number of agreements to continue working toward the efficiency, strengthening and empowerment of ROAVIS.

*Contributions to the newsletter from TRAFFIC North America team: Adrian Reuter and Paola Mosig (TRAFFIC Mexico); Tanya Shadbolt (TRAFFIC Canada); Rachel Kramer and Crawford Allan (US). Editor: Linda Downing (US).*

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# THE TRAFFIC REPORT



## Results from CITES COP15

Outcomes were tough for tuna, static for African elephants, and great for a few reptiles at CITES COP15, which was held in Doha, Qatar, March 13-25, 2010. As always, TRAFFIC contributed pertinent research and recommendations, advocated for specific protections, and brought scientific data to bear on how CITES regulates international trade in wild animals and plants. Here are a few highlights from COP15.

### Marine Species

Highly valuable fisheries commodities — including red and pink corals (*Coralliidae spp.*), Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), and four shark species — were up for listing under CITES at COP15.

The U.S. and the EU submitted a proposal to list red and pink corals (used in the jewelry industry) in Appendix II, but the proposal did not get the necessary two-thirds majority to pass into law.



© Natl. Archives of Australia / WWF

Bluefin tuna was proposed for listing in Appendix I (which bans international commercial trade) because disastrous management and unsustainable trade is threatening the species with commercial extinction. But prior to COP15, the major commercial fisheries interests of Japan and China worked to persuade governments not to support more protective tuna and shark listings. After intense and emotional debate, all of the marine proposals made by the U.S. and European nations were overruled by commercial interests, leaving these species prey to further overexploitation.

However, bluefin tuna gained important new ground as it became the most hotly contested issue at CITES. What we lost in the vote we gained in tremendous global visibility on this issue and in public commitments by ICCAT and Japan to rebuilding this species and the fishery. The conservation community has made important advocacy inroads among consumers, businesses and governments, which will only grow as we move toward ICCAT in November 2010.

### Terrestrial Species

TRAFFIC played a key role at the meeting in securing new enforcement initiatives to protect rhinos, tigers and a range of other species. Tiger range countries, including China, reached a consensus on how to address pressing concerns of illegal trade that threaten populations of tigers and other Asian big cat species. The range countries agreed on language to improve measures on law enforcement, regional cooperation, reporting and a tiger trade database. CITES parties maintained their position against the farming of tigers for trade in parts and derivatives. The commitments from COP15 will no doubt roll into the Global Tiger Summit in Russia later this year.

Regarding rhinos, CITES parties adopted a proposal for a combined ivory and rhino task force to be convened in the coming year. The task force will include organizations like INTERPOL, and the World Customs Organization, plus range states, and importing and transit countries. In addition, a successful U.S. proposal called for immediate bilateral exchanges among law enforcement agencies, intelligence officers of key African range states, and

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agencies, intelligence officers of key African range states, and Asian consuming countries, to be facilitated by the CITES Secretariat.

Discussion of proposals regarding African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) took most of a day that was punctuated by bursts of applause and occasional boos. Tanzania split its proposal into one on downlisting its elephant population and one on the sale of ivory stockpiles. After a healthy debate, both proposals failed. In response, Zambia immediately amended its proposal to remove the request for a one-off ivory sale. A lively debate again ensued, and Zambia's downlisting proposal failed.

Kenya and other African countries put forward a proposal urging parties not to submit any ivory trade proposals for the remainder of the 9-year moratorium agreed upon at COP14 (which applied only to the populations downlisted to Appendix II at that meeting). After a heated debate, it went to a vote and failed. Kenya then withdrew its original proposal for a 20-year moratorium.

The antagonism between African elephant range states continues to be marked. On the last day of the Qatar meeting, both Tanzania and Zambia reopened the elephant downlisting debate but both votes held without any changes.

Despite the setbacks in marine species protection, CITES achieved notable successes, including protection for several rare reptile and amphibian species traded, largely via the Internet, as pets (see article below on Kaiser's spotted newt).

The next meeting of CITES will be held in Thailand in 2013, and TRAFFIC will start working now to ensure that COP16 produces even greater conservation advances for species threatened by trade.

