

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
ON ENFORCING WILDLIFE
TRADE CONTROLS IN THE
RUSSIAN FAR EAST AND
NORTH EAST ASIA**

Proceedings

**15.-19. November 1999
Vladivostok, Russia**

compiled by

TRAFFIC
EUROPE

with the kind support of



compiled and produced by
TRAFFIC Europe
608, Chaussee de Waterloo
1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: +32-2-343 82 58
Fax.: +32-2-34325 65
email: traffic@traffic-europe.com
website: www.traffic.org

Extracts of this publication may be made for non-commercial purposes, subject to the source being acknowledged.

Funding for this workshop has been kindly donated by the Save the Tiger Fund.

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
ON ENFORCING WILDLIFE
TRADE CONTROLS IN THE
RUSSIAN FAR EAST AND
NORTH EAST ASIA**

Proceedings

15.-19. November 1999

Vladivostok, Russia

compiled by

TRAFFIC
EUROPE

with the kind support of



CONTENT

Executive summary	1-3
Welcome and Opening <i>by Tom De Meulenaer, Director of TRAFFIC Europe</i>	4-5
Map of the Region	6
 Part I:	
Wildlife trade and Wildlife Trade Regulations in the Russian Far East and North East Asia <i>Moderator: Valentin Ilyashenko, CITES Management Authority of Russia</i>	
Wildlife trade in the Russian Far East - an overview <i>by Alexey Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe - Russia</i>	7-10
Basic CITES Provisions and Regional Characteristics <i>by Valentin Ilyashenko, CITES Management Authority of Russia</i>	11-13
Presentations presented by country representatives of	
the Russian Federation	14-16
the People's Republic of China	17-22
the Republic of Korea	23-26
 Part II:	
Enforcing wildlife trade controls <i>Moderator: Tom De Meulenaer, TRAFFIC Europe</i>	
Wildlife trade in the region - an overview Presentations given by representatives of the NGOs	
Current Status of Tigers conservation in the Russian Far East <i>by Pavel V. Fomenko, WWF-RPO RFE</i>	27-28
Overview of the work of the Inspection "Tiger" <i>by Egor Kopaev, Fund Phoenix</i>	29-37
Conserving Musk Deer - the use of and trade in wild musk <i>by Stephanie Theile, TRAFFIC Europe</i>	38-41
Trade status of wild ginseng <i>Panax ginseng</i> in the Russian Federation <i>by Alexey Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe-Russia</i>	42-44
Trade in marine species in the Russian Far East <i>by Alexey Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe-Russia</i>	45-49

Traditional East Asian Medicines	50-5
by Vincent Chen, TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei	
Halting the illegal trade in animals and plants in Russia: the role of the WWF Russian Programme office	54-5
by Alexander Shestakov, WWF RPO	

Part III:

Improving wildlife trade controls in the Region - Open Discussion Forum

Moderator: Alexander Shestakov, WWF-RPO

Minutes of the Discussion Forum	59-
---------------------------------	-----

Annex

Additional Papers submitted by workshop participants:

On the status of wild ginseng in Russia	69-
by Egor Kopaev, Fund "Phoenix"	
The Trade in wild Plants in the Russian Far East	72-
by Alexey Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe-Russia	
Review of the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products in the Russian Far East	75-
by TRAFFIC Europe-Russia	

Agenda of the Workshop	89-
-------------------------------	-----

Press release	92-
----------------------	-----

List of Workshop Participants	94-
--------------------------------------	-----

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An International Workshop on 'Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia' was held in Vladivostok, Russia, from 15 to 18 November, 1999. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea. These included delegates from the Customs Administrations and the CITES Management Authorities of the three countries, and from the Russian Environment Committees of Moscow and Primorsky Krai. These delegates met together with representatives and specialists from national and international non-governmental organisations including the WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature, TRAFFIC, Global Survival Network, and Fund Phoenix. The workshop was organised with the financial support of the Save the Tiger Fund.

All participants agreed to collaborate closely to improve controls on the international trade in wild plants and animals in the region, and thereby to enhance the conservation of Siberian Tigers in the Russian Far East.

The first part of the seminar addressed the wildlife trade realities and the existing wildlife trade regulations in the Russian Far East and in North East Asia. The seminar was opened by a general overview of nature, extent and current developments of trade with wild species in the Russian Far East. The trade in many of the wild species that cross the borders in North East Asia is regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to which all three participating countries - Russia, Korea and China - are signatory Parties. Still other species that are protected in the Russian Federation, are illegally harvested and exported from there to neighbouring countries.

Each participating country contributed to this part of the seminar by presenting information on the legal framework and national procedures that are in place to monitor wildlife trade and to implement CITES. Russian participants described the federal CITES provisions in the country, the specific organisation of customs controls in the Russian Far East, and the activities undertaken by these bodies to combat smuggling of CITES-listed specimens from the Russian Far East to neighbouring countries. The delegates of the People's Republic of China gave an overview of the CITES implementing legislation, the role and activities of the enforcement agencies, and the efforts that were undertaken since 1998 to enhance collaboration in the country to improve wildlife trade controls. The delegates of the Republic of Korea provided details on their legal framework, the organisation of CITES and updates on recent controls and confiscations.

In the second part of the seminar, presentations were given on existing anti-poaching efforts, enforcement controls and activities aimed at combating illegal trade. The participants recognised the threats posed to the Tigers and to the unique biodiversity of North East Asia by unregulated or unsustainable cross border trade, and agreed that the CITES Authorities, Customs Administrations, and other enforcement bodies in the three countries should co-operate effectively at national, regional and international levels to strengthen the implementation of CITES and to stop illegal trade with CITES listed species.

During this part of the workshop, experts from participating NGOs provided up-to-date and detailed information on the conservation status and trade of Tigers and a number of other species occurring in the Russian Far East. The delegates heard up-to-date information on the conservation status and the legal and illegal trade in Tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*; Leopard, *Panthera pardus altaica*; Brown Bear, *Ursus arctos*; Asiatic Black Bear, *Ursus tibethanus*; and Musk deer, *Moschus* spp. which are all listed in CITES. Attention was also drawn to the trade in Asian Ginseng and in sea cucumbers, which are protected in Russia, but appear to be heavily exploited for export to Asian countries. In this context it was noted by the participants at the workshop that the Russian Federation intends to propose the inclusion of Asian Ginseng, *Panax ginseng*, in Appendix II of CITES at the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the Convention in April 2000.

Comprehensive information was also provided on the market for and use of traditional East Asian Medicines in Asia which gave insights into the cultural and historic need for raw wildlife products from Tigers, Musk Deer, bears and other Russian Far East species, prices, substitutes, and recent evolutions in the attitudes of TCM practitioners towards conservation legislation and restrictions.

During the third part of the seminar, a broad and comprehensive discussion amongst all participants took place, during which consensus was reached about a range of practical arrangements that are aimed at improving wildlife trade controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia. It was agreed that the following actions would significantly improve CITES implementation and enforcement in North East Asia: The following recommendations were made, as it was agreed that these actions would significantly improve CITES implementation and enforcement in the Russian Far East and North East Asia:

1. Regarding communication activities and the exchange of information between the three countries:
 - to provide information to one another on the species of wild animals and plants, and derivatives thereof, that are most commonly traded, and on their legal national status;
 - to exchange information on legal and illegal transactions between the countries with specimens of CITES listed species;
 - to provide information to competent authorities on infringements, seizures and prosecutions, on subsequent prosecutions and legal actions, and on the outcome of investigations;
 - to exchange models of, and official signatures on, CITES permits and certificates, and - to exchange models of any other legal documents associated with or required for CITES transactions;
 - to exchange information on the structure of CITES implementing bodies and enforcement agencies in the countries, and on customs procedures;
 - to establish communication lines between relevant authorities through which early warning information can be provided to prevent illegal trade;
 - to exchange information on modifications and alterations in CITES implementing legislation and procedures;
 - to ensure that communication and exchange of information between appropriate governmental bodies of the three countries takes place on a regular basis, in an operative and effective manner, and in full compliance with national legislation on confidentiality and information exchange.;

2. Regarding legislation:

- to exchange and provide translations in each others languages of the texts of national CITES implementing legislation, and of governmental and intergovernmental agreements and procedures that are related to the implementation of the provisions of CITES;
- to review the CITES implementing legislation in each of the three countries with the aim to assess their compliance with the provisions of CITES, and to undertake the necessary steps to address possible gap and weaknesses;
- Regarding technical support for monitoring and controlling CITES listed species in trade:
- to endeavour to produce CITES identification materials for customs officers and other enforcement bodies;
- to produce and disseminate amongst customs agencies information materials on smuggling techniques, control practices, fraud mechanisms, and other relevant enforcement related information;
- to exchange and share information on the identification practices and expertise in each of the countries;

3. Regarding capacity building and training activities:

- to organise regular training for all CITES implementing bodies on CITES controls and identification;
- to share experts and expertise on CITES and wildlife trade;
- to organise regular regional workshops addressing relevant wildlife trade issues;
- to provide training for customs officers that is targeted at, and adapted to, the different levels of the national customs administrations;
- to unify and harmonise amongst the three countries existing and new training materials;

4. Regarding public awareness and education activities:

- to produce and distribute CITES information leaflets and posters;
- to introduce wildlife trade and CITES in national educational curricula;
- to provide information from the relevant governmental bodies to the mass media;
- to supply practical instructions and information on CITES implementing regulations to professional traders, companies and other;

Finally, it was agreed that the results of the International Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia needed to be made available to the relevant authorities in other North East Asian countries.

The participants recognised the great importance of regional collaboration to implement CITES, and appealed to the CITES Secretariat, the Parties to CITES, Governmental and Inter-governmental Aid Agencies, the World Customs Organisation (WCO), the International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO-Interpol), World Wide Fund Nature (WWF), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), TRAFFIC and other non-governmental organisations to help and support this effort.

The participants expressed their gratitude to Save the Tiger Fund for the financial support provided for the workshop, and to the organisers of the workshop, TRAFFIC Europe, who worked in collaboration with the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection, TRAFFIC East Asia, Global Survival Network (GSN), Fund Phoenix, and the Russian Programme Office of WWF to held a successful meeting.

WELCOME AND OPENING SPEECH

by Tom De Meulenaer, Director of TRAFFIC Europe

Welcome to the 'International Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia' here in Vladivostok. I am the Director of TRAFFIC Europe, the main organiser of this workshop.

TRAFFIC Europe is part of the TRAFFIC Network, which, in support of its two partner organisations, IUCN – The World Conservation Union and WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature, helps to ensure that wildlife utilisation and trade remain sustainable, and are conducted in accordance with national and international laws and agreements. We have conducted extensive investigations on the status of and trade in Tigers, and identified this region as one of the key areas where we can usefully support the ongoing Tiger conservation efforts. One of the major problems for Tigers and other wildlife in the Russian Far East is poaching and illegal trade - mainly to Asian consumer markets. During the next three days, I hope that we will be able to improve and update our understanding of these problems, and draw together practical ideas for improvements.

I realise that we all come from very different backgrounds, cultures and countries. More than anything else, this is therefore a pretty unique opportunity to get input from a very wide spectrum of people and expertise. What we will be talking and planning about in the next three days should concern all of us. The Russian Far East has important centres of biodiversity, with many species in demand to supply markets throughout the world. It contains some of the few remaining large wilderness areas and undeveloped spaces left on the planet. Its forests are amongst the richest and best preserved in the northern hemisphere, with habitat for rare and endangered species of global importance. These include the Siberian or Amur Tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*, the largest and most impressive of the remaining tiger subspecies. The latest figures from the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group indicate that there may be 437 to 506 Siberian Tigers left in Russia. This is somewhat higher than previous estimations of Siberian Tiger populations. However, Siberian Tigers remain highly threatened because of habitat loss and fragmentation, over-hunting of prey species, and poaching to supply the demand for Tiger parts, particularly bone, for use in traditional Asian medicines.

The main purpose of this workshop is to facilitate exchanges of information and experience amongst all of you, which in turn should stimulate collaboration, and allow you to work more efficiently towards conservation of Tigers in this region.

At present, there is extensive cross border trade from the Russian-Far East to Asian countries, in particular China and South Korea. This includes medicinal plants, Tigers, bears, Musk deer, various marine products as well as timber and a variety of other wildlife and wildlife products. Unfortunately much of this trade is uncontrolled, and threatens native wildlife.

The international trade in endangered species such as Tigers, and products made from these species, is regulated under CITES, a Convention many of you are probably familiar with. Enforcement of the provisions of this Convention is essential to address problems of smuggling and unsustainable trade

with rare species. Although most countries in North East Asia are Parties to CITES, there seems little international collaboration to implement this important treaty. We need to make concerted efforts to co-ordinate CITES controls and to commonly tackle poaching as well as illegal trade from Russia to its Asian neighbours. This will only be effective if the responsible enforcement agencies in the region learn about and from each other, and feel confident in working together with field conservation and wildlife experts. We will need continuous co-operation in the region amongst all of you.

To achieve this, TRAFFIC Europe, in collaboration with Global Survival Network (GSN), Fund Phoenix, the Russian Programme Office of WWF, TRAFFIC East Asia and the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection, organised this workshop. It brings together law enforcement officials and conservation experts from Russia, which is the key supplier and transit country for Tigers and other endangered wildlife, with enforcement and conservation experts from key consumer markets of Tiger products in Asia, in particular China and Korea.

We hope that this workshop contributes to enhanced regional collaboration amongst wildlife trade enforcement agencies in the Russian Far East and North East Asia. We also hope that this workshop will improve co-ordination of controls and anti-smuggling efforts along common borders. Such improvement will enhance the quality and efficiency of Tiger protection efforts and Tiger trade controls in the region.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Save the Tiger Fund, who has generously provided financial support for this workshop.

I am looking forward to a very productive and successful meeting. Enjoy it.



Fig. 1: Map of the Region (a map of the Administrative Regions of the Russian Far East is shown in the Annex, page 75).

PART I:
**WILDLIFE TRADE AND WILDLIFE TRADE REGULATIONS IN THE
RUSSIAN FAR EAST AND NORTH EAST ASIA**

Moderator: Valentin Ilyashenko, Russian CITES Management Authority

WILDLIFE TRADE IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST - AN OVERVIEW

by Alexey Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe-Russia

The Russian Far East is among the most unfavourable regions in Russia from the point of view of illegal trade in wild plants and animals. In this region, many natural, political and socio-economic factors have converged into a single force that seems to have the purpose of promoting illegal hunting and business practices.

The fauna and flora of the Russian Far East is very diverse, and there is a concentration of northern, Siberian and Manchurian species. The region is located close to the countries of East Asia, and these nations have traditionally consumed a wide variety of products and derivatives of animal and plant species. The improved economic situation in these consumer countries has led to increased demand for these products by many of the people living in these countries.

At the same time, Russia has experienced economic crises, decreases in incomes for much of the population, unemployment, and the collapse of many economic and industrial structures. People are searching for ways to make a living. Wildlife trade is regarded as a chance to become rich quickly.

In the past, the trade in furs was a common economic activity in the Far East. The collapse of this industry, due to both external and internal factors, has led to the current situation in which over 90% of the hunters in the Far East earn their living from the illegal trade in wildlife. This activity involves illegal harvest and trade in ginseng, musk deer pod, bear gall bladder, young Siberian stag antlers, and a variety of other plant and animal species and products.

The political changes that came about in the early 1990s in Russia were not always paralleled by legislative changes. In many cases the old legislation is not applicable to an extremely different situation. Customs and environmental protection bodies have been powerless to stop growing illegal trade.

The weakness of the legislation, and the disparity of powers of the executive bodies, created favourable conditions for illegal trade in plants and animals. As this trade developed, numerous powerful criminal groups were born and thrived. These often brought the executive power, law and order institutions and environmental protection bodies into the sphere of their influence.

These factors resulted in a well-organised system of illegal trade in goods of animal and plant origin in the Russian Far East. Relatively safe transit routes for these goods were established, in particular at the Russian borders with China and North Korea.

Review of species and types of trade

The next topic to be discussed is the species involved in the trade, and the types of products that are traded. To start, the trade should be divided into export, and import.

Import of plants and animals into the Russian Far East

The import of animals and plants and products made from these species into the region, is comparatively small. The demand for exotic animals in the region is virtually non-existent. It is certain that some live animals, and even some stuffed specimens are imported, but very few of these remain in the region. The majority of these imports of animals go by transit to European Russia. Plants are imported into the region, primarily in the form of ready-made drugs for Oriental medicine, to meet the needs of the growing Chinese and Korean communities. This trade is in many cases illegal.

1. Export of goods of the animal and plant origin procured on land and in the coastal waters of the Far East:

Export comprises a far larger part of the illegal trade turnover. The trade involves many different species, but can be divided into two categories. These are firstly, species that occur on land and in the coastal waters of the Far East, and secondly, species that are marine species; occurring in the northern Pacific Ocean.

Tiger is one of the rarest animal species. At the same time the demand for it in the illegal Far East market is extremely high. All parts of tiger are used and are highly valued in Oriental medicine. The cost of a tiger carcass in Khabarovsk at the peak of the demand in 1994-1996, reached USD 15,000. The usual cost of a set of tiger bones is USD 2,000. In spite of all prohibitions and measures taken against illegal hunting, and in spite of very severe punishment for illegal trade in tiger hides, bones, and other parts introduced in China, about 50 animals are hunted annually. Certainly not all of them are shot for business. However, it should be mentioned that there is a continuous demand for tiger bones and other derivatives.

Musk deer is a live ginseng. Musk deer pod is widely used in traditional Oriental medicine. The demand is persistent. If previously, before the borders were open, musk deer was a common species like a hare and there was no demand for it, now we have to admit that it is one of the most endangered species due to high demand, and the resulting harvest and trade to Chinese and Korean dealers. In the northern areas of the Primorsky Krai, and in some areas of the Khabarovsk Krai, illegal hunting of musk deer and trade in musk deer pod is the main way of earning income in rural settlements. Purchase prices vary from USD 1.00 to 3.00 per gram. In recent years, the dealers began to purchase both traditionally dried pods, and frozen pods. This new "standard" supposes that pods are frozen together with the testis. Musk deer is caught mainly by snares, i.e. non-selectively. Thus, we can say that, depending on the gender and age structure of the population, for every male caught, there are

from three to five females and young animals killed unnecessarily. The volumes of trade in musk deer pod can only be approximately estimated. At present though, in South Korea, I know of a case that is being investigated involving the illegal export of about 1.5 tonnes of musk. It is certain that musk deer is illegally procured not only in the Far East, but also in Siberia and Altai. The musk deer pod is illegally traded through and exported from the Far East.

Bear Demand for bear gall bladder causes many hunters to search for these animals. The greatest impact has been felt by the Asiatic Black Bear, included in Appendix I of CITES. This is because it is more available. But by now the rush for gall has ceased and the prices have gone down from USD 5.00-8.00 per gram in 1994-1995, to USD 1.00-2.00. It is still too early to say that the bears are declining in number in the Far East and Kamchatka. However, we must be on our guard.

Soft-shelled turtle has been more and more actively exported to China in recent years. It is transported alive. Only the day before yesterday, Customs officers stopped an attempt to transport soft-shelled turtles under the floor of the carriage.

Recently a demand has been formed and is growing steadily for freshwater crabs. Their illegal export to China now is estimated at hundreds of kilograms.

Trepang. Marine ginseng. These are exported to China. It is harvested by diving, and is controlled by criminals. At some areas up to 80% of the active male population is engaged in this business. Mainly they export boiled and dried trepang. The mean price for one kg of dried trepang at the Chinese border is USD 100. We estimate, based on interviews, that about 15 tonnes of trepang are harvested during the season in the Khasan area. If one calculates the value of the dry product, the profit in a successful month may reach USD 1 million.

Among the other invertebrates actively harvested in shelf waters, sea urchin and scallop should be mentioned. Harvesting and illegal export of these animals takes place mainly in the Northern parts of Primorsky Krai. This business is primarily undertaken by non-local harvesters and boats, mostly coming from Sakhalin. This trade is mainly for the Japanese market.