Contributed by Leigh Henry, TRAFFIC North America

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United States Department of State  
WWF Japan

## NEWS FROM MEXICO

### Morelet's Crocodile No Longer Faces Extinction in Mexico and Belize

CITES agreed to move Morelet's crocodile from Appendix I to Appendix II during the meeting in Doha, Qatar (COP15, March 2010). A 35-year international trade ban implemented less than half a century ago has enabled the successful recovery of the reptile. Species listed in Appendix II are not considered to be threatened with extinction; Appendix II are considered of lower risk and international trade for commercial purposes is allowed, with some requisites. The proposal to transfer these Morelet's crocodile populations to Appendix II followed the precautionary principle and was accompanied by a zero quota for the commercial export of wild specimens. This means that only captive-bred specimens can be internationally traded for commercial purposes.



© Chris Martin Bahr / WWF-Canon

Two species of crocodile can be found in Mexico: the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) and the Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*). The Morelet's is smaller in size and its distribution in Mexico represents close to 85 percent of its global range, from the central part of Tamaulipas to the Yucatan peninsula; it is also present in Belize and in northern Guatemala. Authorities did not have enough information on the Guatemalan population's current conservation status, and therefore decided to keep them in Appendix I until more field studies are carried out and enough data are gathered to sustain an amendment.

In the past 50 years, wild populations of Morelet's crocodile decreased significantly due to overexploitation for their skin, which is one of the most valued in the international market due to its excellent quality. For this reason, the species has been included in CITES Appendix I since the Convention entered into force in 1975. The transference of the Belizean and Mexican populations to Appendix II is consistent with IUCN's Red List and Mexico's list of species at risk (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2001), both of which recognize that the species' wild populations — currently estimated at around 100,000 individuals — are stable. The amendment under CITES is an important first step at the international level to adapt crocodile management — including the potential sustainable use (i.e., international trade) of this resource based on updated information and the stability of wild populations, which is part of the Belize-Guatemala-Mexico Tri-national Management and Conservation Strategy.

In 2005, Mexico officially submitted a proposal to U.S. authorities to reclassify the species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) according to the current conservation status of its populations, but no answer has been received. The ESA listing means that no specimen can be legally imported into the United States, even if it comes from a closed-cycle captive-breeding facility. Therefore, the great potential to use this species sustainably is currently limited by its status in U.S. legislation.

Contributed by Paola Mosisig, TRAFFIC North America-Mexico

### TRAFFIC Supports Mexico's Wildlife Council

According to Mexico's National Wildlife Law (LGVS), the National Technical Advisory Wildlife Council (Consejo Técnico Consultivo Nacional, or CONAVIS) was officially established in October 2009. It was created to provide guidelines and expert advice to the federal government in relation to priorities, objectives and strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of species of wild origin in Mexico.

TRAFFIC undertook the organization of a priority-setting workshop to contribute to this initiative by setting a solid framework that promotes and provides incentives for active participation by all relevant sectors in Mexico. The workshop was held with the support of the British Embassy in Mexico; DEFRA, UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and the Environment Ministry Wildlife Directorate (Dirección General de Vida Silvestre SEMARNAT), as part of a project that aims to improve the conservation of natural resources and promote their sustainable use.



At the April 20 workshop, several council members and 34 top level experts from various sectors in Mexico worked to identify key conservation and sustainable wildlife issues, as well as existing opportunities. As a result, key wildlife-related topics were agreed upon by the participants and by the National Wildlife Council in its second ordinary session on April 21, 2010.

TRAFFIC considers this outcome a milestone for the role of the public sector in wildlife management in Mexico. Another important result of the workshop was the establishment of direct communication channels among the diverse sectors affected by and responsible for wildlife management and conservation in the country.

*Contributed by Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC North America-Mexico*

## **Toward a Regional Enforcement Network in Central America**

Central American countries hold seven percent of the Earth's species within a biological corridor that plays a vital role in the maintenance of long-term evolutionary processes in the Western Hemisphere. Within the region there is significant hunting, harvest and sale of wild species for both local use and international trade. Plants and animals are traded for a range of uses – live animals for the pet trade, reptile skins for leather products, marine species for food and curios, and plants for horticulture. The seven Central American countries of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama form an interconnected landscape that acts as a bridge for trafficking between North and South America. Because of all this, it is important to coordinate enforcement of laws governing wildlife trafficking both regionally and internationally.

To that end, a workshop was held April 15-16 in San Salvador to initiate regional dialogues on establishing CAWEN — the Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network. The event, made possible largely due to the generous support of the U.S. Department of State, brought together government stakeholders to study similar initiatives and to develop some initial ideas of what such a structure could look like in Central America. The approximately 40 participants included representatives from the Dominican Republic, Central American countries, Ecuador, Brazil and Peru, along with experts from the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the U.S. Department of Justice and the organizing agencies (TRAFFIC, USDol, CCAD).