Ginseng is traditionally used in Oriental medicine, and there is a tradition of harvesting and exporting in the Far East. In the last century, ginseng was mainly harvested and exported by Chinese persons to China and Korea. At present, the wild population of ginseng has been ruthlessly destroyed by numerous illegal harvesters. By our estimates, the number of harvesters operating in recent years exceeds the number involved in the business in the beginning of the century (the peak of the procurement) by five times. The volume of illegal export to China (the main destination) and Korea (to a lesser degree), according to data collected by TRAFFIC Europe, is from 1,500 to 2,000 kg annually. Using Hong Kong prices for calculation, this amount of ginseng would equal USD 80 million per year.

Among the other harvested and exported herbs we may name *Oplopanax elatus*, *Aristolochia manshuriensis* and *Rhodiola rosea*.

Timber The analysis shows that for numerous sites that have been studied, the actual felling volumes exceed the official figures by a factor of 1.5. Satellite images show that felling areas often differ from the areas marked in the forestry maps in location and configuration. Timber extraction areas in the river valleys, where there is mixed forest, are being illegally expanded up the hills into the cedar and oak forests. It is not easy to estimate the volumes of illegal timber export, we have not got these data yet. However, there are indirect data showing that this business is active. Teams of the "Tiger" Inspection and group "Kedr" stop logging trucks who carry the illegally cut timber at night, from the Sikhote-Alin' down to the sea. There are many small military ports on the seashore where they can easily reload timber to boats without any controls.

2. *Illegal export of fish and other marine products:*

In this case we have to speak about the trade covering the whole Russian part of the North Pacific Ocean. In this area there is a complex mixture of various problems, including imperfect legislation, weak controls, corruption, and huge financial potential for the criminals and other illegal operators. I will give details in a separate presentation. Now I will just say that the volume of illegal export of marine products from the territorial waters of Russia and the waters of the Russian Exclusive Economic Zone is estimated by experts to be USD 1.5 to 4.5 billion per year.

BASIC CITES PROVISIONS AND REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

by Valentin Ilyashenko, CITES Management Authority of Russia

Last year, representatives of the CITES Management Authorities of Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation and of the Republic of Korea participated in a workshop held here in Vladivostok. This year's workshop is aimed at enforcement issues and focuses on improving collaboration between Customs bodies and CITES agencies in these countries. In this region, Customs officers and enforcement agencies are facing numerous challenges. One of them is to control the trade in CITES specimens that cross the borders between our countries.

Talking about the history of the Convention, it should be mentioned, that it was scientists and non-governmental organisations, who were the first to pay attention to these problems.

In 1948, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) was established. One of its first activities was the preparation of the Red Data Book. IUCN has published the Red Data Books and Red Lists of threatened species since 1963, and in doing so the IUCN attracted the attention of governmental and non-governmental organisations. IUCN has encouraged these organisations to develop the necessary measures to better protect endangered species. Regional and national Red Data books came into existence in the 1960s and early 1970s. Some states have even adopted special legislation to protect endangered species.

The Red Data Book of Russia was published in 1983. This book listed rare and endangered animal species. The Red Data Book of plants was published in 1988.

International trade in plants and animals is one of the most significant threats to the survival of flora and fauna. According to Interpol, the annual volume of the international trade (excluding marine products and timber) is worth more than USD 6 billion.

With the aim to control poaching and illegal trade in endangered species and to regulate the international trade in threatened plants and animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was adopted in 1973, and came into force in 1975. The Russian Federation, as well as 145 other states, is a party of this Convention.

The Convention regulates the international trade in species and their derivatives listed in the CITES Appendices through a system of permits and certificates. These permits can be issued by authorised administrative bodies of CITES in the participating countries. Thus, the enforcement of CITES is the responsibility of customs bodies who play an important role in ensuring that international trade wild species is not violating the provisions of the Convention.

The International Council on Customs Co-operation was established in 1993. In 1994 it was renamed as World Custom Organisation (WCO). 150 countries along with the Russian Federation are members of this organisation. A Memorandum on mutual understanding between CITES and WCO that was signed in July 1996, sets a legislative basis for co-operation between the two international

organisations. The Memorandum provides for the exchange of information about the execution of CITES provisions and about developments of interaction between international Customs bodies and CITES administrations.

In 1995, the State Environmental Committee of the Russian Federation, the Federal Security Service, the State Customs Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Communication signed an agreement about joint activities to halt the illegal trade in wild plants and animals.

In 1997-98, the State Environmental Committee, the State Technical Committee and the Department of Veterinary of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russia Federation, with the financial support of international non-governmental organisations, published booklets and posters about CITES. These booklets and posters were distributed amongst all Customs offices.

Environmental, veterinary and phytosanitary bodies, trade inspectors as well as internal security and customs bodies control the trade in wild animals and plants. However, Customs, because of their strategic position at the state borders, plays a special role in suppressing the illegal trade of plants and animals and in ensuring that the general CITES provisions are met.

Currently the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation and the State Environmental Committee have undertaken a number of co-ordinated activities, which have to a great extent increased the efficiency of the Russian Federation to meet obligations under CITES.

Fifteen thousand CITES specimens were confiscated within a period of four years. This is ten times greater than what was confiscated during the Soviet period of Convention. In 1996, the Customs officials of Moscow Sheremetevo Airport confiscated 5,222 illegally imported CITES-listed specimens, in 1997, – 9,649 specimens, and in 1999, – 176 specimens so far. Two ivory shipments with a total weight of about 2 tonnes were confiscated in 1999. The Customs officials of the Far Eastern Customs Committee confiscated 2,797 CITES specimens, and also 48 kg of ginseng and about 10 tonnes of trepang (sea-cucumbers) between 1995 and 1999.

Thus, Customs bodies play an important role in fulfilling the Convention's provisions, because they review permits, check their legitimacy and conformity, and also take measures to halt any illegal activities and to ensure that trade is conducted according to national legislation and international rules and standards.

In 1998, the Fishery Department of Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation was assigned by the Government of the Russian Federation to be the Management Authority for CITES for sturgeon species. Therefore, currently there are two Management Authorities in Russia (the one mentioned above and the State Environmental Committee).

Every state can designate an indefinite number of Management Authorities for administration of the Convention. Each of these Management Authorities can issue CITES permits. It is very important to have samples of the documents (the CITES permits) issued by each of these bodies (there are about

300 of these sample permits in the world). It is especially important to have sample permits from the adjacent countries in the Far East. By referring to these sample permits enforcement officers can detect fraudulent documents.

Last year, the State Environmental Committee issued, with the support of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), a book that contains a list of CITES-listed species, a review of national legislation on CITES, and samples of permits.

The aim of this workshop is to encourage collaboration among state agencies, and in particular the Customs departments in the countries in this region. Another important objective is to assess the potential for undertaking joint activities.

It is important to mention the vital role that is played by non-governmental organisations. It would have been impossible to publish the booklet I mentioned earlier, or to organise this meeting, without their support. Financial assistance for this workshop was provided by non-governmental organisations.

PRESENTATIONS OF THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

CUSTOM PROCEDURES AND CONTROLS FOR TRADE IN CITES-SPECIMENS IN RUSSIA

by Aleksey Gennadevitch Abramo, Head of the Department on Non-Tariff Control over Export of the Far-Eastern Customs Administration

The Far Eastern Customs Administration comprises 20 Customs offices located within nine territories of the Russian Federation: Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai, Sakhalin Oblast, Kamchatskaya Oblast, Magadanskaya Oblast, Amurskaya Oblast, Evreyskaya Autonomous Oblast, Chukotskiy Autonomous Region and Sakha Republic (Yakutiya).

The USSR was a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna. After 1992, when the Russian Federation became a successor of the USSR; the Russian Federation continued to be a Party to the Convention.

There are two CITES Management Authorities in the Russian Federation: the State Environmental Committee and the Ministry of Agriculture. The State Environmental Committee is authorised to issue CITES permits. The Department of Agriculture (through the Fisheries Department) is authorised to issue permits to trade in sturgeons and their products.

Customs bodies play an important role in implementing CITES. In 1993, a new Customs Code containing provisions facilitating the control over exports and imports, including CITES specimens, was adopted. It is required to present the CITES permits issued by one of the above-mentioned Management Authorities in order to transport the CITES specimens across the Russian border. In addition, other licenses are required, in accordance with the law *On State Control over International Trade*. For example, licenses may be required for the export of live animals and plants, and of their parts and derivatives, and also of medicinal raw material (of both plant and animal origin). These permits can be issued by the Ministry of Trade, after co-ordination with other authorised ministries and departments. The Customs bodies control the movement/transportation of licensed goods.

According to Customs statistics, only eight cases of legal trade in CITES specimens from the Russian Federation to China or Japan, through the Far Eastern Customs Administration, were recorded for the period January to November this year (1999). This trade involved musk deer, two white storks, and four specimens of marine mammals (white whales). In addition, sturgeon caviar was exported to Japan and to the USA. It is important to note that the Customs of the Russian Far East did not record any export of CITES listed specimens to Southern Korea.

As was mentioned above, strict state and Customs control of the trade in CITES-listed specimens is disadvantageous for some persons, who would like to earn maximum profit minimum expenditure. For

this reason, Customs officers must pay special attention to controlling illegal trade and smuggling of certain CITES-listed specimens. My colleague, Mr. Sergey Nikolaevich Lyapustin, will speak about this problem.

HALTING THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN CITES LISTED SPECIMENS

by Sergey Nikolaevich Lyapustin, Deputy-Head of the Division for the Struggle against the Most Dangerous Kinds of Smuggling

CITES-listed specimens can be divided into several groups, according to various characteristics. These groups are:

- Animals, plants and their derivatives which are included in the CITES Appendices;
- Objects, included in the Red Book
- CITES-listed specimens, that are used as medicines;
- CITES-listed specimens that are of cultural value
- Specimens of scientific collections
- Private goods and hunting trophies

The CITES regulations apply for each of these categories.

In addition to a CITES permit, a license from the Ministry of Trade is required in order to conduct trade legally. Depending on the category of the specimens to be exported, additional documents from other departments may also be needed. For example, to export the musk of the musk deer, documents are needed from both the State Environmental Committee and the Ministry of Trade. For the removal (and export) of CITES specimens belonging to a zoological collection, a license of the Ministry of Culture is needed in addition to the CITES certificate issued by the State Environmental Committee, and the license issued by the Ministry of Trade.

Besides all the documents just mentioned, it is also necessary to acquire a certificate from the Veterinary Border Service or the Plant Health-Quarantine Service.

It is a little bit easier to export specimens for zoos and zoological exhibits. In such a case, the only documents that are required are a CITES certificate, and a Health-Veterinary control.

However, there are numerous methods used to illegally export CITES specimens. The main types of the violations are:

- smuggling of CITES animals, plants and derivatives
- concealment from the Customs control
- export with the false documents
- export without declaring the specimens

There are different ways and methods that the contraband can be identified. These include investigations in accordance with the Code of the state, and inspections by Customs staff.

Information is needed for successful investigations, activities and operations. Different methods are used to collect and/or receive the information, and these vary depending on the organisation, and on the information sources. Collaboration is very important, and has been mentioned already.

Examples include:

- collaboration with government and non-government environmental organisations. These organisations monitor illegal trade, and provide information to Customs.
- collaboration with the law-enforcement departments.
- international collaboration.

Each Customs department has its own method of contraband identification and control. Very important methods include observing the behaviour of a person who might be involved in illegal activity, carefully examining hand luggage and bags, and carefully examining any documents that are presented. Fake Ministry of Trade licenses and CITES permits are frequently encountered.

Sometimes the following circumstances favour the illegal export of CITES specimens:

- Customs officers who have insufficient knowledge of their official duties/responsibilities;
- Poor performance or non-performance of official duties;
- corruption.

After CITES specimens have been seized, the general practice in our region is the following:

- to report the violation;
- to impose an administrative penalty or institute criminal proceedings, depending on the quality of the evidence;
- to forfeit derivatives to the Customs store;
- if live animals are concerned, call the representatives of the Veterinary Service and Environmental departments, so that they can decide what to do with the animal(s).

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:

POLICY AND MEASURES FOR CONTROLLING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN CHINA

submitted by Mr. Wu Genping, Deputy Director of the Trade Administration Division

With its vast territory and natural environment, China is a country with one of the most diverse wildlife resource bases in the world. There are 4,800 species of vertebrates, accounting for over 10% of the all vertebrates in the world, and 32,800 species of higher plants, accounting for more than 12% of the world total. Among the wildlife species listed in the CITES Appendices, 1,700 species are found in China. Enhancing the conservation of wildlife resources and controlling illegal wildlife trade in this country, is of great significance for global species conservation.

Part One

The Chinese government has attached great importance to controlling illegal wildlife trade. China acceded to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on 8 April 1981. In recent years, in addition to the strict implementation of the provisions of CITES, the Chinese Government has adopted a series of measures to strengthen the management of import and export of wildlife. These measures have effectively contained and cracked down on the illegal export and import of wildlife species. The major measures taken are as follows:

1. Improving the legal system in order to control the illegal wildlife trade.

Since 1980, China has promulgated the Forest Law, the Fishery Law, the Wild Animals Protection Law, the Regulation on Wild Plants Protection, the Inventory of Key Wild Animals under State Protection and the Inventory of Import and Export Wildlife under the Control of Customs. Penalties pertaining to illegal activities related to import and export of wildlife were provided in detail in the Criminal Law, the Customs Law, the Wild Animals Protection Law and the Regulations on Wild Plants Protection. Such laws, regulations and administrative rules not only make the management of import and export of wildlife easier, but also provide strong tools for cracking down on the illegal cases.

2. Strengthening the management of import and export of wildlife.

In line with the stipulations of CITES, China has set up a Management Authority for CITES and a Scientific Authority. The Management Authority has 17 branches in Beijing, Guangzhou, Kunming and Nanning, as well as other locations. Full-time staff are in charge of the management duties related to import and export of wildlife, and they work in co-operation with local wildlife conservation and management departments.

3. Adopting permit control measures and expanding the scope of controlled species.

China has a strict permit control system for the import and export of wildlife. When China became a Party to CITES, species controlled in China were confined the specimens listed in the Appendices of CITES. After the Wildlife Animals Protection Law and the Regulations for the Protection of Wild Plants were promulgated, the state-protected species and many other species not under state protection were also included in the inventory of controlled species and controlled by Chinese Customs when

they were imported and exported. Such policies have strengthened the management of import and export of wildlife, facilitated the monitoring work of Customs, and prevented smuggling of endangered species.

4. Extensive professional training for the staff involved in the management of import and export of wildlife.

The CITES Management Authority of China, and its branches, for the purpose of implementing CITES and related laws, regulations and rules, has organised and sponsored several special training courses in many cities. Through these training courses over 1,000 law enforcement officials from the wildlife management authority, Customs, public security, the industry and commerce administrations, and the import and export corporations, have been fully trained. In addition, three training courses on CITES have been successfully held in China by the CITES Management Authority of China in co-operation with the CITES Secretariat and US CITES Management Authority. Since 1994, more than 25 law enforcement officials have been sent to attend related training courses held abroad by the CITES Secretariat and the US CITES Management Authority.

5. Extensive publicity of CITES provisions to enhance public awareness.

The Chinese government has given high priority to the publicity and public awareness about the significance of wildlife conservation and the provisions of the CITES and other related laws, regulations and rules. Since China acceded to CITES, various publicity activities have taken place, such as Bird Love Week, the Wildlife Publicity month and the Exhibition on Rare and Precious Trees. These have been carried out nation-wide under the authorities concerned, non-governmental organisations, scientific and educational institutions as well as news and publication agencies. Permanent publicity posters and display cases have been set up at major airports, seaports, docks and markets near the border areas in an effort to disseminate information about CITES and national laws, regulations and rules, and to publicise cases pertaining to illegal import and export. These have also been aimed at raising people's awareness of wildlife conservation.

6. Strengthening the wildlife law enforcement and seriously cracking down the illegal activities related to the import and export of wildlife.

Since 1981, many wildlife law enforcement inspections have been carried out by government authorities at various levels, in order to crack down on illegal activities, promote the implementation of related laws and regulations and conserve wildlife resources. The nation-wide environmental conservation law enforcement inspections have been carried out for five consecutive years since 1993. Numerous illegal cases relating to the import and export of wildlife have been handled seriously, and many criminals have been punished. In co-operation with related enforcement departments, the CITES Management Authority of China has investigated and prosecuted many illegal cases, for example, smuggling of crab-eating monkeys, butterflies, the hairs of Tibetan Antelope, elephant tusks, crocodile skins, leopard cat skins, and forgery of CITES documents. Through close co-operation with the law enforcement departments for forestry, agriculture, Customs, public security and industry and commerce administration, illegal trade and smuggling were cracked down upon seriously, and both the law enforcement capacity and the implementation capability of CITES were improved.

7. Tightening up the management of wildlife trade in border areas.

China is a country with both a coastline and a land border, which are 18,000 km and 20,000 km in length respectively. The boundaries neighbour 15 countries (e. g. Viet Nam), and there are six countries (e. g. Japan) to the east and Southeast across the sea. With the rapid development of the economy, foreign trade in China has been boosted, with more and more border ports opened and wildlife trade on border more prosperous. Because of the large quantity and variety of species involved, the management of import and export has become very difficult. Nevertheless, border provinces have tightened up the management by facilitating public awareness about laws and regulations relating to wildlife protection, banning illegal wildlife markets, examining people and cars crossing the border, dealing with illegal cases in public. In addition, efforts have been made to collect and save confiscated species. These activities are aimed at controlling wildlife trade on the borders and cracking down on illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife.

8. Enhancing the management of the import and export of live wildlife, and appropriately handling the confiscated specimens.

In order to implement the CITES resolutions, and to protect, develop and wisely use the wildlife resource, the CITES Management Authority of China formulated an action plan for handling confiscated or seized live wildlife. The aim is to strengthen the management of the import and export of live specimens, and to improve the process for confiscation/seizure of wildlife, so that specimens are rescued in a timely manner. Over 90 collection sites have been built in 26 provinces and autonomous regions, 43 of these are permanent and the remainder are interim establishments.

Part Two

Although China has undertaken a lot of work on implementation of CITES and controlling illegal wildlife trade, with great achievements made, many problems still remain unsolved, especially with regard to illegal import and export of wildlife. In general, the illegal wildlife trade in China can be characterised as follows:

1. Poaching and smuggling of endangered species.

The price for many endangered species is extremely high on the international market, and therefore these species have become the target of international criminal groups. These groups collude with some Chinese residents to poach and smuggle a great amount of endangered species. Taking Saker Falcon as an example, 800 live falcons were confiscated in 1995 with 1,000 criminals apprehended in China. In 1996, 160 falcons were confiscated. In 1997, seven cases of smuggling of falcons were successfully prosecuted in Beijing, saving 123 falcons. Since 1990, smugglers killed near 10,000 Tibetan Antelope in Xinjiang, Tibet and Qinghai provinces of China in order to smuggle the wool of the Antelope. In addition, other endangered species such as the orchids, Giant Pandas, Asian Elephants, musk deer and rare butterflies are also targeted by smugglers.

2. Import and export of wildlife and their products without permits.

In 1988, China began to charge fees for importing and exporting wildlife and their products. In order to evade such charges, a few traders imported and exported wildlife and their products without permits, taking advantage of the difficulties of the Customs staff in identifying such commodities. Because of the opening-up of border ports, more and more channels for communication were created and commercial links were developed. At the same time, the management of border areas was still backward. In consequence, most of wildlife and their products traded across the border were not permitted to be traded, for example some of the species listed in the CITES Appendices such as Crab-eating monkey, Black Bear, pangolin and boa. In the past three years, more strict management has been undertaken, however, due to the great number.

3. Endangered species being carried across the border by passengers.

Although it is a requirement in China for passengers carrying endangered species across the border to have permits, and many publicity posters are displayed in ports, harbours, border markets and international airports to explain the rules, there are still many passengers violating the regulations. In recent years, Chinese and foreign Customs officials have confiscated numerous endangered species and products that have been carried by passengers without the required permits across the border. These include patent Chinese medicines containing musk, bear gall bladder, Saiga antelope horn, tiger bone or rhino horn; Erhu (a kind of musical instrument) containing the skin of a boa; rare butterfly specimens; ivory products and products made of crocodile skin.

4. Falsification of permits.

Some traders falsify permits to import and export wildlife and thereby take advantage of the difficulties that Customs staff have in identifying species. Two typical methods are:

- 1) importing or exporting more species and amounts than what is declared on permits;
- 2) importing or (re)exporting wildlife from the importing or (re)exporting countries other than those declared on permits.

5. Forging or transferring permits

In recent years, many cases of forged Chinese or foreign permits of crocodile, Crab-eating monkey, orchid, flamingo and parrots were discovered and action was taken. The main purpose for forging permits is to smuggle endangered wildlife through legal channels, or to legalise smuggling. At the same time, we also captured a lot of fraudulent permits that had been sold or transferred illegally; these permits were mainly for ordinary ornamental plants. The purpose of such cases is mostly for economic benefit.

Part Three

As a developing country, China has many difficulties in controlling illegal wildlife trade due to the constraints of economic, cultural, scientific and technological conditions and some outdated conventional ideas. It is recognised that the management of wildlife trade should be improved. This should be done in line with CITES, the Wild Animals Protection Law and the Regulation on Wild Plants Protection, as well as internal protection and management practices, in a bid to promote the control of illegal wildlife trade and contribute to global biodiversity conservation. To realise such target, following efforts will be made:

1. Enhancing the collaboration between the CITES Management Authority and Customs, to improve the supervision of Customs on import and export trade of wildlife.

At the beginning of this year (1998), thanks to the co-operation between the Chinese CITES Management Authority and the Customs General Administration, almost all endangered species and most terrestrial vertebrates and their products, are listed in the Commercial Catalogue of Importing and Exporting Wildlife and their Products. This is in accordance with the requirements of CITES and relevant Chinese laws and regulations, and corresponds with the Harmonised System of Commodity (HS) adopted by WCO. Thus, these species are under the management and supervision of both the CITES Management Authority and Customs. In order to ensure the successful implementation of the policies, two training courses were held by the Chinese CITES authority and the Customs General Administration for the staff responsible for wildlife import and export. Topics covered in the training courses included relevant laws and regulations, the identification of wildlife and the commercial inventory of importing and exporting wildlife. Staff from wildlife conservation management authorities at the provincial level, and Customs staff from major ports, received the training. Several CITES training courses will be aimed specifically at traders, and these will be developed at the province level. Furthermore, a regular communication system is planned to be set up between the Management Authority and Customs to adjust the Commercial Catalogue for Importing and Exporting Wildlife and their Product, to enhance the examination of permits and goods and to improve the capability of identifying wild species and their products.

2. Improving the legal system for the management of wildlife import and export, promoting the capability for implementation of CITES.

Since China acceded to CITES, a series of laws and regulations on wildlife conservation and management have been promulgated. These have gradually led wildlife trade to be on more of a legal track. However, law enforcement is still not satisfactory, under the condition of the market economy, and the implementation of the CITES is also affected. Therefore it is urgent to improve the legal system to meet the needs of the wildlife import and export management. The Regulation of the Management of Wildlife Import and Export of the People's Republic of China being drafted recently will combine the provisions of CITES, and the regulation of national wildlife conservation, management and import and export management, to meet these needs.

3. Developing appropriate measures for dealing with major illegal wildlife trade and strengthening law enforcement.

Thanks to the policy reforms and the general opening-up to the outside world, the economy of border areas has developed dramatically, and border trade has become more and more prosperous. Wildlife

and their products take up a certain proportion in the trade, including the trade in endangered species. Consequently, China will further strengthen the management of wildlife import and export in those areas where border trade has increased, by instructing relevant provincial governments to develop or perfect the regulations on wildlife border trade management in accordance with local practices and national laws and regulations and the provisions of CITES. This is in a bid to reduce illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife and to promote the healthy development of trans-border economies.

In order to deal with poaching and smuggling of endangered species, the CITES Management Authority of China will collaborate closely with the CITES Secretariat, contracting parties and IPO to prevent and halt these activities. These efforts will involve joint actions, in particular co-ordination with the national department of agriculture, environment protection, public security, Customs, industry and commerce administration, transport and civil airlines.

In the cases involving passengers carrying endangered species across borders without permits, we are planning to prohibit the sale of products made of/from endangered species in duty free shops in international airports. In addition, we will enhance the public awareness activities in international airports, ports, harbours, and border ports, and the examination of passengers' luggage.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

CITES IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

submitted by Mr. Chang-Man Won, National Institute of Environmental Research, Seoul

I. Introduction

The Republic of Korea acceded to CITES in July 1993 to participate in the international effort to protect endangered species of wild fauna and flora. Since that time, Korea has made great efforts to implement CITES by adopting national legislation to comply with Korea's obligation under the Convention and by strengthening national enforcement efforts.

The relevant Governmental Agencies:

Ministry of Environment:

This agency issues the import and export permits for birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, plants etc.

Korea Food and Drug Administration:

This agency issues the import and export certification for CITES species used for medicinal purposes.

Korean Customs Service:

The Customs Service controls the trade and export and import of CITES specimens, and investigates and controls trade at the national borders. The Korean Customs Service is based in Seoul, and there are nine regional offices.

II. Customs procedures and control of trade with CITES specimens

Article 145 of the Korea Customs Act (Operation of the System of Confirmation by Customs Collector when Clearing Imports and Exports) stipulates the following.

- Imports and exports of normal goods are permitted by import/export certification issued by the authorised agencies.
- Permits for birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and plants, etc. are issued by the Ministry of Environment. Permits for pharmaceutical goods are issued by Korea Food and Drug Administration.
- Any CITES goods brought in without proper export certificates will be taken into Customs custody in whole, regardless of the quantity and price.
- CITES specimens confiscated in violation of the Korea Customs Act cannot be sold on commission or auctioned off at ones' discretion.

Disposal of confiscated specimens

- Transfer to appropriate agencies
 - Free transfer to Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Forestry Administration, or Ministry of Health and Welfare for the purposes of education, research, exhibition, etc.
 - Destruction: most CITES specimens that can not be transferred to appropriate agencies are destroyed.

III. Legal framework for performing CITES trade controls

1. Penalty for Customs Law Violation

The Korean Customs Service punishes those involved in the import of CITES-listed specimens that have been imported without proper permission or authorisation. This is a violation of the Customs Act.

Related provisions are as follows:

- Article 179 of the Korea Customs Act (Offences for smuggling of exports or imports):
Sentence for imprisonment for less than 10 years, a monetary fine of less than USD 17,000.
- Article 180 of Korea Customs Act (Penalty for evasion of Customs duty):
Sentence for imprisonment for less than 3 years, or a monetary fine of less than USD 25,000.
- Article 186 of Korea Customs Act (Penalty for acquisition of smuggled goods):
Sentence for imprisonment for less than 3 years, or a monetary fine equivalent to the price of the goods.
- Article 198 of Korea Customs Act (Forfeiture, additional collection)

2. Punishment for Violation of Other Related Laws

When a pending case is impossible to prosecute as a Customs Act violation, it may be possible to prosecute under other acts, such as the Natural Environment Conservation Act, and acts relating to the Protection of Wild Birds and Mammals, and Hunting, and the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.

Regulations concerning penalties:

- Articles 64 or 65 of the Natural Environment Conservation Act:
This article states that a person who exported, re-exported, withdrew, imported or admitted internationally endangered species without permission, can be sentenced to imprisonment for less than one year or a monetary fine of less than USD 8,300.

- Article 28 of the Acts concerning the Protection of Wild Birds and Mammals, and Hunting:
A person who has exported, imported or admitted endangered wild birds and mammals, their eggs, their young, or stuffed specimens without proper permission, can be sentenced to imprisonment for less than a three year term or a monetary fine of less than USD 8,300.
- Article 74 of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law:
A person who has exported, re-exported, imported or admitted pharmaceutical goods which are processed from goods subject to CITES, without permission or authorisation; or a person who has imported and sold tiger brain or rhinoceros horn, can be sentenced to imprisonment for less than five years or a monetary fine of less than USD 25,000.

IV. Detection and identification of CITES specimens in trade

Actions taken to detect and identify CITES specimens in trade include the following:

1. Operation of Clearance Inspection via C/S (Cargo Selectivity)
92 items among CITES-listed species have been registered in the cargo selectivity system. These are regarded as being in the high risk category of illegal imports, and are subject to intense baggage inspection.
2. Strengthening the x-ray inspections
Detecting goods that are concealed and/or packaged in special packing.
3. Introducing the 'sniffer dog' to detect wildlife contraband
This effort is carried out in co-operation with the Asia Animal Foundation.

Record of seizures of CITES-listed specimens

	1997		1998		1999	
	cases	weight (kg)	cases	weight (kg)	cases	weight (kg)
Bear Galls	701	260	366	106.1	392	76.6
Tiger Skins	1	-	2	-	1	-
Musk	1	0.01	6	0.5	3	0.56
Ivory	3	3.8	2	2.5	1	3
Other	193	-	155	-	138	-
TOTAL	899	-	531	-	534	-

Value seizures of CITES-listed specimens (unit: USD 1,000)

YEAR	No. of Cases	Value (USD)
1997	899	USD 251,000
1998	531	USD 261,000
1999	534	USD 88,000

V. CITES training for Customs officials

CITES training has been conducted, and has been undertaken for a number of different agencies. For example:

- Training for Customs inspectors at local Customs offices, on the identification of goods subject to CITES provisions.
- Training for people at the National Tax officials Training Institute, which includes identification of goods subject to CITES provisions. This training is offered ten times per year (with a total of 500 officers participating). Also, a training tour of local Customs houses is conducted each year.
- A joint training course with the Korean Industrial Property Office and the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office is also offered, and covers enforcement techniques.
- To enhance the ability of Customs officials to identify CITES-listed goods and to investigate related cases, the Korean Customs Service has circulated to all Customs houses the document, "Guidelines for Clearance of CITES-listed Goods".

PART II - ENFORCING WILDLIFE TRADE CONTROLS

Moderator: Tom De Meulenaer, Director of TRAFFIC Europe

WILDLIFE TRADE IN THE REGION - AN OVERVIEW

Presentations given by representatives of the participating NGOs

CURRENT STATUS OF TIGER CONSERVATION IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

by Pavel W. Fomenko, WWF RPO-RFE

The Russian Far East is home to the last surviving contiguous populations of the Amur or Siberian Tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*. The 1996 census estimated that the Russian population consisted of 330-371 adult animals. It is not known if this population is still in contact with the small population that inhabits the forest of the North Chinese provinces of Hayludzyan and Dzinlin (estimated to include 30-35 animals). More recent census information indicates a slight increase and some experts estimate that the population now consists of 300 – 350 breeding females and 500-600 adult animals in total.

It is generally accepted that the most serious threat to the long-term survival of the Amur Tiger is the loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat along with reduced prey availability. However, poaching of Tigers to supply the traditional Asian medicine markets, is now being conceded as the most dangerous threat to the survival of this species.

The loss of habitat is primarily caused by forest logging, agricultural land-use and forest fires. The social and economic conditions in the country, which were characterised by high unemployment rates and an extremely low standard of living, caused rural residents to actively hunt, not only for Tigers but also for Tiger prey, such as deer and pigs, for food. This depletion of Tiger prey in turn negatively affects the long-term survival of the Amur Tiger.

The stable demand of Traditional Chinese Medicine for wild plants and animals keeps the poaching of tigers at a high level. Nevertheless, the initial step to better protect the Amur Tiger has been undertaken when the Government of the Russian Federation adopted a 'Tiger' Resolution "On the protection of the Amur tiger and other rare and endangered animal and plant species of the Primorski Kray and Khabarovsk Kray". However, the required financial support for improved Tiger protection is still absent. The possibilities to better control the illegal smuggling of tiger parts and derivatives along the Russian-Sino borders are limited due to the lack of qualified personnel, the large freight volumes passing through and insufficient control for the transported shipments.

In 1975, CITES prohibited all international trade in Tigers and all their parts and derivatives. However, this measure has only slightly affected the illegal trade. According to our assessments, a boom in the demand for Tiger parts and derivatives in the early 1990s resulted in an increase in poaching levels. Between 50 and 70 tigers were poached annually during this period. At the same

time, the enforcement authorities responsible for the control of the illegal trade and the implementation of CITES provisions in the Russian Federation confiscated less than 1% of the skins and other tiger parts that were smuggled over the Russian borders. Almost 95% of the tigers and their parts were smuggled to the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region.

The poaching pressure on the tiger population has been slightly reduced in recent years. Thus, according to our information 14-16 tigers were hunted during the season of 1994 within a sample region, 9-10 tigers were hunted in 1997 and 5-6 specimens were hunted in a season of 1998. But at the same time, tiger abundance within the region did not correlate with the decline of poaching and remained almost stable.

During 1994-1999 WWF has been carrying out several programmes focused on the conservation of the Amur Tiger and its habitats. The main projects aimed at reducing the high poaching levels, developing educational and awareness programmes and conserving tiger habitats. Other projects aimed at assessing the real use of tiger populations in relation to commercial poaching, and tried to assess the degree of degradation of predator habitats in relation to economic activity. These have been successfully completed.

Currently WWF provides financial support to a network of anti-poaching teams, and educational programmes that aim at informing the public. In addition, WWF also financially supported the Far Eastern Customs Committee and helped them to enforce wildlife trade controls, and to train the Customs personnel. Special teams that control the use of forest resources within Tiger habitats have been organised within the framework of these projects.

OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE INSPECTION "TIGER"

by Sergei Zubtzov, Head of the "Inspection "Tiger"

The Primorsky Krai possesses a wealth of unmodified habitats and unique species. The flora and fauna include many species that are well known throughout the world, and are protected by CITES. These include the Amur tiger, the Far East leopard, the brown bear, and many more species. A number of factors, including the location of the Primorsky Krai close to the Asian states and the economic depression in recent years, have caused an increase in illegal exploitation of biological resources of the Primorsky Krai. To control the illegal trade in biological resources, a special department was established in February 1994 within the State Primorsky Krai Committee on environmental protection. The aim of this department is to protect the Amur tiger and other rare and endangered plant and animal species.

The department was named the "Tiger" department. The department was established with the organisational and financial support of the Global Survival Network (GSN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and Tiger Trust.

Recently, the "Tiger" department was reorganised into an emergency specialised inspection unit for the protection of the Amur tiger and other rare and endangered plants and animals. It was renamed as "Inspection Tiger". These changes, approved at the federal level, followed the Russian Federation Government Act of August 7, 1995, № 795 "On the Amur tiger and other rare and endangered wildlife conservation in the Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai". Subsequently, the Federal Target Program "The Amur tiger and its habitat conservation", was adopted and was in fact a national action plan.

At present the "Inspection Tiger" has eight mobile field groups, including one that is specifically focused on controlling violations within the context of the forestry legislation (group "Kedr"). It also has an inter-departmental co-ordinating group, which co-ordinates the actions of specially authorised bodies and forces in the realm of biological diversity conservation.

Financial support for the "Inspection Tiger" has come from several organisations including GSN and WWF, and in the past two years financial support has also come from a Russian non-governmental organisation, the Phoenix Fund. The Ecological Fund of the Primorsky Krai also provides financial support to the inspection. In addition, in 1999, the Ecological Fund of the Russian Federation sponsored 750,000 rubles (about USD 29,000) for the realisation of the Federal Target Program "The Amur tiger and its habitat conservation".

The data presented in this report were obtained over the past five years by the joint work of "Inspection Tiger" teams. This work was financed by the Global Survival Network, the Phoenix Fund and WWF.

Main tasks of the Inspection "Tiger"

In accordance with the main task, which is the conservation of biological diversity in the Primorsky Krai, "Inspection Tiger" conducts a number of activities. These are:

- Control, inspection and patrolling of the Primorsky Krai territory.
- Control of illegal hunting
- Blocking the ways illegal trade in tigers, their hides, bones and derivatives takes place.
- Preventing destruction of the tigers' and leopards' habitats
- Public awareness for the local population about ecological themes, dissemination of information about safety measures for people (including safe means of conducting economic activities) in the areas where tigers and leopards occur.
- Collecting ecological information.
- Co-operating with and undertaking joint actions with the enforcement bodies in Primorsky Krai, such as militia bodies, FSB, Customs, the office of public prosecutor, with the aim of identifying and halting routes for illegal transport of wildlife specimens.

The activities of "Inspection Tiger" play a large role in the public life of the Krai, Russia and abroad. At present this unit is the only organisation of this type in Russia.

"INSPECTION TIGER": RUSSIA'S REACTION TO THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

by Egor Kopaev Director of Phoenix Fund

This report will address the main transport routes for illegal wildlife trade in the Russian Far East. Four key routes for the illegal export of wildlife products from the Russian Far East may be identified:

China

Wildlife products illegally transported to China include hides and bones of the Amur tiger and Far East leopard, musk deer pod, bear gall and paws, ginseng roots, trepang, timber, snakes and frogs.

The illegal trade mainly occurs by rail, sea and vehicle transport. Commercial charter flights are used occasionally. Poltavka and Sosnovaya Pad' near Pogranichnyi, Turiy Rog are the main points of illegal trade across the Russian border.

The traders are mainly people from China and Russia. Among the Russians, the most common traders are lorry drivers delivering scrap, cement and other materials to China. We forecast that this method of illegal trade, i.e. use of the cement transportation route for illegal export of wildlife and wildlife products, will be used more actively in the future.

South Korea

In recent years the quantity of smuggled goods transported to South Korea has increased. The main wildlife products that are smuggled are hides and bones of the Amur tiger, musk deer pod, and bear gall. The people involved in this trade are, as a rule, Russian citizens. They transport illegal goods by both sea and air. Points of illegal passage across the Russian border to Pusan by sea include Vladivostok, Slavyanka, Nakhodka, Olga, and Svetlaya. The traders are commonly fishermen. The aerial route for transporting wildlife includes: Khabarovsk - Artem - Seoul. The demand for hides is steady, and smugglers seem to be operating well.

Japan

The main product smuggled from the Primorsky Krai to Japan is timber. Timber is transported by sea, usually from Plastun (major portion), Olga, Nakhodka and Vladivostok.

CIS countries

In CIS countries there is a demand for hides of tigers, leopards and bears. These products are smuggled to these countries using air, rail and vehicle transport.

The situation with regard to the illegal turnover of wildlife resources in the Primorsky Krai:

By now a steady criminal market for wildlife resources has been formed in the Primorsky Krai. The greatest demand is for hides and bones of the Amur tiger, hides and bones of the Far East leopard, bear gall and paws, musk deer pod, ginseng, trepang and timber. The data on the trade in samples are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Results of "Inspection Tiger" activities: confiscation of CITES specimens in co-operation with the Primorsky Krai Department of Internal Affairs, 1994-1999.

Species	Unit	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
Tiger skin and bones	item	14	2	4	11	2	4	37
Dead Tiger	item						1	1
Leopard skin or bones	item			2		2	1	5
Lynx skin	item					1	1	2
Bear Gall	item					2		2
Bear paws	item					4	23	27
Musk Gland	item					87	43	130
Ginseng root	kg	2.559	6.000	5.515	11.921	31.932	6.160	64.087
Dried Sea Cucumber	kg	284	14	180	120	748	3,484	4794

Due to their medicinal properties (used in Chinese medicine, pharmacology, and as food) there is a steady demand for these biological resources among the Asian countries. These countries determine the demand for the wildlife products mentioned above.

The Chinese still hold a firm position in the illegal wildlife trade. In general these people are Chinese workers living in Russia on a temporary basis. They are most interested in hides and bones of tiger and leopard, bear gall and paws, musk deer pod, ginseng and trepang. The people engaged in the illegal trade in wildlife resources live primarily in the Provinces of Zhilin', Kheilun'dzyzn' and the city of Dunin. Apparently, these goods are eventually sold in Shanghai and other cities in the south of China. A general practice is that people from China come to Russia under the pretext of a business trip (and have business permits in their passports), however, it is evident that this is only a screen for the illegal trade in biological resources.

In the past China was the main consumer of tiger and leopard derivatives. However, after the Chinese government imposed harsh penalties on their citizens who were engaged in smuggling of tiger derivatives, the trade routes changed. Namely, the flow of smuggled tiger and leopard derivatives turned to South Korea. However, it would be incorrect to say that this type of trade has completely stopped in China. On the contrary, this trade in China has become better organised and more secretive than it was when the trade was legal. Nevertheless, we can argue that the trade in tiger hides is less active now in China, than it was before.