During the workshop, law enforcement experts and agency representatives from the region and beyond focused on ways to improve co-ordination, build capacity and learn from other wildlife enforcement network examples. Information was shared on best practices and on lessons learned from networking approaches such as ASEAN-WEN and the TRAFFIC Mexico wildlife law enforcement capacity-building program. TRAFFIC Mexico presented information on existing tools that can be used to evaluate and improve enforcement operations, define the capacity-building programs needed, and tailor existing capacity-building programs to the national and regional context.

*Contributed by Adrian Reuter, TRAFFIC North America-Mexico*

## **NEWS FROM CANADA**

### **Wildlife Forensics Experts Meet**

The inaugural meeting of the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science took place April 18-23, 2010, in Ashland, Oregon. Formed in November 2009, the society's mission is to develop wildlife forensic science into a comprehensive, integrated and mature discipline. The meeting drew 129 registrants from 10 countries — Australia, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States — making it the largest international gathering of wildlife forensic scientists ever held. The event was co-hosted by the National Fish and Wildlife Forensic Laboratory, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory.

The meeting covered an array of topics, primarily related to the identification of species in support of law enforcement. Two academic posters were coauthored by the staff of TRAFFIC North America-Canada in collaboration with Simon Fraser University's Centre for Forensic Research and Ancient DNA Laboratory:

- The Use of Hydrogen Peroxide to Alter Black Coral (*Antipatharia*) for the Purpose of Imitating Gold Coral (*Gerardia* sp.). Angela Leung, Ernest W.T. Cooper, Tanya Shadbolt, Mark Skinner, PhD.
- Ancient DNA Analysis of Dried Coral Samples: An Accurate DNA-based Identification of Threatened Species Support of Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement. Ursula Arndt, MA; Camilla Speller; Ernest W.T. Cooper; Angela Leung; Mark Skinner, PhD; Dongya Yang, PhD.

Membership in the Society for Wildlife Forensic Sciences is open to any individual who might impact the wildlife forensics community. More information about the society may be found at <http://www.wildlifeforensicscience.org/content/about-society-wildlife-forensic-sciences>.

*Contributed by Ernie Cooper, TRAFFIC North America-Canada*

### **Protected By Consensus**

Iran submitted its first-ever proposal to list a species under CITES at COP15 in Doha, Qatar. The proposal was to list the Kaiser's spotted newt (*Neurergus kaiseri*) in CITES Appendix I, thereby prohibiting the international trade of the species for primarily commercial purposes. The proposal passed unanimously.

The Kaiser's spotted newt is an endangered species of salamander that is endemic to a few streams in Iran. The species was last assessed by the IUCN in 2008 as Critically Endangered. Threats to the species include over-collection for the pet and hobbyist trade, habitat loss, severe droughts, fluctuating water levels in streams, and the introduction of nonnative fishes.

TRAFFIC originally reported on a study of the extent of illegal trade in Kaiser's spotted newt in the May 2006 issue of the TRAFFIC Report (Vol.5, No1.). The study, completed by TRAFFIC-North America (Canada) found that the Kaiser's spotted newt was being advertised for sale on various internet sites around the world, fetching prices of up to \$340 per specimen. It was also determined that many of these specimens were taken from the wild without the issuance of Iranian permits. One

of the study recommendations was that Iran submit a proposal to list the species on Appendix I. TRAFFIC was very pleased when this recommendation was fulfilled at COP15.

Although the Appendix I listing will reduce the illegal trade of Kaiser's spotted newts from the wild, the species still faces habitat loss and other threats; therefore, additional efforts are needed to prevent extinction of the species in the wild.

Contributed by Tanya Shadbolt, TRAFFIC North America-Canada

## Enforcement Successes in the News

### Three Fined for Contravening Endangered Species Act

Three Toronto men have been fined a total of CA \$10,500 (US \$10,130) on charges related to harvesting and possessing an endangered plant species on private land. Jong Hak Lee, Joe Yeal Yu and Seong Gon Lee pleaded guilty on March 4, 2010, to charges of possessing wild American ginseng in contravention of the Ontario provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA). They also pleaded guilty to entering posted private land in violation of the Trespass to Property Act. In addition, Jong Hak Lee pleaded guilty to harvesting wild American ginseng in contravention of the ESA.