Attempts are often made to illegally import musk deer pod and bear gall to South Korea.

In CIS countries there is a small demand for tiger, leopard and bear hides. The buyers are as a rule "new Russians" who use the hides as decorations on walls and floors.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that in the past few years, the market for illegally harvested wildlife has extended and grown. At present, when smuggled wildlife resources are encountered, they often include turtles, bear paws, hides, frogs, and increasingly, snakes.

We think it is necessary to draw attention to the species listed in the CITES Appendices, because these species are in great demand.

Review of the illegal trade in the CITES species in the Primorsky Krai during 1994-1999:

The Amur tiger

In one case, dated 17 November 1998, officers of the Ussuriisk Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Ussuriisk is a comparatively big city, located two hours north of Vladivostok by car), during a vehicle inspection, found tiger bones in the boot of a car. The car was driven by a Russian citizen, and had two passengers, both Chinese citizens. Neither the driver nor the passengers were able to explain the presence of the tiger bones in the boot of their car. It is supposed that the bones were to be transported to China.

At the international level this subspecies is included into the Red Data Book and, respectively, into the CITES Appendices (Appendix I) as a species requiring maximum protection.

Considering the situation with illegal trade in the Amur tiger derivatives, one may conclude that the demand for this type of resource is steady, though changing. According to the data from "Inspection Tiger", and from the Vladivostok Customs department, demand for tiger hides and skins exists in China, South Korea, and probably in Turkey, Japan, and CIS countries.

It should be noted that new tendencies have appeared in the trade, namely it has become evident that the main market for the Amur tiger derivatives moved from China to South Korea. However, a more secretive trade in China still exists.

Speaking about the Korean trade route, according to our observations, the illicit flow passes through a traditional channel with a limited number of professional participants. They are very secretive, and they use modern communication means and machines. To control this trade effectively, the nature protection authorities should work in close co-operation with Customs, FSB, and the Department of Internal Affairs, as well as in co-operation with similar bodies in China and Korea.

According to data from "Inspection Tiger", 12 Amur tiger hides were illegally transported to South Korea during the first three months of 1999. Moreover, according to unofficial data, in 1999 from 25 to 30 Amur tigers were illegally hunted. During the period 1994 to 1999, state inspectors from "Inspection Tiger" seized 42 tiger hides found to be in illegal trade.

The Far East leopard

The Far East leopard has been declared an endangered species on the international, federal and regional levels. On the international level, leopard is included in the CITES Appendices (Appendix I) as a species requiring maximum protection.

The main habitat area of the Far East leopard in the Primorsky Krai is in the Khasansky Region. According to census data collected in 1998, the population of the Far East leopard in the southwest part of the Primorsky Krai is thought to be 40. Taking into account the considerable inflow of persons from Southeast Asia to the Primorsky Krai, many of whom purchase the unique biological resources illegally, the demand for hides and bones of the Far East leopard is estimated to be rather steady.

In most cases leopards are hunted opportunistically during illegal hunting trips, or are caught in traps placed by local people to catch badgers or foxes. In addition, leopard habitat is impacted by reindeer parks, which are located in the area. The problem is that leopards cause damage to reindeer parks, and therefore reindeer breeders shoot the leopards. On the other hand, leopards living in areas near reindeer parks are an indication that their habitat is disturbed.

The available data show that there were "orders" placed for leopard hides and bones to be transported to Moscow, China, various CIS countries. From 1996 to 1999, the state inspectors of "Inspection Tiger" seized four leopard hides, and investigated two cases of leopard deaths. In September 1999, the inspectors of the Khasan group of "Inspection Tiger" found a leopard skeleton. The case is being investigated.

Bear gall and paws

From case materials: On 10 May 1999, in the airport of Artem, Customs officers seized about seven kg of dry bear gall and 760 grams of musk deer pod, from a Russian citizen who intended to travel to Seoul (South Korea) on flight № 741.

Asiatic black and brown bears are included in CITES Appendix I and Appendix II. Bear gall is used in Oriental medicine, and paws are delicacies. There is a steady illegal market for these derivatives. According to unofficial data, about 300 bears are harvested annually, mainly by hunters during the period when hunting of other species is allowed. Bears are also harvested by beekeepers protecting their bee hives. The process is complicated by the fact that brown bear is a game species and its hunting is officially permitted. Under the guise of official hunting, a larger number of brown bears are hunted than are officially allowed.

From case materials: On 13 July 1999, officers of the Chuguev Regional Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs inspected a van in the settlement Shumnyi. The driver was resident of Vladivostok.

Inspection officers found a polythene sack containing 18 smaller sacks each with bear gall, a cloth sack containing tiger bones and scalp, and three ginseng roots.

During 1998 and 1999, the state inspectors of "Inspection Tiger" seized four kg of bear gall and 27 bear paws. The main buyers of bear gall and paws are citizens of China.

Musk deer pod

From case materials: According to information from the Vladivostok Customs office, on 24 December 1998, Customs officers inspected a motor ship and found 19 musk deer carcasses and 2.2 kg of musk deer pod.

Musk deer has been included in CITES Appendix II since 1979. Musk deer pod is used in Oriental medicine and pharmacology. The amount of illegally procured musk deer pod is increasing. This increase in available material is supported by a steady demand from Chinese and South-Koreans. The people involved in the illegal exploitation of musk deer, and generally hunters who are Russian citizens. These people are also engaged in the illegal procurement of bear gall and ginseng roots.

From case materials: In September 1998 during a joint operation of "Inspection Tiger" and FSB, 87 musk deer pods were confiscated.

Other biological resources that are attractive to smugglers

Considering the situation with illegal wildlife trade and smuggling of biological resources in the Primorsky Krai, we cannot ignore the following resources: ginseng, trepang and timber (cedar, ash, oak).

Though these resources are not included in the Appendices of CITES, the volume of illegal harvest and trade is high, and is having a negative impact on the state of the ecosystem and is causing the wildlife habitat to deteriorate.

Ginseng

Russian ginseng is not listed in any Appendix of CITES. However, at present this resource is under threat. The Government of the Russian Federation has proposed that Russian ginseng be included in the CITES Appendices.

Since 1991, when the border between Russia and China was "opened", an efficient smuggling operation involving ginseng root traded from the Primorsky Krai to China has emerged, and it is still active. By expert assessments, the volume of illegal trade in ginseng roots amounts to up to 1,000 kg per year. This trade is due to ginseng's unique biological and medicinal characteristics, which have led it to be used traditionally in Oriental medicine.

The majority of illegally harvested ginseng roots is illegally traded to China. Since 1994, the state inspectors of "Inspection Tiger", together with the Departments of Internal Affairs and the FSB, seized 64,107 grams of illegally harvested ginseng roots. The majority of this material was confiscated from people of Chinese origin.

Information from the public, which is confirmed by researchers from the BP Institute of the Far East Department of RAS, indicates that the natural habitat of wild ginseng has decreased significantly. This reduction in habitat is connected with illegal harvesting of wild ginseng. At the same time, it is notable that harvest of wild ginseng is an important means of earning a living for a great number of Russian citizens.

From case materials: In September 1998 in Ussuriisk, the state inspectors of "Inspection Tiger" halted the operations of an organised group engaged in illegal purchase and transport of wild ginseng roots to China. 31,932 grams of ginseng roots were confiscated. The group consisted of Chinese persons.

In 1991 to 1992, a team of about 50 Chinese peasants came to Russia to cultivate watermelons. Some of these people apparently also had the intention to harvest frogs and ginseng, which is illegal. At present, however, the majority of harvesters are Russians. These people harvest the resources and later sell the goods to middlemen, or directly to Chinese dealers. Over the past two years, the two-stage scheme of illegal harvesting and trade in wild ginseng roots (harvester to dealer) has evolved into a well-organised multistage scheme of harvester to middleman (small wholesaler) to dealer (wholesaler) to cross-border trader to foreign dealer. For example, in August 1999, "Inspection Tiger" identified a wholesaler in ginseng roots and bear paws. It was found that this individual engaged about 15 people to buy illegal goods and sell them to Chinese dealers. For the Chinese dealers, this is the safest method, as a Russian wholesaler is apparently under less suspicion. This dealer sold approximately 50 kg per season, which is equivalent to about USD 20,000.

Trepang (Sea Cucumbers)

Trepang, or sea cucumbers, are in considerable demand in Southeast Asian countries because they are a popular source of protein. Trepang is also an expensive product, and for this reason there is considerable illegal harvesting. In Southeast Asian countries, trepang is regarded as both a delicacy and "a marine ginseng". Trepang harvesting is undertaken by well-organised groups. They have fast motorboats, modern diving equipment and modern means of communication. Over the period 1994 to 1999, the state inspectors of "Inspection Tiger" seized over 2,000 kg of trepang.

Timber

The illegal harvest of timber is huge, and involves a variety of people, ranging from organised groups to officials. Virtually all of the timber that is harvested illegally is transported with falsified documents to China, South Korea and Japan.

Conclusion

Given the status of the illegal harvest and trade of wildlife resources, and official data available from the Vladivostok Customs Department, it may be concluded that illegal procurement of biological resources is increasing. Therefore, rare species, such as the Amur tiger, Far East leopard, ginseng and trepang, are in an extremely precarious situation and in some areas are threatened with extinction. There are several reasons for this situation. The source area is located close to the Asian countries. Demand from Asian countries remains steady. In addition, in China recently there has emerged a new

class of people who are able to afford ginseng and bear paws. In Russia, low standards of living have forced some persons to engage in illegal harvesting of biological resources, because these people do not have other sources of income.

We hope that this kind of conference, and international co-operation between Customs departments on both sides of the borders, will help to stop destruction of the unique ecosystem of the Primorsky Krai.

Table 2: Illegal trade in CITES specimens: number of cases and specimens identified and apprehended by officers of the Far East Customs Department.

Species	1995	1996	1997	1998	Jan.-Sept. 1999	TOTAL
Live animal species:						
Egyptian heron				1		1
Monkey		6	1			7
Parrot		2				2
Central Asian Turtle		6	4	8	11	29
River Turtle			19			19
Dead animals and derivatives:						
Tiger skin			1	1		2
Tiger Bones				4	3	7
Himalayan and Brown Bear paws					36	36
Bera skin	1					1
Lynx skin				1		1
Stuffed Nile Crocodile				4		4
Stuffed monitor lizard			1			1
Stuffed Sea Turtle		11		2		13
Brown or Himalayan Bear gall bladder					200	200
Medicinal bear gall bladder preparations (ampules)	1	3	85	2109	0	2198
Bear bones (kg)			0,47			0,47
Musk Deer Carcass					30	30
Musk Deer gland	2	17	85	45	97	246
Velvet Deer antlers (kg)	2,5	111,5	1,55		44,15	159,7
Deer Antlers (kg)			2,5			2,5
Dried Sea Cucumbers (kg)	2992	291,5	3	45	6600	9931.5
Plants:						
Ginseng roots (kg)	35.607	7.811	0.745	0.338	3.583	48.084

This report was prepared jointly by "Inspection Tiger", GSN and Fund Pheniks.

CONSERVING MUSK DEER - THE USE OF AND TRADE IN THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE ANIMAL PRODUCT

by Stephanie Theile, TRAFFIC Europe

The TRAFFIC Europe report '*On the scent: Conserving Musk Deer - the uses of Musk and Europe's role in its trade*' released in July 1999, written by Volker Homes, Programme Officer of TRAFFIC Europe-Germany, summarises information on musk deer and the trade in musk itself. It serves as background to describing the international musk trade and the demand for musk, and determines the significance of Europe's role in the global trade. This study was part of a comprehensive international analysis of the trade in and use of musk in medicine and in the perfume industry which TRAFFIC is conducting in a number of countries. The following information is primarily based on the findings of this publication and summarises its most important conclusions.

Distribution of musk deer: Musk deer *Moschus spp.* occur throughout the forested, mountainous parts of South, East and Southeast Asia and eastern Russia. There are at least four, and according to some scientists, possibly six or more species of musk deer. The Siberian Musk Deer *Moschus moschiferus* occurs in China, Mongolia, Korea, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgystan. The Forest Musk Deer *M. berezovskii* is found in China and Vietnam. The Himalayan Musk Deer *M. chrysogaster* occurs in Afghanistan, China, India, Nepal and Pakistan, while the Black Musk Deer *M. fuscus* is found in Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal.

Legal Status of musk deer: All musk deer species have been included in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 1979. The populations of Siberian Musk Deer *M. moschiferus* occurring in the countries of the Himalayan region (Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan) are included in Appendix I. This means that these musk deer and their derivatives are banned from international commercial trade. All other populations of musk deer are listed in CITES Appendix II, requiring permits for international commercial trade.

Biological Status of musk deer: IUCN classifies the Siberian Musk Deer *M. moschiferus* as vulnerable, while the other three species are considered to be at lower risk but near threatened. Knowledge of their distribution is incomplete and the population sizes of the different species are uncertain in several cases. China and Russia are the countries inhabited by the largest numbers of musk deer. The population size of musk deer in China is approximately 300 000 individuals, but the basis for this figure is unclear. Data on the sizes of musk deer populations in Russia are in part contradictory. In Russia and in the Russian part of the former Soviet Union there were some 170 000 musk deer in the end of the 1980s, a population which experts believe has fallen by around 50% in the last 10 years as a result of over-exploitation. In many range countries, laws to protect musk deer and their habitats exist, yet in practically all countries in Asia where musk deer occur, wild populations are declining, mainly because of poaching and the high demand of musk.

The product: Musk, a secretion which is produced only by the male musk deer at a rate of 25g per animal and year, is one of the world's most expensive natural products. It is three to five times more

valuable than gold and can reach retail prices of US\$30-50/g in end-markets in Europe and Japan. The musk 'pods', which are located in the preputial region near the male genitals of the deer, are generally harvested by killing the deer, although it is possible to obtain musk from a live deer. The impacts of hunting and trapping result in an estimated three to five musk deer killed for every male musk deer with a sufficiently large musk gland. Since an average of 40 male deer with sufficient large glands are necessary to produce each kilogram of musk, this equates to the hunting of 160 deer in total for each kilogram of musk to produce.

Use of musk and musk products: Secretions from the pod have been used as an ingredient in medicine, primarily in Traditional East Asian Medicines, and as a perfume for about 5000 years. Today, musk is contained in about 400 pharmaceutical preparations in Traditional East Asian Medicine, treating a variety of ailments relating to the heart, nerves and breathing. While natural musk is still preferred in Traditional East Asian medicine, musk has also been synthetically produced. Natural musk is also used for homeopathic medicine in Europe and maybe elsewhere, too, but to a almost negligible degree.

Trade in musk and musk products: Analysis of the CITES annual report data showed that a total of 35 countries were involved in the legal export of musk products during the period 1978-96. Musk deer occur in nine of these countries. The remaining 26 countries were re-exporters. Over the same period, 42 countries imported musk and musk products.

According to official CITES data, East Asia and Southeast Asia are the major traders and consumers of musk products, primarily for medicinal purposes. South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore, together with France, were the major importers of raw musk from 1978 to 1996. Mongolia, the Soviet Union, Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in contrast were the major primary exporters of legally traded raw musk in the same period, while Hong Kong and Singapore together with Cambodia were the major re-exporters. Trends in the trade in raw musk indicate a dramatic increase in the export figures after the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1992. The causes of this may be the difficult socio-economic conditions in Russia, which have prompted poaching and illegal trading, leading in turn to uncontrolled hunting of the deer, in contrast to strict regulation of their exploitation in the Soviet Union.

Medicinal demand: It is estimated that the annual demand for musk in China alone is between 500 to 1000 kilos, an amount which could require the pods of more than 100 000 musk deer. While China began farming musk deer in the 1950s, these farms produce only about 10 kilos of musk each year, which means significant pressure remains on wild populations to meet total demand. Demand for musk deer pods and medicinals can also be found throughout Asia and wherever there are significant Asian populations. Some 90 per cent of all the international musk trade consists of prepared patented medicines and raw musk. During 1995-1997, illicit international trade in musk deer pods or medicines containing musk was uncovered in a variety of countries, including Belgium, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Nepal, the Netherlands, South Korea, the UK and USA.

Perfume demand: Today, most perfumes using musk contain synthetically produced musk, but genuine musk is still used in some traditional perfume recipes, particularly in France. Between 1980-1995 France imported about 100 kilograms of raw musk from mainly Hong Kong, the Soviet Union/Russia and Nepal, 90 per cent of which was consumed within the country, most likely in the perfume industry and than possibly partly exported. Synthetic musk is widely used in non-medicinal products such as cosmetics, personal hygiene preparations, shampoos and detergents. The suspected toxicity of some synthetic musk compounds for the environment has not, to date, been adequately documented and requires further investigation.

Recommendations for action to promote the future conservation of musk deer are based following areas of focus:

Improvement of scientific information on the conservation status of musk deer:

Accurate assessments of musk deer populations and their conservation status are crucial to effective conservation of the species and this assessments should be undertaken urgently in the known range States – Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Vietnam, North, and South Korea, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (possible range State), China, Mongolia, India and Nepal. Most urgently, these are needed in China, Mongolia and Russia. In addition the taxonomy of various musk deer species should be clarified, in particular because recommendation for action under CITES are established at species level.

Investigation of harvest, trade and demand in musk deer range countries:

Surveys of domestic markets for musk deer in China, South Korea, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Mongolia and Russia, should be undertaken as priorities because these domestic markets seem to be of high relevance. However, the demand for musk, and its harvest and legal and illegal trade should be surveyed in all musk deer range countries. For example, the level of demand for musk and the characteristics of the market for traditional East Asian medicines containing musk should be examined and studies are needed to clarify the scale of illegal trade in musk along Russia's eastern borders.

Improvement of legal protection for musk deer in range countries:

Appropriate measures to protect musk deer need to be taken in musk deer range countries, including the further establishment of protected zones; protecting species and subspecies of musk deer by law, where this is not already the case; revising the regulatory systems for the exploitation of musk deer and export of musk in Russia; establishing such a system in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (if this is a range country); and encouraging the accession to CITES of the musk deer range countries Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan, and North Korea.

Sustainable use initiatives and farmed deer:

The Chinese policy on musk deer farming needs to be reviewed and, where applicable, developed into an economic and species-appropriated management concept, while plans for the extraction of musk from captive musk deer in Russia should be supported and, if economically feasible, used in private business with management plans and initiatives. Projects that can demonstrate sustainable harvest of musk from farmed and/or wild animals should be promoted as model to emulate. China and Russia

should exchange knowledge and share experience relating to the management and breeding of musk deer on farms and make the same available to other relevant countries, for example, North and South Korea, and Mongolia.

Regulation of trade in musk in non-range countries:

Importing countries should be required to assist source countries to safeguard and monitor wild musk deer populations, by means of financial or technical assistance. While all CITES Parties trading internationally in raw musk should enforce all CITES provisions pertaining to musk. The role of Cambodia should be singled out for further investigations and the significance of Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and Cambodia in the international trade in, and use of, medicine containing musk should be examined in greater detail. Enforcement problems relevant to the international trade in musk deer derivatives should be detected and eliminated – for example, proposals for labelling of musk specimens and products containing musk should be developed jointly with the traders and authorities in the countries of origin and forensic techniques should be developed and shared among CITES Parties to determine the presence or absence of musk in derivatives.

Use of musk in medicinal products and perfumes:

The level of Asian medicinal consumption of musk needs to be ascertained to better understand the existing and expected market needs. Until the presence or absence of genuine musk in medicines is clarified, all items that claim to contain musk should be traded with CITES permits. Simultaneously, research on musk substitutes for use in TEAM needs to be encouraged.

Although it seems likely that the demand for musk in the perfume industry in Europe is decreasing, this requires monitoring, particularly since there are reports that natural musk is used in the Russian perfume industry. The possible use of natural musk in Chinese, Japanese and Arabian perfume manufacture also requires monitoring. Perfumes that contain natural musk should be subject to permitting requirements when in international trade, as are other products containing the ingredient. The amount of musk used in homeopathic medicine is, however, very low and it is not recommended that homeopathic products containing natural musk need CITES permits when in international trade.