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources, [ontario.ca/mnr](http://ontario.ca/mnr), March 9, 2010

### Man Convicted for Illegal Sale of Protected Turtles

Between May 27 and June 26, 2009, Stephen Shillingford offered these species of turtle for sale on the Internet: musk, western painted, midland painted, spiny softshell, spotted and common snapping. On March 10, 2010, he was convicted on eight charges related to illegally selling and offering to sell game wildlife and wildlife specially protected under Canada's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. The act prohibits keeping specially protected and game wildlife in captivity except under the authority of a license. Since June 2008, species at risk — including the spotted, spiny softshell and musk (stinkpot) turtles from Ontario — have had additional protection under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Shillingford was fined CA \$4,000 (US \$3,859).



© Ronald Petocz / WWF-Canon

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources, [ontario.ca/mnr](http://ontario.ca/mnr), March 16, 2010

### Donut Shop Owner Guilty of Smuggling Ivory

Moun Chau, owner of Pixie Donuts in Claremont, Calif., pleaded guilty on April 8, 2010, to one count of importing ivory as part of a plea agreement. He will face up to five years in federal prison and up to US \$250,000 in fines when he is sentenced on October 18, 2010, in Los Angeles federal court.



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Federal prosecutors accused Chau of conspiring with a seller in Thailand between May and November 2006 to import African elephant tusks. Prosecutors said Chau bought ivory through eBay from Samark Chokchoyma, who shipped the goods to Chau in disguised packages — one shipment was described in a customs declaration as a gift containing toys. Chau imported about US \$2,750 worth of ivory in the course of the conspiracy, prosecutors said. Chokchoyma has been arrested in Thailand and faces criminal charges there, but has been free on US \$5,000 bail since his March arraignment.

According to the plea agreement filed March 24, federal prosecutors agreed to drop a conspiracy charge against Chau and recommend leniency in his sentencing in exchange for his guilty plea.

Source: Los Angeles Newspaper Group - Daily Bulletin <http://www.dailybulletin.com>, April 27, 2010

### Bird Smuggler Sentenced to Prison

Sony Dong, of Garden Grove, Calif., pleaded guilty in April to illegally importing wild birds. On June 7, 2010, he was sentenced to four months in prison and ordered to pay US \$4,000 in restitution to federal authorities, who are caring for the birds. Authorities discovered 14 live Asian songbirds fastened to pieces of cloth around Dong's calves during a plane trip from Vietnam to Los Angeles in December 2008. When officials served a search warrant at Dong's home, they found 51 additional songbirds, including red-whiskered bulbuls, magpie robins and shamas thrushes.



© James Eaton / WWF Greater Mekong

Codefendant Duc Le, also from Garden Grove, was the ringleader of the operation and pleaded guilty in April to conspiracy and illegally importing wildlife. He was sentenced June 7, 2010, to six months in prison and ordered to pay more than US \$25,000 in restitution. Le and Dong will both be on three years probation after serving their prison terms.

Source: The Associated Press, June 7, 2010

### Taiwanese Couple Caught Smuggling Coral

Gloria Chu and Ivan Chu, of Taipei, pleaded guilty on March 11, 2010, to conspiracy to ship internationally protected black coral into the United States in violation of federal wildlife statutes. In a federal court in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Chus admitted that from 2007 to 2009 they sent more than US \$194,000 worth of black coral to Company X. Each pleaded guilty to nine counts including conspiracy, false statements, and violations of both the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act. Black coral is listed in Appendix II of CITES and is subject to strict trade regulations. According to the plea agreements, Ivan Chu has agreed to serve 30 months in prison and pay a US \$12,500 fine.

Gloria Chu has agreed to serve 20 months in prison and pay a US \$12,500 fine. Both defendants will be prohibited from shipping coral and other wildlife products to the United States for a three-year period after their release from prison. A sentencing date has been set for June 23, 2010.

Source: United States Department of Justice news release, March 11, 2010

### Saiga Antelope Horns Seized in Xinjiang

On April 10, 2010, Customs officials at Horgos Port in Xinjiang Province seized a parcel containing 68 saiga antelope horns. The two female smugglers took an international coach from Alma-Ata in Kazakhstan to Urumchi in China, and then tried to escape the X-ray check in the immigration hall. At the time, this was the biggest seizure of saiga antelope horn at Horgos Port this year.

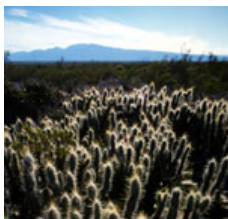
Source: [www.nihaotw.com](http://www.nihaotw.com), April 21, 2010



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### Breakthrough Arrests in San Luis Potosi

More than 1,165 specimens of flora, fauna and by-products were seized in Charco Cerado, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, on April 16, 2010. Detained was Margarito Castañeda, who has been identified as the leader of species trafficking in the region. He and another individual (unidentified) are accused of collection, possession, distribution and marketing of protected wildlife and endangered species listed under CITES.



© Edward Parker / WWF-Canon

The specimens seized included birds, cacti, palms and mammals, most of them in danger of extinction. According to the Federal Penal Code in Mexico, their collection and marketing are felonies and crimes against biodiversity and can be punished by up to nine years in prison and fines of up to MXN \$50,000 (US \$3,960) days of salary.

This major confiscation was carried out by federal prosecutors assigned to the Specialized Unit on Investigation of Crimes Against Planned Environment and Special Laws of the Deputy Attorney General in a joint operation with PROFEPA-PGR-PF.

Source: PROFEPA, [profepa.gob.mx](http://profepa.gob.mx)

### Sawmills Shut Down in Michoacán



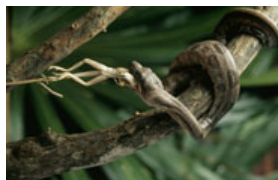
© Juan Pratgijnestos / WWF-Canon

On April 7, 2010, in Michoacán, Mexico, inspectors from PROFEPA temporarily shut down two clandestine sawmills in the town of Los Llanos. They did so with the support of the Mexican Army, after the sawmill officials were unable to present documentation showing legal possession of the existing wood and storage sites, or proper permits for forest raw materials. PROFEPA temporarily seized quantities of pine (*Pinus*), sacred fir (*Abies religiosa*) and parota (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*).

Source: PROFEPA, [profepa.gob.mx](http://profepa.gob.mx)

### Wild Animal Specimens Seized at Taxidermy Business

Inspectors from PROFEPA in Michoacán, Mexico, seized a total of 57 specimens, parts and derivatives of wild animals on April 12, 2010, at a taxidermy business in Oaxaca. The owner could not prove legal ownership and origin, or permission to operate as a taxidermy business. Among the seized specimens, those species with a special protective status under Mexican law and/or covered by Appendix I of CITES included a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*), two coral snakes (*Micrurus spp.*), two parakeets atoleros (*Aratinga canicularis*), a yellow-cheeked parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and puma (*Puma concolor*) skins, six collared peccaries (*Tayassu tajacu*), an anteater skin (*Tamandua mexicana*), an owl (*Tyto alba*), a hawk (*Accipiter spp.*), a bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), a ringtail (*Basirinus spp.*) and crocodile skins (*Crocodylus spp.*).



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Source: PROFEPA, [profepa.gob.mx](http://profepa.gob.mx)

### Traffic Police Seize Illegal Wildlife Products in China

On April 30, 2010, traffic police in Fangchenggang City, Guangxi Province, seized 76 dead pangolins and 14 bear paws (*Ursus thibetanus*, CITES I) concealed in 10 white foam boxes in a coach from Dongxin (Guangxi) to Xiamen (Fujian). The average weight of each pangolin and each bear paw was about 7kg and 3kg, respectively. Both species are listed as national second-class protected animals in China. Neither the driver nor the passengers admitted to owning the items, which were transferred to the local wildlife conservation department.



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Source: China Wildlife Conservation Association, May 8, 2010

### Ivory Confiscated in Thailand Airport

Customs officials in Thailand seized 296 elephant tusks totaling 1.4 tonnes and worth US \$2 million at Suvarnabhumi Airport on April 17, 2010. According to Komsiri Pinnarat, deputy director-general of customs, they acted on a tip from authorities in Qatar, where the shipment originated. The ivory was hidden in crates labeled as computer printers. CITES banned all international ivory trade in 1989, but a legal loophole in Thailand has led to a thriving local ivory industry.



Downloadable versions of many of TRAFFIC North America's reports can be found at: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/globalmarkets/wildlifetrade/item4912.html>, and at <http://www.traffic.org/>.

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