Review of Significant Trade:

The 11th Conference of the Parties (CoP 11) to CITES, that will be held in April 2000, should direct the Animal Committee to review as a matter of priority the impact of trade in musk deer species in the context of the Review of the Significant Trade pursuant to Resolution Conf. 8.9. Results should be presented and recommendations formulated so that remedial actions may be undertaken prior to CoP 12. Pending the results of such a review, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and the Russian Federation should follow the example of China and suspend exports of natural musk until reliable non-detriment findings can be made.

The TRAFFIC Europe report: 'On the Scent: Conserving Musk Deer. The uses of musk and Europe's role in its trade' can be requested from TRAFFIC Europe, 608, Chaussee de Waterloo, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium, Tel.: +32-2-343 82 58, Fax: +32-2-343 25 65, email: traffic@traffic-europe.com; or from a TRAFFIC office in your region (check at www.traffic.org).

TRADE STATUS OF WILD ORIENTAL GINSENG *PANAX GINSENG* IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

by Alexey Vaisman, *TRAFFIC Europe-Russia*

It is extremely likely that at present the Russian Far East is the only place where Oriental Ginseng *Panax ginseng* can be found in the wild. Unfortunately, during the last few decades, we have been faced with degradation of natural populations of wild ginseng. The main reasons for this are over-harvesting of the resource, exploitation of timber, and fires.

In order to increase protection for ginseng, the species was listed in The Red Data Book of the USSR and The Red Data Book of the Russian Federation. With the conditions that exist today, the species will also be included in the new edition of The Red Data Book of Russia. This means that any harvest of *Panax ginseng* is strictly prohibited. Limited harvest is permitted, however, the quantity allowed to be harvested is small and may only be harvested under special license issued by The State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environment Protection.

In Russia, the ginseng harvest has always been primarily for export. Only a small percentage was collected for home use. Dating from the annexation of Far-Eastern territories to the Russian Empire, ginseng was exported to China and Korea. Although it is impossible to report on the total quantities of ginseng that was exported from Russia in the early part of this century, it is known that annual exports from Vladivostok alone were approximately 400 kg of fresh roots. The number of collectors was believed to be 450 to 500 (Bayanova, 1941).

During the early 20th century, the collection of ginseng was not controlled, and therefore no data were collected on the volume of harvesting. In the early 1930s, however, it is known that the total profit of all ginseng collectors in Iman District (the central part of the Russian Far East) approached RUB 250,000 (for comparison, at that time the price of good cow was no more than RUB 70) (Shishkin, 1930). In the 1940s and 1950s the harvesting of ginseng became a monopoly of the state. At that time, about 500 to 700 root collectors received licenses. The total annual harvest was about 130 kg of fresh ginseng root (Malyshev, 1991).

From 1970 to 1980 the state environmental agency issued licenses for 40 to 60 kg of fresh roots annually. During this period, many people also started ginseng breeding and cultivation operations, in small private plantations. Some large state ginseng breeding farms also appeared.

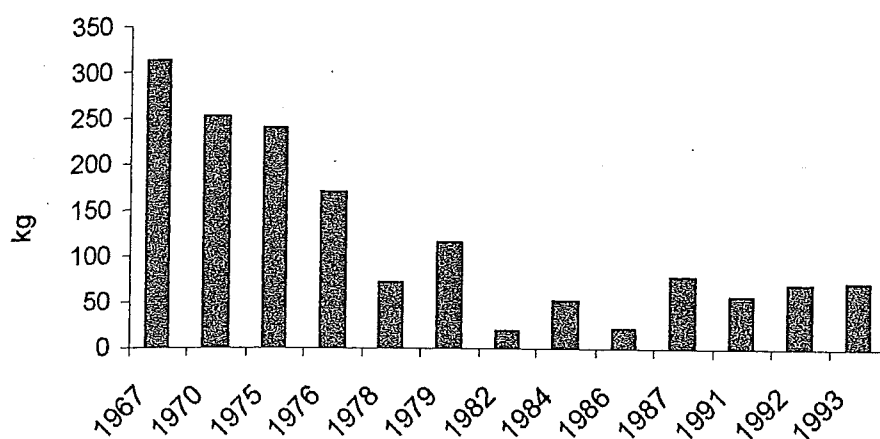


Fig.: Legal harvest and export volumes of Oriental Ginseng from the Russian Far East (raw roots in kg; source: Regional Administration Primorsky Krai)

During the Soviet period the illegal collection of ginseng roots took place but was not a common occurrence. Most illegal ginseng collection was for personal use. The borders were closed, and any existing international trade was monopolised by the state. In the 1980s, domestic demand for ginseng root emerged. This is seen as one of the reasons for the increase in over-harvesting of roots. Licensed collectors were then sharing the harvest with "black" (illegal) private ginseng collectors.

After the collapse of the USSR, the state control over the harvesting of ginseng became very weak. The state system for harvesting was destroyed, largely because of economic factors. Borders were opened, and many private individuals began to trade internationally. In the Russian Far East, numerous traders became interested in the trade in ginseng. Neighbouring China is an unlimited market for wild ginseng from Russia. Demand in the Chinese market is primarily for wild ginseng, rather than cultivated. Further, Russian factories do not purchase propagated/cultivated ginseng from private individuals, hence people growing ginseng closed down their businesses. This caused economic and administrative difficulties for the state farms.

Under these conditions, ginseng poaching increased dramatically. It is clear that at present, poaching is the main reason for degradation of ginseng populations. According to preliminary data collected by TRAFFIC Europe-Russia, the volume of illegal collection of ginseng in the Russian Far East fluctuates from 1,500 to 2,000 kg annually. This is in stark contrast to the legal harvest -- the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environment Protection only issues licenses for 65-75 kg each year. During the post-Soviet period, no more than 15 kg of roots have been seized annually, and in the 1996 to 1998 period, the amount of ginseng that was seized dropped to two kg. At the same time, poaching activities have increased considerably. Experts believe that nowadays the number of ginseng collectors has increased five-fold in comparison with the beginning of the century.

All these facts have led us to conclude that Oriental Ginseng is one of the most threatened plants occurring in the Russian Far East, and indeed in the world.

The legal trade in Oriental Ginseng in Russia.

Russia is thought to be the sole exporter of wild ginseng. Russia also produces and exports cultivated ginseng. At the same time, Russia is also a large importer of cultivated ginseng. During the period 1995 to 1998, the Russian Federation exported 30 kg of wild ginseng roots. In 1995, Russia exported 102 kg of cultivated ginseng roots. During the same period (1995-1998), Russia imported 8,600 kg of ginseng roots. The main exporters of ginseng to Russia are China, North Korea, Vietnam and Belarus (see Fig. 2).

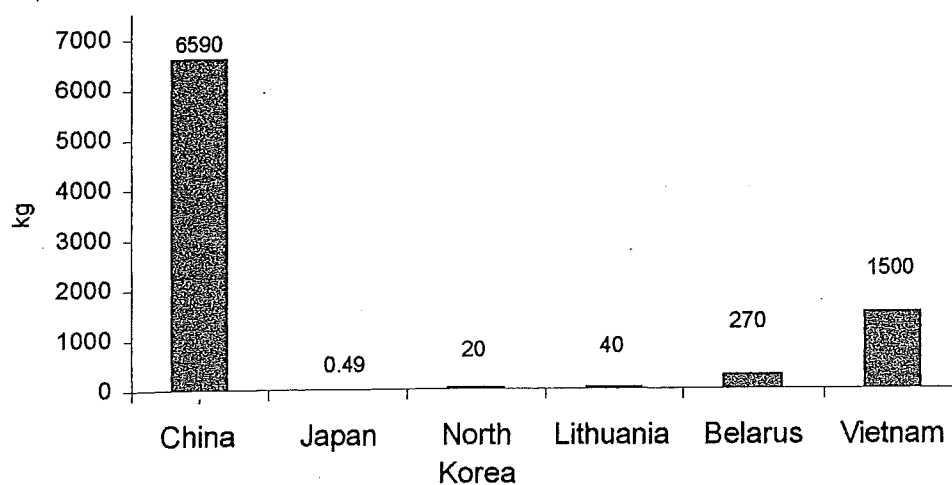


Fig 2.: Main sources of Oriental ginseng imports to Russia between 1995-1998 (in kg; source: Regional Administration Primorsky Krai)

TRADE IN MARINE SPECIES IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

by Alexey Vaisman (*TRAFFIC Europe-Russia*)

The Russian Far East is strongly associated with the sea and fisheries. However, the history of the sea fishery in the area is in fact very short. Before the arrival of the Russians on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, and indeed for about 200 years after that event, the populations of the far-eastern edges of Russia contented themselves with harvesting the fishes that made annual spawning migrations up the rivers. In the extreme north, the Eskimos and coastal Chukcha hunted marine animals, while in the south local tribes were engaged in subsistence collection of marine resources.

Commercial fisheries in the Russian Far East date back to the 1890s. During this era, fishing companies were established that were involved in both fishing and processing; for eventual export to countries in Asian, in particular Japan. Initially the fishery was oriented toward producing salted products. Following introduction of new technologies for fish processing, the first factories for producing canned products were built, using American equipment. This development was followed by the start of exports of fish products to America. The Japanese market was also opened, largely as a result of the new canning factories. The first factories produced canned caviar and salmon. Later, the catching and canning crabs was introduced, and developed intensively, resulting in a sharp decrease in the crab population. Canned crabs were exported primarily to America.

The history behind the name of Russian canned crab meat, CHATKA, originates from this period. Initially, it was planned to name the canned crab meat after the peninsula where the crabs were harvested, Kamchatka. A large quantity of labels was ordered, and printed, however, the labels were actually printed in the wrong size, and they were too long to fit on the can. The difference in label size and tin size was discovered too late, and therefore it was decided to cover the first three letters of the label. The first shipments of canned crab meat with the label CHATKA were nevertheless successful in America, so it was decided not to change the name.

Large-scale marine fisheries in Russian Far Eastern waters originated in the 1930s. Fishing became extremely intensive in the late 1940s.

Marine fishery and trade in its products

Intensive marine fishing, including deep sea fishing is undertaken throughout the Far Eastern seas of Russia. The main commercial fish species include six species of migratory salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.), sole, plaice, halibut, Alaska pollack, cod and herring. The most important commercial invertebrates are squids, king crab and blue crab. Fishing is undertaken in the Russian economic zone both by Russian and foreign ships. Since the late 1980s, because of the weakening of military control over the Okhotsk Sea, foreign ships, primarily from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Poland and Norway, began to visit the central part of the sea. This area is surrounded by the economic zone of Russia and is called the "Okhotomorskiy banana", and it is an open area that is not under the jurisdiction of Russia or other neighbouring states. The same situation is observed in the open part of the Bering Sea, which is known among the fishermen as the "Donut Hole". Both of these areas are key territories for the spawning migration of Alaska pollack, which is a major commercial species in the Northern Pacific

Ocean. Following a number of international agreements, the open part of the Bering Sea was closed for fishing. In order to entice the foreign ships from fishing in the open part of the Okhotsk Sea, the Russian government allocates considerable quotas for catching fish and harvesting other marine products in the Russian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Since 1990, the sale of shares of fishery companies and fish processing plants has taken place. Fish surveys have been difficult to undertake, given the new economic conditions. The current situation in the seas of the Far East of Russia can in general, be characterised as catastrophic. An examination of the fishery in the Russian part of the Bering Sea was carried out, and the results are presented below. The Bering Sea reflects problems that are typical of all Far Eastern seas.

In 1996 and 1997, industrial fishing activities in the Russian part of the Bering Sea resulted in the annual harvest of 581,630 to 957,896 tonnes of marine resources. A gradual increase in the quota volumes was seen over the course of the same period. We must point out that three fish – Alaska pollack, cod, and herring – accounted for more than 85% of the entire amount of the marine resources that were harvested. Gradual declines in the shares of Alaska pollack and cod were observed, but a three-fold to 25% increase in the herring was also seen. The number of enterprises engaged in fishing also increased in recent years, from 77 in 1996 to 127 in 1999.

Kamchatka's fishing sector, like that of Russia as a whole, is in crisis. The situation is characterised by a sharp drop in production potential and the poor and gradually worsening financial status of the majority of its operators. This often encourages the organisation of illegal harvesting of marine resources, and concealment of catches. The exports of marine products caught in Russia's Exclusive Economic Zone in the Bering Sea have been rising each year. However, their corresponding contributions to the budget have not risen, and since 1995 the fisheries sector has run a deficit. From this it follows that a large part of the catch is spirited away, either through smuggling or customs violations, without being entered in the ledgers.

The reserves of one of the most significant resources in the Bering Sea have fallen by at least 50 percent over the last decade. Yet, against this backdrop, the catch quotas have continued to rise, slowly but surely. According to both fishermen and inspectors, reaching these quotas without large-scale harvesting operations in the areas that are closed to fishing, simply is not physically possible.

Analysis of fishing violations showed that the most widespread types of violation are:

- distorting data about the size and quality of the catch;
- giving incorrect production data;
- fishing in areas where fishing is banned; and
- giving false information about the fishing sites logged in the ship's records.

At the end of the day, all of the above-mentioned methods make it possible for a fishing vessel to conceal fishing activity in areas that are off-limits, to amass surpluses for unreported "under the table" sales for cash in these fishing areas (this form of payment is known as "black bread"), and to take the

illegal, unaccounted for fish to foreign markets. Organisations and agencies involved in fisheries protection have reported that most of these violations take place in the summer season.

Current nature conservation laws are not sufficient to tackle the problems of safeguarding Russia's marine resources. The Russian Federation bill "On fishing" has been in the Duma, where it has been bogged down in countless consultations for years. Informed sources assert that this ceremonial crawl is well paid for by the "fish mafia" which is best suited by the current confusion.

The volumes of the illegal catches are difficult to determine. They are usually expressed as a percentage of the catch quota. For Alaska pollack the figure ranges from 15% (an optimistic assessment made by Interior Ministry staff) to 50%, which in our view appears to be much closer to reality. For salmon this index ranges from 50% for the sockeye to 100% for the pink salmon. Judging from value indicators, this coefficient may be as high as 300% for crabs.

Illegal harvests and illicit activity concerning the preparation and production of amounts over and above the quotas, exist on all levels and on all scales, starting from the sailors on small vessels (seiners), and ending with organised fleets of ships. Unreported and/or above-quota catches are sold in foreign ports or transferred to foreign or Russian ships that dock at foreign ports. In these cases payment is made, as a rule, in cash (in USD).

The system of surveillance of fishermen's activities in Russia's Exclusive Economic Zone is weak, and it clearly is not up to dealing with the magnitude of the calamity. The actions of the departments that are supposed to protect the country's marine resources are not co-ordinated. These offices are not equipped with the necessary technology to handle the complicated problems that they face. The technical features and physical condition of the patrol boats do not enable them to carry out their mission of stopping poachers effectively.

The automated system "Rybolovstvo" (Fishing) that is being set up today will make it possible to improve the effectiveness of surveillance of fishing vessel activity greatly, especially when it comes to determining the vessels' actual geographic positions.

Inspectors are placed on fishing vessels to monitor fishing activities and compliance with regulations. In reality, the tasks of these on-board observer-inspectors, given the fact that the inspectors are paid by the very firms that they are supposed to inspect, are degenerating into pleasant, profitable ways of spending time during which the inspectors are not obligated to do anything. Under such conditions, the inspector's main duty appears to be to ignore violations.

Loopholes exist in Customs regulations in effect today, and these create favourable conditions for exceeding the allowable catch, and for trading in fish products without the proper documents. An example of such a loophole is that customs clearance is compulsory for fish and seafood caught and produced inside Russia's territorial waters (12 miles), but that there is an absence of such requirements for the waters in Russia's Exclusive Economic Zone that fall outside its territorial waters.

The volumes of illegal exports of fish and seafood from the Russian Far East are estimated to be worth from USD 2.5 billion (data of the Kamchatka Regional Administration of the Federal Security Service) to USD 4.5 billion, according to estimates by independent experts. One could then say that this represents a massive outpouring of funds, in the region of some USD 0.5 billion to USD 0.9 billion from the Russian part of the Bering Sea.

South Korea's ports, especially Pusan, offer favourable conditions for clearing "direct exports" of fish and seafood from Russia's Exclusive Economic Zone. Shipments apparently pass through Customs quickly and without obstacles.

Recommendations

To halt the uncontrolled harvest and export of marine resources from the Russian part of the Bering Sea, the following measures are recommended.

- Remove legal loopholes as quickly as possible, by taking the necessary and appropriate legislative actions to improve regulation of fishing in Russia's EEZ and territorial waters.
- Improve the existing laws pertaining to the activities of the various departments' inspectorates, and the methods they use to monitor exploitation and trade of marine resources. This includes adopting instruments that clearly define the powers, spheres of activity, and areas of responsibility of each office that is responsible for monitoring and enforcing regulations relating to the harvesting, processing, and shipment of marine products.
- Develop and adopt a system of awarding bonuses to the fisheries inspectors. Such a system would improve the material benefits of their work, stimulate their interest in detecting violations and collecting fines, and reduce the degree of corruption among their ranks. Bonuses could come from a fund that would be created by putting 30% of all fines and court-ordered damages paid by those who break the law into the fund. Further, there should not be any limit on the one-time bonus payments.
- Address the issue of inspectors being treated like civil servants (are they state officers or employees?) so as to raise their status.
- Make the necessary changes in the current Customs Codex of the Russian Federation and extend its scope to include the EEZ. This will meet the objective of having all fish caught in this area, and all fish taken out of these waters, go through customs.
- Study the possibility of creating a state service of on-board inspectors with full powers, fish protection inspectors, and customs inspectors. This state service should be responsible not only for monitoring and checking catches, processing, and trans-shipments, but also for clearing the ships' cargo through customs.
- Set rules whereby inspectors will be paid a percentage of the value of the cargo on which they carry out the customs formalities, so as to escape the development of corrupt dependence on the fishing companies for the payment of their work.
- Require all ships operating in Russia's EEZ to have GPS transmitters on board, to complement the automated control system "Rybolovstvo" currently being implemented. If such transmitters are not present on board, then the ship should not be allowed to fish.
- The Russian Federation's State Fisheries Committee should start putting the satellite monitoring system of the dislocation and changes in fishing fleets' positions into service without delay; and

require first and foremost, that all foreign and high-tonnage Russian ships be fitted with the corresponding devices.

- The Russian Federation's Federal Border Office, State Fisheries Committee, State Ecology Committee of Russia, and the Russian Federation's State Customs Committee, should commence devising a single Federal Information System on Fishing, likewise called "*Rybolovstvo*,". This information system would include essential information about the allocation and transfer of quotas, authorisations granted, accounts on the harvesting, processing, and transport of bio-resources, ship registration, and violations of fish protection laws. This work should be considered a top priority, and critical for strengthening protection efforts, and for monitoring utilisation of aquatic biological resources.
- Convene an international meeting of specialists from interested countries, i.e. Russia, Japan, USA, China, South Korea, North Korea, Canada, Poland, and Norway, among others, to discuss the most critical threats to the conservation of the Northern Pacific's marine biological resources, and to develop the principles for their sustainable exploitation.

Coastal fishing in the Russian Far East

The most high-priced species prevail in the illegal trade, and these are primarily the invertebrates, including crabs, scallops, trepang (sea cucumber), sea urchins, and to a lesser extent prawns.

Trepang can be called also marine ginseng. It contains terpene glycosides. It is traded in large volumes to China. These species are gathered by scuba divers, mainly in the southern part of Primorsky Krai, which is close to Chinese border. Collecting of trepang is now illegal, however, at present about 80% of the adult male population is engaged in trepang harvesting in some districts. Trepang forms aggregations in the autumn months in specified places in shallow waters. Thus, the divers easily collect it during this period. Boiled and dry trepang is exported. The average price of one kg of dry trepang is USD 100. According to our calculations, which are based on data from interviews, the trepang harvest from the waters of Khasanskiy District is 15 tonnes for the season. This harvest is estimated to have a minimum value of about USD 1,000,000.

The Sakhalin-Kurile region specialises in prawns, scallops and sea urchins, which can be explained by its proximity to the Japanese market. Live invertebrates (crabs) are transported from South Kurile to the ports of Hokkaido Island. The business appears to have a very strong criminal element, and organised Russian and Japanese (yakudza) groups work under mutual agreement. Information exists which indicates that a lot of high-priced goods are sometimes illegally transported under the protection of soldiers from the Russian Frontier Military Forces. Further, administrative authorities in the Japanese ports do not take sufficient action when laws and rules are violated. Trade in invertebrates is often conducted through restaurants. Most of the conflicts involving Japanese poachers take place in the waters around the Kurile Islands.

TRADITIONAL EAST ASIAN MEDICINE (TEAM)

by Vincent Chen, TRAFFIC East-Asia-Taipei

Traditional East Asian Medicine comprises several different traditional medicine systems, including TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) which is the predominant system, TJM (Traditional Japanese Medicine), TKM (Traditional Korean Medicine), and TVM (Traditional Vietnamese Medicine); among others.

TCM has a long history dating back more than 2,000 years. The earliest text available is *Huangdi Neijing* (Yellow Emperor's Inner Cannon) which dates to 200 BC.

Over 400 years ago in the Ming Dynasty, Mr. Li Shizhen (1518~1593) put TCM on a firm foundation, distinguishing it from superstition (folk medicine). His masterpiece, *Bencao Gangmu* (Outlines of Roots and Herbs Studies), was a true *materia medica*, and while containing some superstitious elements, it nevertheless firmly established the discipline of Chinese pharmacology. The book *Bencao Gangmu* affected many other systems of TEAM.

Most of the materials used in TCM are plants (90%), and over 2,000 plants are known to be used in TCM. However, between 300 to 500 plant species are commonly used.

The philosophy of TCM differs from that of Western medicine. It is a health care system that is based on a holistic approach to curing illness, as a malady of the whole body, rather than as a manifestation of specific symptoms in the way the western allopathic medicine does.

The following table shows a comparison of the characteristics of the TEAM and Western medicine (Anon., 1998):

TEAM	Western medicine
➤ comprehensive	➤ analytical
➤ holistic	➤ local
➤ pattern	➤ disease
➤ theoretical	➤ experimental
➤ individual medicine	➤ social medicine
➤ constitutional prevention	➤ bacteriology
➤ subjective symptoms stressed	➤ objective symptom stressed
➤ natural materials	➤ chemical medicine

- cluding
 apanese
 dicine);
 tuangdi
- Estimates of the numbers of TCM stores and practitioners have been made, and are as follows::
 - Hong Kong ~3,000
 - Taiwan ~10,000
 - Korea, 6% of the GNP is used for medical care, and 15% of this amount is used in TKM(Anon., 1998)
 - China has about 232,000 TCM doctors
 - Australia has about 2,500 TCM doctors (this is the first Western country that has TCM laws)
 - Southeast Asian countries (Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia) --.Generally speaking, if there are Chinese, TCM is practised.

adation,
 lines of
 'stitious
 Bencao

The estimated value of the TEAM market in 1997 (in billion USD)

China	2.9
Japan	1.5
Korea	1.0
Taiwan	0.7

used in

A number of plant and animal species that are used in TCM are also included in the Appendices of CITES. Some examples of animals and the products used are rhino horn, tiger bone, musk, and bear bile. Numerous plant species that are used in TCM are also included in CITES, for example, *Dendrobium* orchids.

The problem of substitutes

s based
 estation

The recognition of the importance of substitutes is gaining ground among the traditional medicine industry itself and among governments. Representatives of the traditional medicine communities in Asia have expressed interest in further research and development of substitutes for highly endangered species used in TCM. In June 1997, the member countries of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, adopted two far-reaching resolutions that included calls for investigation and promotion of viable substitutes that would not lead to other species becoming threatened.

Are substitutes the solution?

edicine

Substitutes are **part of** the solution. Substitutes would have to be carefully assessed to ensure they would not endanger other species. In addition, the development of substitutes alone would not save the Tiger and other highly endangered species from habitat destruction and other pressures. Most importantly, substitutes would need to be accepted by traditional medicine users as a viable alternative. Identifying a viable substitute would be only one very important step in the multi-faceted approach necessary to conserve the Tiger and other threatened medicinal species.

Substitution of medicinal ingredients is a practice that exists in TCM, that is to say, it is not new idea. Many materials are widely used as substitutes for genuine materials. For example, animals bones, such as leopard bone, ox bone, and dog bone are used as substitutes for genuine tiger bone (Chang and Tzai, 1992). However, whenever these substitute bones are used, practitioners will usually say that

these are "cheaper tiger bone". Patients and customers believe in the power of the tiger, and are also not willing to buy the substitutes such as dog bone to cure diseases, hence the need to call the product "cheaper tiger bone". Other species, especially endangered species; also have substitutes, and these are listed below. Of course, there are many modern approaches to the issue of substitution of endangered species. While promotion of substitutes may help the conservation of endangered species, there is also a need to address the views and perceptions of the people who use TCM.

Endangered species	Traditional substitutes
➤ tiger bone	➤ leopard bone, lion bone, ox bone, dog bone
➤ rhino horn	➤ Saiga horn, buffalo horn
➤ bear bile	➤ pig bile

The Use and Trade of Asian Ginseng in Taiwan

Asian Ginseng is a very important medicine in TCM. Here, the trade in ginseng serves as an example of wildlife trade in this region:

Ginseng Imports (in 1000kg/tonne, USD) into Taiwan, 1997 and 1998

	1997	1998	average market price (USD/per kg)
CHIELIN Ginseng	1,145	844	26~104.2
Korean Red	62	91	333~1250
Korean White	4.6	11.6	
Japan Red	0	0.15	41.7~250
Japan White	1.8	3.4	
TOTAL	1214	951	

Source: Monthly statistics of Imports, Statistical Department, Directorate General of Customs, Ministry of Finance, the Republic of China.

Korean Red Ginseng is regarded as the best quality ginseng on Taiwan's market. Korean Red Ginseng is classified into three grades (when they are six years old). The first grade is heaven grade (with the shape of human being with two legs, price USD 808/kg), then earth grade (with only one leg, price USD 593.40/kg) and good grade (unlike the shape of human being and lower quality, price USD 378.90/kg).

Wild ginseng

Ginseng has a long history among the Chinese, and there is firm belief in the power of wild ginseng. People believe that ginseng can prolong the life of dying person, and also believe that wild ginseng has special strengths for weak patients. It should be stated that it is illegal to trade wild ginseng in China. Nevertheless, because it is very rare, wild ginseng has become a collector's item among wealthy peoples. Price lists are not available for wild ginseng in Taipei, because the price is far higher than most people could afford to pay. However, we believe that the trade does exist. The price for wild

ginseng ranges from USD 4,167 to USD 125,000/kg. In Beijing, a ten year old wild ginseng root was listed for 2,750, and a ginseng thought to be over one hundred years old, was listed for USD 43,750! One can determine the age of the ginseng root by looking at the top part of the root. It is important to consider TCM within the context of culture, and to recognise that the value of TCM in its culture is often far-removed from modern ideas about nature conservation.

TRAFFIC and TCM

One area of work that TRAFFIC East Asia has focussed on is TCM and CITES. For example, TRAFFIC worked closely with many CITES Parties at COP10 in 1997, specifically to encourage CITES Parties to co-operate with TCM community in the conservation of medicinal resources.

References

- Anon. 1998. *Oriental Medicine of Korea*. The Association of Korean Oriental Medicine, Seoul, Korea.
Chang, Hsien-Cheh and Tzai, Huei-Hua. 1992. *The Pharmacology & Pharmaceutical of Traditional Chinese Medicine* (in Chinese). China Medical College, Taipei, Taiwan.

HALTING THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN RUSSIA: THE ROLE OF THE WWF RUSSIAN PROGRAMME OFFICE

by Alexander Shestakov, WWF RPO RFE

The Russian Programme Office of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF RPO) has been promoting projects focused on inter-departmental interactions and improvements in Russian legislation in order to increase the efficiency of control over the trade in rare and endangered wildlife species. These efforts are directed mainly toward meeting the international commitments of Russia within the framework of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) of 3 March 1973. The WWF RPO works in close co-operation with the State Environmental Committee of RF, the Administrative office of CITES in RF, the State Customs Committee and its regional departments, and other governmental authorities both at the regional level and in the districts/provinces of RF. Many qualified scientists and specialists are engaged in work under these projects. In an effort to improve interaction between WWF RPO and various governmental agencies, a number of co-operative agreements (with State Environmental Committee, 1998, and with the Far-Eastern operative customs, 1999) covering protection of rare and endangered species, and control of trade in biological resources across state borders, have been concluded. They set the stage for a wide spectrum of joint actions, ranging from information interchange to technical assistance, and organisation of personnel training for environmental bodies and customs.

Provision of assistance to customs and the Administrative office of CITES is an important direction that WWF RPO is working towards. Assistance in preparing several publications (three books¹) was provided within the framework of this direction. These publications include the following materials:

- a complete register of CITES-listed species (by CITES Appendix);
- CITES permits from some countries (first of all, the countries that most often export species to Russia);
- a list of the all countries that are parties to CITES (thus, it is possible to determine a set of permits, that could be presented at customs control);
- complete texts and text extraction from most important legal documents of RF concerning the trade in CITES-listed species;
- review of Russian legislation and its application of CITES provisions;
- the text of the Convention;
- recommendations of the State Environmental Committee on protection of live animals/plants.

These materials are intended to be used by customs officials, regional departments of the State Environmental Committee, CITES Administrative offices and other interested departments, as background and support documentation.

¹ Register of the CITES listed species. - M.: State Environmental Committee, 1998.

Recommendations providing the meeting of CITES requirements in the subjects of Russian Federation. - M.: Administrative body of CITES in Russia, 1999.

Il'yashenko V.Ju., Il'yashenko E.I. Russian legislation providing the meeting of the CITES requirements. - M.: World Wide Fund for Nature, 1999.

In addition, a unique guide² on CITES-listed species was published in co-operation with the State Environmental Committee and State Customs Committee of RF. It contains well-illustrated and logically presented material. This guide allows people to identify specimens quickly (including some parts and derivatives), in order to make a decision on confiscation, or the need to seek additional expertise.

At present regulation of trade in CITES-listed wildlife species is carried out within the context of a number of by-laws and acts, including the following:

- Statement of Government of Russian Federation "On measures, that provide meeting the international commitments of Russia within the framework of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) of March 3, 1973 " of September 13, 1994 ¹;
- Order of the State Environmental Committee of "On the procedure of executing and issuing permits for the import and export of wildlife species, their parts and derivatives, listed in CITES" of March 19, 1999 ¹;
- Order of the State Environmental Committee of Russian Federation "On the procedure of payment for the permission to export, or to import wildlife species, their parts and derivatives, listed in CITES" of March 21, 1998 ¹, and;
- some other legal documents.

Nevertheless, there are many problems related to control, division of powers between different governmental bodies, and grounds for ownership and use of the specimens. Some examples are listed below:

- concept of trade and possible variations in use of specimens that are under state supervision;
- clear identification the specimens needing to be regulated, or excluded;
- list of permission documents, grounds for their taking out and for their nullification;
- authorities of the Federation and its districts/provinces, and also of governmental and local self-administration bodies on regulation and control over trade;
- obligations of the Administrative and Scientific offices of CITES in Russian Federation;
- special features of trade in specimens listed in different appendices to CITES;
- establishment of the well-defined requirements to legal trade in specimens;
- list of violations under the legislation concerning the trade in specimens, that require legal responsibility;
- grounds for specimen confiscation and subsequent fate of the confiscated specimens;
- requirements for registration and marking of the specimens;
- using the money received for selling the confiscated specimens, and also using the compensation payments and fines.

In order to meet the requirements and resolutions of the Convention, national legislation has been developed and introduced in relation to regulating the trade in and use of wild animals and plants, and

- M.:
² Brief guide on CITES listed species of plants and animals. Educational and methodical aid under edition of V.Ju.Il'yashenko. - M.:State Environmental Committee of Russia/WWF, 1999.

of their parts and derivatives listed in CITES Appendices. This regulation includes certain restrictions for trade in wildlife species by private individuals, and also addresses responsibilities relating to violations of rules relating to trade and use.

Thus, improvement of Russian legislation to meet CITES requirements at all levels, is an important area of work for WWF RPO. The Law of Moscow "On regulating the use of rare and endangered species of wild animals and plants within the area of Moscow" (of 30.06.1999 ¹²⁸) was developed and passed on WWF RPO's initiative. This Law is the first in Russia that establishes permit procedures for a wide spectrum of activities related to trade in CITES-listed species, and appoints supervisory bodies and their authorities, etc. Numerous aspects of international trade in wildlife in the country are, for the first time, covered by real legal mechanisms that restrict and regulate the process.

However, a number of regulations can only be introduced at the federal level. This means that the effectiveness of some regional laws is reduced in some circumstances, and points to the need for federal legislation that will form the legal basis for implementation of CITES.

Therefore, a draft of the Federal Law of the Russian Federation on regulating the trade in rare and endangered wildlife species has been prepared within the framework of the WWF project. This law has to establish general legislation limits for all users of the specimens (first of all the commercial ones). According to the civil legislation (Article 1 of the Civil Code), restrictions on trade in commodities and services can only be introduced by federal law. In particular, necessity to protect life and health of the population, and to protect nature, is a ground for introducing these restrictions. CITES objectives are related to protection of wild flora and fauna, and biodiversity. Furthermore, establishing clear rules for trade in both live and dead specimens of wildlife will facilitate reducing the risk of infections and epizootics.

This Law aims to establish strict state control and unified rules for regulating the trade in CITES-listed species within the Russian Federation. Introduction of the provisions of the Law will reduce the illegal trade, and will also facilitate the conservation of rare species of flora and fauna both in Russia and elsewhere. The Law will help the Russian Federation to meet its international commitments within the framework of CITES and other international agreements, will create favourable conditions for financial support to the Administrative and Scientific offices of CITES in Russian Federation, and will provide additional income for budgets at all levels.

The draft of the Federal Law "On regulating the turnover of the rare and endangered species of flora and fauna" is composed of eight sections. Topics covered in these sections include species and products to be regulated, authorities of different bodies, major transactions with rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, and licenses and responsibility for violations of the legislation.

The Law further addresses strict requirements to registration, declaration, marking and transportation documentation. Trade conditions differ greatly depending on which CITES Appendix the animals and plants belong to. The most strict regime is established for species listed in Appendix I. A number of exclusions exist for which trade is allowed (e.g. articles of personal use, animals and plants bred and

cultivated in artificial conditions, specimens for scientific use, specimens belonging to the zoos), are introduced by the draft of the law. Restrictions on commercial trade is also a key provision. In addition, restrictions related to personal use mentioned.

Definitions of trade, specimen and other words are given to avoid misunderstandings when interpreting the provisions of the law.

The Law establishes the authorities for Government of Russian Federation, subjects of Russian Federation, state environmental bodies, customs, internal security organs, veterinary and phytosanitary services. A clear division of powers and inclusion of legal provisions is presented, that allows for joint actions, and that will promote better effectiveness of control and regulation of wildlife trade. Cooperation on cases of illegal trade, on issuing the permits and licenses, and joint control over various situations, are important aspects of the Law.

The Law establishes clearly the responsibilities and authority of Administrative and Scientific offices of CITES in Russian Federation.

The Law presents a complete list of acceptable permits and other documents, that are required for legal trade in the wildlife specimens. This list meets both the requirements of the Convention and the requirements of current Russian legislation and real practice. Clear rules for cancelling permission documents are also provided by this Law.

Infringements in the field of trade in rare and endangered animals and plants are listed in the law for the first time. In this connection it is required to develop a set of alternations and amendments to Code of RF on administrative infringements and to Criminal Code of RF, in order to provide realisation of the provisions of the law.

One of the requirements of the Convention is to establish clear national rules for confiscation of illegally traded specimens. The Law establishes the grounds for confiscation, bodies authorised to confiscate, and the subsequent fate of the confiscated specimens.

Realisation of the provisions of the Law will make it possible to receive additional financial support due to payment for registration, consideration of applications, licensing, permit and other documents, compensation for damage, compensation for temporary care of animals, claims and fines. These funds will be invested in support of Administrative and Scientific offices of CITES, and will also be used for rescue centres, to compensate for budget expenditures for temporary care, and return to the wild or to a country of origin. A portion these funds could be given as compensation to informers. Such a measure could have significant repercussions for improving implementation of the Law.

The Law comes into force six months after it has been signed, which allows for federal executive bodies to prepare the required amendments to other legislation that is already in force. This will also increase the effectiveness of the Law.

Effective implementation of the provisions of CITES depends greatly on interaction between participating countries. Therefore, WWF RPO regards international collaboration as a top priority. WWF RPO, in co-operation with TRAFFIC, initiated the development of multilateral agreements between the countries of Far-Eastern and Altay-Sayan ecoregions (Russia, China, Korean People's Democratic Republic, Japan, Mongolia and Kazakhstan) to collaborate in biodiversity conservation. The agreement includes three major themes: protection of migratory species and their habitats, formation and maintenance of trans-boundary nature protected areas and control over illegal trade in biological resources, especially those included in the CITES Appendices. Drafts of collaborative agreements between the customs bodies of various countries relating to control of illegal trade in endangered wildlife specimens have been developed within the framework of the general agreement. Draft documents relating to co-operation in this sphere have been distributed in the countries of the region for primary familiarisation and discussion.

WWF RPO will continue to work on introducing the CITES provisions both in Russia and CIS - countries. The following priority themes should be mentioned:

- organisation of training courses for customs officials from Russia and neighbouring states (especially in the Far East, Altay-Sayan region, Central Asia) on meeting the CITES provisions (e.g. organisation of joint training courses and training courses in different countries, but based on a unified programme);
- further improvement in legislation pertaining to the application of CITES provisions in Russia, Byelorussia and Central Asia. Co-ordination of legislation between these countries, and with the provisions of the Convention. Development and enactment of model legislation in accordance with the recommendations of the CITES Secretariat;
- provision of technical support to customs and the Administrative and Scientific offices of CITES;
- dissemination of public awareness materials on CITES, and problems relating to illegal trade in wildlife. Improvement of knowledge and awareness of the problems, concerning trade in rare and endangered wild animals and plants, in particular the general public, commercial organisations and personnel of state authorities.

PART III:

IMPROVING WILDLIFE TRADE CONTROLS IN THE REGION

Moderator: Alexander Shestakov, WWF RPO

DISCUSSION FORUM: *Regional collaboration for better implementation of CITES and improvement of wildlife trade controls.*

Introduction of the Moderator.

Main items discussed:

1. Need for improved collaboration;
2. Major directions and objectives for future collaboration;
3. Levels of collaboration;
4. Methods and forms of collaboration.

People's Republic of China

The Chinese delegation expressed their appreciation for this form of discussion. They expressed their interest in improving co-operation between the participating agencies. They proposed to develop and exchange a list of 'priority' species that should be under specific control, for each country.

China further stressed the importance of exchanging information on illegal trade between the three countries, including information on seizures, confiscation and infringements. However, there may be some problems arising with regard to specific issues, such as receiving permission from the state security authorities to exchange confidential information. Therefore China proposes to address this issue with the World Customs Organisation.

The Chinese delegate said that China would welcome regular meetings like the current one. He inquired about which organisation would be responsible for organising such regular meetings and who would cover the expenses. The Moderator agreed that meetings like this should be held more regularly, but asked the delegates to consider and discuss the issue at a later point in time, as the answer would depend on the proposals made by the parties.

Republic of Korea

The Korean delegates expressed appreciation for the meeting and stressed the great importance of such meetings. They stated that the meeting addressed all the questions the Korean delegation had, and that the open discussions during the last few days covered the most important issues related to wildlife trade controls in the region. The delegate proposed that the countries exporting and importing live animals within the region work in close collaboration with each other.

As an example, he explained that he recently verified CITES export documents for live specimens issued by the Management Authority of Thailand and Hungary. All necessary permits were available, but no invoice was presented. The required documents were obtained later and in the meantime the animals died.

He stressed that collaboration between the exporting and importing countries is very important and that it is required to provide the necessary conditions and documents in the country of import before an animal can be exported.

He pointed out that representatives from customs agencies and from environmental organisations involved in activities related to the framework of CITES, were present at the meeting. He mentioned a programme on information exchange that focuses, for example, on illegal trade in drugs that exists at a regional level among Korean customs, and stressed that such information exchange is lacking in cases concerning CITES-related issues. Therefore, he would appreciate a discussion of the potential exchange of information about the trade in CITES specimens, among the authorities of Russia, Korea and China. He said that the establishment of an international body to exchange CITES-related information, to start with possibly only for the Pacific Region, would be extremely useful. However, he concurred with the Chinese delegate that the obstacles surrounding the development of such an information exchange programme might arise, in particular with the exchange of confidential information.

Therefore it would be important to provide for the legal basis of such an informational exchange. He underlined the importance of exchanging information quickly in order to analyse the information and to be able react accordingly. He stated that the CITES bodies should be engaged in establishing such structures, rather than other governmental bodies.

He stressed the need for a mutual agreement between customs bodies who are controlling the sea route from Vladivostok to Pusan, in order to allow for timely information exchange about certain shipments.

Russian Federation (*Customs*)

The Russian delegate stressed the importance of co-operation on a governmental and non-governmental level. He stated that such co-operation could be established on the basis of agreements with non-governmental organisations. He explained that signing an agreement with WWF gave them the opportunity to communicate with non-governmental organisations in other countries, and by doing so allowed information exchange with a variety of relevant bodies about certain legal or illegal shipments.

He considers an agreement among the customs committees of China, Korean Republic and Russia as extremely important and urged the heads of the CITES administrative bodies to raise this issue before the customs administration. Other agreements, e.g. on drugs and weapons exist already, and the co-operation needed here could be at the regional level (among neighbouring countries).

Russian Federation (CITES MA)

The delegate from Russia acknowledged the problems involved in exchanging information among customs bodies and proposed that national agreements be developed between the Parties involved. Such agreements between Administrative bodies and customs already exist in many countries. He mentioned as an example, the agreement between the CITES Secretariat and Interpol, and between the CITES Secretariat and WCO. He stressed the importance of regional agreements and reminded the participants that certain legislation provides for information exchange between neighbouring countries.

The delegate also mentioned that contacts and information exchange between certain customs departments does already exist, e.g. between the customs office of the Moscow Airport with the customs office of Heathrow Airport in London.

He proposed to prepare a press release about the results of this workshop and to distribute this at national and at regional levels. He also recommended an appeal to the CITES Secretariat and other international organisations for support to hold annual meetings such as the one they were attending, and to international organisations to provide financial support.

People's Republic of China

The delegate agreed that information interchange is of great importance and that it will help to control smuggling. He reminded the participants that special legislation would be required if joint investigations were to be conducted. Therefore, he proposed that there should be a focus on fully implementing the provisions of national legislation. Basic agreements between the WCO and the CITES Secretariat could serve as background information for new legislation.

Republic of Korea (CITES MA)

The delegate from Korea stated that laws regulating and implementing the provisions of CITES exist in every country. In order to avoid the situation where confidential information might get into the wrong hands, it would be necessary to discuss at what stage relevant information about CITES cases should be exchanged. Further, it was stated that collaboration should be close, and should involve skilled specialists.

Republic of Korea (Customs)

The delegate stressed the importance of exchanging information on specimens traded, on the persons exporting or importing the shipments, and on the persons transporting smuggled goods. More information on these factors is needed.

Russian Federation (Customs)

He agreed with the Korean delegate and proposed the following suggestions.

- Information should be circulated in accordance with the standards of national legislation of each country.
- Additional information is needed on:

- a) illegal trade of CITES-listed species/specimens;
- b) the legal measures applicable to the transported goods listed in the CITES Appendices, and also on administrative, or legal measures undertaken following the seizure and prosecution
- c) methods of trade, for example, illegal trade routes.

Republic of Korea

The delegate stressed the importance of having national legislation that covers all provisions of CITES. He also stated that CITES parties should have access to the national legislation of other countries.

Russian Federation (CITES MA)

The delegate mentioned that the CITES Secretariat prepared the review of national legislation in 1998, and that this review produced recommendations for changes should be made in the national legislation in order to fulfil the provisions of the Convention. It was recommended such a review be prepared for every country. A "Review of Russian Legislation Providing for Implementation of the Convention" should be published this year. In 1994, Parties attending the Asian Regional CITES Meeting, which the Russian Federation attended as an observer, adopted the recommendation supporting the preparation of a review of national legislation, in order to harmonise the legislation in the region. The delegate then asked the delegation of Korea and China whether such a review had been prepared.

He further proposed that each party should notify the CITES Secretariat of any developments or changes in its national legislation, on an annual basis. If a country cannot comply with the provisions of CITES legal sanctions could be applied, as for example, had happened recently to Italy, and was discussed for Greece and Malaysia.

He suggested that support should be requested from the CITES Secretariat and non-governmental organisations, in particular for technical assistance, for the preparation of the review of the legislation of the Far Eastern countries. He added that this review would assist in the harmonisation of legislation.

Moderator

The Moderator then suggested that participants move to the next discussion theme, which was how parties could improve the enforcement of wildlife trade controls in the region, and more specially, how parties could collaborate on this issue.

Republic of Korea

The delegate stressed the need for increasing the professional skills of enforcement officers to improve the control and identification of CITES specimens. He stated that it would be very useful to organise short-term and even long-term CITES courses and seminars for customs officers, both at international and national levels.

Russian Federation (Customs)

The delegation supported the statement of the Korean delegate and added that visual materials and ID guides, showing CITES specimens, their parts and derivatives, would also be required. To produce such guides, the assistance of international organisations would be very important.

In addition, the authorities responsible for the enforcement of CITES need better trained specialists who can help with identification, and can train customs officers. These specialists could also exchange their knowledge, e.g. in identifying CITES-listed specimens with customs officers of neighbouring countries.

Russian Federation (CITES MA)

The delegate said that the available guides and ID manuals on CITES-listed specimens are of little value for customs officials and that guide books that contain all CITES species are lacking. The available guides that are published in Canada and Mexico by the CITES Secretariat require special knowledge to use them. Customs officials, as a rule, have no educational background in biology, and therefore it is difficult for them to identify the specimens.

Such guides should also contain information on fraudulent specimens and a description of the most common ways of smuggling. For example, ivory painted with shoe cream can be traded as timber and is not easy to identify by a customs officer. The delegate stressed that this kind of information is very important at a regional level and should be made available to all customs officers in the region. The assistance of WWF, IUCN and TRAFFIC is needed to publish these information guides.

Russian Federation (Customs)

He added that customs officers should also be provided with sample documents of the relevant CITES bodies from neighbouring countries, as modern technologies make it possible to imitate CITES permits.

Moderator

The Moderator thanked the participants for their contributions and suggested that the group move on to next topic of discussion, which was education and training for customs officers and other CITES enforcement authorities.

Republic of Korea

The delegate stated that all speakers had stressed the lack of sufficient identification skills and the lack of training capacity for customs officers, as well as CITES authorities. He concluded that international, or possibly regional (e.g. Far Eastern), conferences or training seminars to improve the professional skills of customs officers need to be organised.

Russian Federation (Customs)

Three suggestions were put forward:

- find an opportunity to hold the international seminars for the customs officials engaged in control over smuggling;
- organize training sessions for the heads of the customs bodies, in order to initiate interest in these problems;
- hold a special course on CITES (5-6 lectures) in an institution of higher education, for customs officials.

TRAFFIC Europe

The delegate added that TRAFFIC and the CITES Secretariat had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on capacity building. This memorandum is similar to the Memorandum that has been signed by the CITES Secretariat and the World Customs Organisation on joint work and collaboration on identification of CITES specimens.

TRAFFIC further mentioned that the European Commission may help to financially support regional CITES training seminars and workshops for customs and other enforcement officers.

People's Republic of China (Customs)

The delegate stated that different training seminars are needed for training of higher personnel and for training customs officers at the border transit points. A minimum number of customs officers need to be trained, and these officers could in turn train their colleagues. In the Kunming Customs division, a division that controls a border of 4,000 km in length, only one person participated in CITES training seminars thus far.

The delegate agreed with previous speakers that available ID manuals and guides are not sufficient and more suitable manuals are required.

He then added that more public awareness and information campaigns would be needed in order to increase the educational level of the general public on the provisions of CITES and national regulations that exist to implement these provisions.

People's Republic of China (CITES MA)

It was noted that training seminars and CITES capacity building workshops could be carried out at both local and international levels. He mentioned the CITES information booklets that are exhibited in the airports and suggested that each country should prepare such materials, taking into account the national mentality. He further stated that each country should educate its population independently from each other.

Republic of Korea

Korea considered that education should also be carried out in the schools. This was mentioned as being important because people should consider the particular problems concerning CITES-listed species. Each inhabitant of a country should know what species are listed in CITES Appendices, and what species are not included in this list. He stated that surveys have shown that people in Korea know very little about CITES and about the species that are listed in CITES, and that therefore they smuggle CITES listed species without knowing it. As a consequence, visual materials informing the public about CITES should be distributed widely.

The delegate noted that there is information in Korea indicating that cases of illegal trade in CITES specimens decreased significantly when large-scale, mass media efforts were made to inform the public about the provisions of CITES.

The Korean delegate stressed the importance of competent and skilled bodies that are responsible for controlling trade in wild species of plants and animals, the preparation of such booklets, and radio transmissions on CITES-listed specimens. The delegate expressed hope that there would be collaboration among the competent bodies within the country and at the international level.

Russian Federation (Customs)

The delegate proposed that work should be carried out under following themes:

1. Public awareness campaigns that aim at raising the interest of the general public for wildlife conservation and specifically at informing the public about wildlife trade and regulations applying to wildlife trade;
2. Educational and training programmes designed for customs and other enforcement officers;
3. Information-instruction aimed at traders and wildlife suppliers, etc.

There are many ways to undertake this work, for example, the print media, radio information, educational literature, guide books, informational booklets, posters, and publicity boards.

In the context of international collaboration, the delegate suggested that it might be useful to produce posters in Russian, English, Korean and Chinese that could be installed at important border points between the Russian Federation, China and Korea. For example, it was suggested that a poster could be prepared on Ginseng. Although the species is not yet included in CITES, it still requires our attention.

He further noted that these informational posters should be installed on both Russian territory and on the territory of adjacent countries. In addition, these posters could also be installed in the airports of regional importance.

People's Republic of China

The delegate of China said that since various countries pay special attention to the protection of certain species, which are not included in CITES, it would be extremely useful for the CITES bodies of both countries to co-ordinate the on the content of such posters.

It was noted that Customs' responsibility for installation of such informational posters is limited. Customs receives the documents (lists of the plants and animals included in the CITES Appendices) without having any input into the text or contents of such documents or posters. For example, Ginseng is not included in these lists and a customs officer cannot decide independently to present this information on a board. Chinese customs has no authority to prohibit Ginseng transportation.

Russian Federation

The delegate from Russia wished to highlight the importance of the last proposal. It was noted that the proposal could only be implemented under close collaboration between all countries of the region. It is similar to the proposal put forward by the Chinese delegation earlier in the day, when a suggestion was made to exchange a list of priority frequently trade species. The delegate stated that Ginseng has

become a very important issue. It was further stated that China and Korea may have other examples of animals and plant species, which are not included in CITES, but which are protected under national legislation.

Moderator

The Moderator then asked the participants for any additional comments and suggestions for proposals.

People's Republic of China

The delegate noted that all three countries had agreed in general on all items that had been discussed. However, it was noted that the other countries in the region also need to be consulted. Therefore, he proposed to communicate the results of this discussion to the all countries in the region and to relevant authorities.

Moderator

The Moderator noted that a final document including the results of the workshop would be prepared later in the day in the form of a press release. After receiving the approval of all participants, it would be released. Even though it would not be an official document, the document would be a good example of international collaboration. It could serve as an example for other countries, especially those countries in the region that could not participate in our discussion.

In summary, the Moderator reported on the most important items of discussion that the participants generally agreed upon.

a.) Regarding communication activities and the exchange of information between the three countries:

- to provide information to one another on the species of wild animals and plants, and derivatives thereof, that are most commonly traded, and on their legal national status;
- to exchange information on legal and illegal transactions between the countries with specimens of CITES-listed species;
- to provide information to competent authorities on infringements, seizures and prosecutions, on subsequent prosecutions and legal actions, and on the outcome of investigations;
- to exchange samples of, and official signatures on, CITES permits and certificates, and - to exchange samples of any other legal documents associated with or required for CITES transactions;
- to exchange information on the structure of CITES-implementing bodies and enforcement agencies in the countries, and on customs procedures;
- to establish communication lines between relevant authorities through which early warning information can be provided to prevent illegal trade;
- to exchange information on modifications and alterations in CITES implementing legislation and procedures;
- to ensure that communication and exchange of information between appropriate governmental bodies of the three countries takes place on a regular basis, in an operative and effective manner, and in full compliance with national legislation on confidentiality and information exchange.;

b.) Regarding legislation:

- to exchange and provide translations in each other's languages of the texts of national CITES implementing legislation, and of governmental and intergovernmental agreements and procedures that are related to the implementation of the provisions of CITES;
- to review the CITES implementing legislation in each of the three countries with the aim to assess their compliance with the provisions of CITES, and to undertake the necessary steps to address possible gap and weaknesses;

c.) Regarding technical support for monitoring and controlling CITES-listed species in trade:

- to endeavour to produce CITES identification materials for customs officers and other enforcement bodies;
- to produce and disseminate amongst customs agencies information materials on smuggling techniques, control practices, fraud mechanisms, and other relevant enforcement-related information;
- to exchange and share information on the identification practices and expertise in each of the countries;

d.) Regarding capacity building and training activities:

- to organise regular training for all CITES implementing bodies on CITES controls and identification;
- to share experts and expertise on CITES and wildlife trade;
- to organise regular regional workshops addressing relevant wildlife trade issues;
- to provide training for customs officers that is targeted at, and adapted to, the different levels of the national customs administrations;
- to unify and harmonise amongst the three countries existing and new training materials;

e.) Regarding public awareness and education activities:

- to produce and distribute CITES information leaflets and posters;
- to introduce wildlife trade and CITES in national educational curricula;
- to provide information from the relevant governmental bodies to the mass media;
- to supply practical instructions and information on CITES implementing regulations to professional traders, companies and others.

Proceedings of this workshop will also be prepared, both in English and in Russian, and will be disseminated to all participants and will be made available to the governmental authorities in the other North East Asian countries as well as other interested and relevant institutions and persons.

ANNEX

Additional Papers and Reports submitted by workshop participants:

On the Status of Wild Ginseng in Russia

Egor Kopaev, Fund Phoenix

The Trade in Wild Plants in the Russian Far East

Alexey Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe-Russia

Review of the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products in the Russian Far East

by TRAFFIC Europe-Russia

Agenda of the Workshop

Press release

List of Workshop Participants

ON THE STATUS OF WILD GINSENG IN RUSSIA

E. Kopaev, Fund "Phoenix"

Chinese persons used to visit the territory of the Far East and especially its southern part Primorsky Krai with the purpose to harvest wild ginseng already even many years ago.

A Russian writer I. Nazarov (1887) in his book "Severo-Ussuryiskiy krai" (North of Ussuryiskiy Krai) wrote: "In 1882 -1883 Chinese persons (250-300) came from Northern China to the North-Ussuryiskiy Krai to harvest ginseng. There were even more Chinese persons harvesting ginseng roots in the North-Ussuryiskiy Krai until it became a part of Russia. The roots were transported to China to Imakhauz for sale (near the confluence of the Ussuri and Bol'shayay Ussurka Rivers). The ginseng market opened at that place on September 15. At that time the root harvesters, wholesalers and buyers came to that place to trade in ginseng. There I met dealers from Vladivostok (Russia), Shanghai and Siangsing (China)."

Half a century later a botanist L.N.Shishkin who worked in the Far East (1930) described the flora of the Iman River basin: "Wild ginseng is abundant in the mountainous areas of the Iman River basin, comparing to other areas of Primorie. Hundreds of local people, and also Chinese and Korean persons come here annually to harvest ginseng. The main buyers of ginseng are representatives of the Shanghai Company, Dalgostorg (a Russian trade company) and Hunters Union (the town of Iman, settlements Rakitnoye and Kartun). The loss of the local ginseng resources is insignificant and of an absolutely random character."

Before 1917 about 380 kg of ginseng was exported from Vladivostok. The ginseng was harvested mainly by the Chinese and Koreans (their number is unknown). However, there is the information that about 500 people were engaged in the ginseng harvest annually (Baianova, 1941).

Russian colonists started harvesting ginseng about 1907-1910. In the last 1920s the state trade companies Gostorg (State Trading Organization) and Legtechziriya started the ginseng business. Specialised ginseng roots harvesting teams were organised.

In the 1940s-1950s about 500-700 persons were officially engaged in ginseng harvesting, annually they harvested about 10,000 - 15,000 ginseng roots (= about 130 kg, Malushev, 1991).

In 1978 ginseng was registered in the USSR Red Data Book, and in 1998 - in the Russian Red Data Book.

The situation changed sharply after disintegration of the Soviet Union and establishment of trade contacts between Russia and China. Already in 1991 illegal Chinese dealers appeared in Primorie where they started buying ginseng. The black market prices were much higher than the legal ones. The

number of ginseng harvesters increased through unemployed people who lost jobs when the state enterprises collapsed.

Before 1993 the situation in the black market was as follows. Five dealers from China worked in Ussuriisk. They organized illegal points of trade in ginseng and illegal ginseng transportation to China. Roots were delivered by Chinese dealers who visited the taiga areas and bought ginseng there. Russian dealers started to work at the same time.

In 1993-1994 the actions of the Committee on environmental protection (especially the Kirovsk Regional Committee) caused a considerable damage to the trade. Chinese dealers were discovered, illegally harvested roots were confiscated. Those dealers were subjected to the administrative penalty and deported from Russia. The business was immediately continued by Russian persons. Exposure of their illegal activity is a more difficult task.

In 1994 the "Tiger" Inspection, "a department for protection tigers and other rare and endangered species of flora and fauna" was established within the Primorsky Regional Committee on environmental protection. Wild ginseng registered in the Red Data Book, became an object of the "Tiger" Inspection control. Official control of illegal harvesting and trade in ginseng started. At the first stage the powerful illegal businessmen were exposed and their activity was taken under control. Some of them were caught at the moment of the crime and were subjected to administrative punishment. At the next stage the places and people engaged in illegal trade in ginseng were discovered in Ussuriisk. By the inspectors' estimates, about 90% of illegally harvested ginseng came through the market of Ussuriisk. In addition, there are places of illegal trade in ginseng in Dal'nerechensk, Lesozavodsk, Arsen'ev. These trade points were established by dealers from Ussuriisk. In 1998 the amount of illegal ginseng stock was about 2000 kg (fresh roots). In 1999 the figure was about 1000 kg.

Illegal ginseng was illegally transported to China. Chinese smugglers are connected with corrupted officials both from Russia and China. Considering the situation in Hong Kong the following conclusion may be done. Now there exists an illegal trade network like the one that existed before 1917. Smugglers buy ginseng in the Russian territory and transport it across the border in Suyfenhe (China). Dealers from the southern provinces (Shanghai, Guangzhou, etc.) also came there. They buy ginseng they dry it for conservation. The plant part with thin roots is dried wrapped in cotton cloth. Another part is dried under usual conditions. Hereafter the former part (dried in cotton cloth) will be sold as the Russian ginseng. Another part - as the Chinese ginseng. According to our data there is no wild ginseng in China. To our point of view the situation in the market is as follows. There is the demand for Chinese ginseng, but as wild Chinese ginseng does not exist, then the Russian ginseng is sold as the Chinese one. Since the dealers know the demand for ginseng and for the "Chinese" ginseng

in particular, so they dry roots in the appropriate way. Hong Kong is the last chain in ginseng trade. Several dealers control this business there. They accumulate 90% of the Russian ginseng and then sell it by retail in the Chinese districts. Chinese people are the main consumers of ginseng. Only a standard ginseng root reaches Hong Kong. This kind of root weights over 10 grams and has no mechanical damages, these being the obvious signs that the root was growing under the natural conditions. These roots will be originally packed and sold in the natural form.

A non-standard root (weight below 10 gr, with mechanical damages and marks of illnesses, that pointing out that the root was cultivated) will be sold in China. Probably these roots are used in pharmaceuticals.

Officially Russia did not sell ginseng root in 1998-1999. However, about 10 kg of dry good quality roots are stored in the storage devices of the Primorsky Forestry Department. This organisation is one of the three official companies engaged in ginseng procurement. Business relations with the partners (companies or individual buyers from Hong Kong) have been lost and at present there is no market controlled by the government. Extinction of ginseng trade of the former monopolist "Prodintern Primoriya" and low activity of the Russian business men is the result of the black market activity. The information obtained in Hong Kong suggests that "Prodintern Primoriya" has a poor reputation in the international market. However, that was the only one company that had a license for trade in ginseng. The dealers from Hong Kong do not want to have any relations with "Prodintern Primoriya", their present-day partners are illegal dealers from Shanghai, Guangzhou and other cities.

In this context it is necessary to organise the legal trade in the Russian ginseng as soon as possible to oppose the black market. It is also necessary to focus the efforts of the "Tiger" Inspection and other controlling bodies on the control of illegal trade. Besides, representatives of CITES in Russia are intended to register the Russian wild ginseng in the CITES list (Appendix II) at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties in April 2000. If it happens, it will be one more positive factor helping to control illegal ginseng harvesting and trade.

THE TRADE IN PLANTS IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

by Alexey Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe-Russia

Available information on collection and export of medicinal plants originating from the Far East shows, that the number of species that are collected and the export volumes have increased greatly. Unfortunately, the increase of volumes of collection and export, including the illegal ones, is typical not only for common species, but for the plants included in the Russian Red Data Book. In 1999, export of wild plants and algae used in pharmaceuticals increased in 22% in comparison to 1998. It is important to note, that there local authorities do violate the federal laws and give the permissions to collect the medicinal plants that are included in the Red Data Book to different procuring companies and organisations. Illegal collection of the medicinal plants by local population is also typical phenomenon.

Major medicinal species collected both legally and illegally in the Russian Far East are:

- fruits, berries and seeds of brier, magnolia-vine, haw, partridgeberry, (*Phellodendron amurense*), ephedra, ginseng, Manchurian walnut, lotus, cedar (Korean pine);
- roots and rhizomes of ginseng, *Aralia* spp., *Eleutherococci* spp., *Acorus* spp., *Glycyrrhizae* spp. include. *Oplopanax elatus*, *Acantopanax* spp., *Rnodiolae roseae*, *Paenia* spp., *Paeonia molokosewitschii*, *Dioscorea nipponica*, thyme, *Astralus* spp., milkwort, hazelwort,
- bark and bast of oak and birthwort;
- leaves of partridgeberry, *Convallaria keiskei*, milkwort, *Aralia* spp., *Kalopanax septemlobus*, orchides, lotus, rhodendron;
- stems and sprouts of *Oplopanax elatus*, mongolia-vine, *Lespedeza*, *Boschniakia rossica*, birthwort;
- tubers of *Dioscorea nipponica*, Far-Eastern orchids;
- algae – *Laminaria* spp., *Anphelcia* spp.;

Wild ginseng *Panax ginseng*, *Convallaria keiskei*, pine nuts, roots of *Eleutherococci*, *Rnodiolae roseae*, parts of magnolia-vine, *Dioscorea nipponica*, *Phellodendron amurense*, all species of *Aralia*, thyme, *Acorus*, *Glycyrrhizae* are among the most intensively collected species. In 1999-2000 numerous facts, when oak bark was sold by local population to Chinese purchasers, were revealed. The bark is powdered and sold by RUB 2,000 per a bag. Export of Korean pine nuts to China was of a mass character in 1998. In 1999 pine nuts of Siberian origin were exported in a great volumes to China.

Generally, the medicinal plants are exported both legally and illegally to eastern and western directions. The plants procured in the territory of the Russian Far East are transported eastward to

Japan, China, North Korea, Singapore, i.e. in the countries with well developed traditional oriental medicine. The medicinal plants are transported also westward to Moscow, St.-Petersburg, Ukraine, Baltic region and the USA. For example, JSC "Pharma" in Kiev and company "Pasinol" in Poltava are the biggest consumers of the far-eastern medicinal plants in Ukraine. The biggest exporters and consumers of medicinal plants in the Far East are JC "Prodinter", production-procurement base of Primorskiy Forest Department, scientific and production company "Amurbiopharm" in Khabarovsk and JC "Ussuriyskiy balzam".

The following parts of plants are legally traded beyond the Far East territory in a great volumes according to concluded contracts:

- dry roots of *Eleutherococci*;
- dry roots of *Glycyrrhizae*;
- berries and seeds of magnolia-vine;
- leaves of partridgeberry;
- leaves of *Convallaria keiske*.

Different mixtures and teas of wild far-eastern plants and also tinctures and balsams are transported besides the plant parts both abroad and in western regions of the country.

The following instances make it possible to say something about the volumes of legal export of the medicinal plants. In 1998 yr. one of the far-eastern companies transported to Ukraine 3000 kg of dry leaves of *Convallaria keiske*. About 12,000 kg. of dry roots of *Glycyrrhizae* were exported to the USA in 1999 by one of the far-eastern companies. In 1998 customs officials revealed and prevented an attempt to export illegally 10,000 kg of dry *Dioscorea nipponica*. Legal export of the roots of *Eleutherococci* beyond the Far-Eastern region make up many dozens tonnes in some years. In 1995 110,055 kg of medicinal plants were exported from the Russian Far East.

However, the volumes of illegal export of medicinal plants are considerably greater. At the same time the number of seizures and confiscation of these shipments is rather low. It is connected with the following facts:

- a) illegal collection and smuggling the especially valuable plants, such as wild ginseng, is an extremely criminal business;
- b) environmental bodies in the region pay insufficient attention the protection on rare and endangered species protection;
- c) normative base on protection of wild plant species in the Russian Federation is less developed in comparison with that on rare and endangered species of animals;

- d) specialists in botany are lacking both among customs officials and among personnel of other law-enforcement bodies;
- e) preventive activity of the environmental bodies on protecting the rare and endangered plant species (excluding ginseng) is in its infancy;
- f) positive experience of foreign customs (in particular the USA) in counteracting the illegal trade in flora objects is not used in the customs of the Far East.

The far-eastern customs prevented 30 attempts to illegally export the wild plants (29 cases of them were the attempts to illegally export ginseng) over the period 1996-1999. Along with this, according to the data of Russian office of TRAFFIC Europe, the volumes of annual illegal collection and smuggling the wild ginseng made up 1500-2000 kg of dry roots in 1998-99. Ginseng is most intensively exported in August-October. Dry roots are carried out up to January. For example, in January 2000 the officials of Grodekovskaya customs confiscated 30 pieces of dry ginseng roots. Previously, in December 1999, the officials of Ussuriysk customs confiscated 24 pieces of dry ginseng roots from Chinese resident.

Trade in wild medicinal plants is very popular business in almost all urban markets of the Russian Far East. Permanent increase of the prices for remedies sold in the drug stores makes the far-eastern population turn to traditional medicine, based on using the medicinal plants. Thus, the number of persons engaged in collecting and selling the medicinal plants on urban markets grow from day to day. The plants included in the Russian Red Data Book are sold on the markets along with the common plant species. There are roots of *Dioscorea nipponica*, acerose leaves of Japanese yew, stems and roots of birthwort and of *Oplopanax elatus*, sprouts of *Phellodendron amurense*, oak bark, flowers of *Tilia*, fruits of the Manchurian walnut, roots of *Eleutherococci* and *Rnodiolae roseae*, seeds and sprouts of magnolia-vine, fruits of *Rosae* and *Crataegi*, rhizomes of *Acorus*, *Astragalus*, thyme, *Bergenia pacifica*, hazelwort, *Paenia*, valerian among them.

There are information on collection and subsequent export of the seeds, bulbs, tubers, sprouts and seedlings of wild decorative plants, such as:

Lilies: *Fritillaria ussuriensis*, *Lilium dauricum*;

Orchids: showy ladies'-slipper, *Cypripedium yatabeanum*, *Calypso bulbosa*;

The fabaceous: Siberian pea shrub, *Lespedeza hedysaroides*, *Pueraria lobata*;

The hydrangeas: deitsiya, syringa etc;

These are the plants having a general run and high price both in internal and external markets, because they are necessary components for remedies.

REVIEW OF THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

by *TRAFFIC Europe-Russia*

The Russian Far East is the largest of the eleven economic areas formed within the Russian Federation. It incorporates two Krai (=Territories; Primorsky Krai and Khabarovsk Krai), five Oblasts (=Regions, Kamchatka Region, Sakhalin Region, Magadan Region, Amur Region and Jewish Autonomous Region), two Oblast (=Autonomous Districts (AD), Chukotka AD and Koryak AD) and the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) (see Fig. 2).

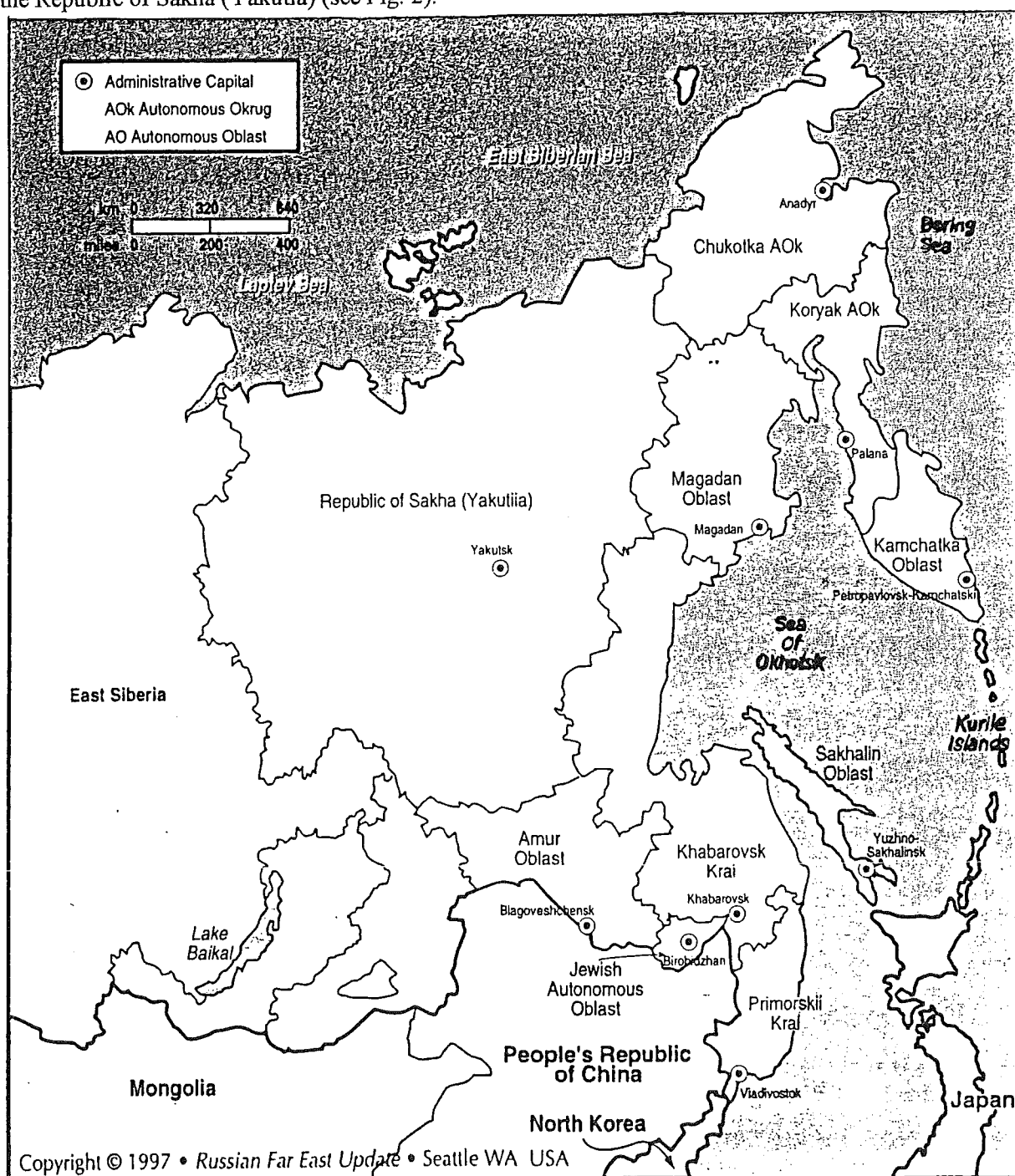


Fig. 2: Map of the Administrative Regions of the Russian Far East, the largest of the eleven economic areas formed within the Russian Federation (Krai = Territory, Okrug = Autonomous District, Oblast = Region).

In the following, each of these regions and its most significant illegal wildlife trade problems are described separately:

KORYAK AUTONOMOUS OKRUG

Koryak Autonomous District covers the northern half of Kamchatka Peninsula. The territory is 300.000 km², and its population is 38.000 (native Koryaks make up only 16% of the population). The administrative centre is Palana (Monakhov, 1998).

Analysis of the obtained information shows, that poaching is a rather common business in Koryak Autonomous Okrug. The most commonly poached species are:

- a) fur-bearing animals: fox, sable, polar fox, sea otter, wolverine, ringed seal etc.
- b) animals with eatable meat: first of all - reindeer, bighorn sheep, walrus, bear, etc.
- c) animals, which parts are used for commercial purposes: bear, walrus, reindeer, eared seal, fur seal.
- d) predatory birds: Arctic falcon, goshawk, eagle owl.
- e) commercial fish species: chinook salmon, kokanee salmon, chum salmon etc.

Most active poachers are the inhabitants of the settlements located distantly from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatkiy and Elizovo, former military personnel, stood on the peninsular, military personnel of distant garrisons, which either possess hunting guns, or have an opportunity to use the fire-arms, former and acting hunters, inhabitants of the administrative centres of the districts and also persons used the services of the tourist companies specialized in hunting tourism. Poaching on the part of foreign persons staying in Kamchatka on different commercial firms' invitation has become more common. Foreign visitors can be transported by helicopter to any site of Kamchatka according to their wish.

Illegally hunted furs, parts of wild animals, wild animals and predatory birds are transported to Elizovo, or Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, and then - to customers, or to selling points. The goods are transported to the following directions:

- by air transport - to Moscow, St.Petersburg, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Novosibirsk, Omsk;
- by sea transport - to Vladivostok, to the USA, Korean Republic;
- by military and transport aircraft - to Moscow, Komsomolsk-na-Amure, Khabarovsk.

The furs, that are transported to Khabarovsk, or Vladivostok, are sold to Chinese middlemen, and then are then illegally carried to China. The furs are usually carried from Khabarovsk to China through the customs posts on the territory of Primorsky Krai, or sometimes through the customs posts in Amurskaia Oblast.

Wildlife products such as antlers of reindeer stags, brown bear bile, penises of fur seal and eared seals are also transported to Khabarovsk and Vladivostok, since they are used in traditional oriental medicine and are in high demand in China. The wildlife products are then sold to Chinese, or Korean middlemen for subsequent contraband transportation to China, or Korean Republic.

Predatory birds such as Arctic falcon, goshawk and peregrine falcon are transported to Novosibirsk, or Omsk, then to Baku and further to Saudi Arabia, or United Arab Emirates.

Recently information on illegal hunting the white whale and cowfish, which meat and fat are illegally transported by ships to Japan, has been obtained and requires further verification. The State Environmental Committee allocates annual quotas for hunting of whales and seals among Chukotka, Kamchatka, Sakhalin and other Far-Eastern districts.

There is information on poaching and illegal hunting of protected wildlife in the Komandor Islands. Species hunted illegally are: Mednovskiy fox, Komandor sea-otter, seals inhabiting the Komandor Islands as their skins and penises used in traditional oriental medicine. Sometimes the birds of guillemot family (*Fraterculata corniculata*, *Lunda cirrhata*, *Aethia pusilla*) are illegally carried to Japanese zoos and other countries in Asia-Pacific Region. Bones of Steller's sea cow are also the objects of this illegal business. In 1999 the officials of the law-enforcement bodies of Kamchatka found two boxes with the skeletons of the Steller's sea cow in the airport of Elizovo.

In 1999 large volumes of musk deer musk pods and bear gall bladders was discovered in the airport of Artyem and thus, illegal transportation to Korean Republic was prevented. A considerable part of the bear gall bladders was illegally obtained in Kamchatka. About 86 pieces of bear gall bladders were found in only one day.

In 1999 information on illegal catching of rare predatory birds and subsequent transporting beyond Kamchatka was obtained. This information was transmitted for examination to law-enforcement bodies in Moscow. Presently, the sables, Siberian weasel, Arctic fox, Kamchatka fox, marmot, ringed seal are intensively hunted. The furs are accumulated in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy and in Elizovo for subsequent transportation to St.Petersburg, Moscow and Vladivostok.

CHUKOTKA AUTONOMOUS OKRUG

Chukotka is surrounded by the sea on three sides: the Eastern Siberian, the Chukotskoye and the Bering Sea. It has an area of 737.000km² and a population of about 100.000. The administrative centre is Anadyr (Monakhov, 1998).

The obtained information testifies that poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products are commonly practice in this territory.

The species most commonly poached are:

- mammals: brown bear, polar bear, sable, Arctic fox, wild reindeer, wolverine, bighorn sheep, elk.;
- marine mammals: walrus, eared seal, common seal, bearded seal, cetacean (white whale, killer whale, sperm whale);
- predatory birds: golden eagle, Arctic falcon, peregrine falcon, snow owl

The following wildlife products are smuggled: hides and bile of polar and brown bears, furs of fur-bearing animals, applied folk art of northern aboriginal population made of horns (elk and reindeer), ivory (walrus), backbones (whale), hides of reindeer and eared seal, hides and horns of Chukotka bighorn sheep, walrus canines, antlers of the reindeer stags, penises of the bearded seal, walrus, eared seal and reindeer. Cases of illegal catching and trade in predatory birds into the western regions of the country also occurs.

Mainly aboriginal and local populations of the Chukotka are engaged in illegal hunting of predatory birds and fur-bearing animals. Illegal hunting of marine animals is performed both by aboriginal population and fishing-boats, which are fishing in the north-western part of the Bering Sea.

Prepared wildlife products are transported beyond the Chukotskiy Autonomous Okrug to the following directions:

- walrus canines, goods of walrus canines, mammoth ivories, whale bones and hides of polar bears are carried out by Chukchas and Eskimoses by across the Bering Strait, when visiting the relatives in Alaska. Citizens of Russia and of the USA try to smuggle the same goods into the USA through an airport of Magadan;
- hides of the polar and brown bears are transported both by civil and military aircrafts through Anadyr and Magadan to Moscow and St. Petersburg for subsequent reselling either in these cities, or in the countries of Western Europe;
- hides of fur-bearing animals are consumed mainly by local market, however a certain number of the hides are transported either by sea, or by air to Primorsky Krai, or Khabarovsk Krai for subsequent reselling to Chinese middlemen;
- antlers of the reindeer stags and reindeer horns (both of domestic and wild reindeers), penises of reindeer and marine animals are transported after appropriate conservation mainly by sea, sometimes by air, to Khabarovsk, Vladivostok and Nakhodka to be transported illegal to China and Korean Republic. For example, in 1997 a company from Anadyr' committed itself to deliver 2000 kg of antlers of reindeer stags, 10 000 of reindeer penises and considerable amount of horns to a Chinese company through Khabarovsk.
- poached predatory birds are transported by air to Moscow, or Novosibirsk for subsequent illegal trade to the countries of the Near East;
- a considerable amount of art works made of bone carvers of Chukotka (Uelen, Anadyr', Bukhta Providenia), souvenirs made of walrus canines, horns of reindeer and elk, cachalot tooth, backbones of the cetacean, are transported through Magadan to all administrative centres of the oblasts and krais of the Far East and to Moscow and are also traded abroad.

SAKHALIN OBLAST AND THE KURILE ISLANDS

Sakhalin and Kurile Islands are surrounded by the Okhotsk Sea, the Sea of Japan, the Tartar Strait and the Pacific Ocean adjoining the Kurile Islands. The area including the Kurile Islands is 87,100km² and has a population of 648,000. The centre of the Sakhalin region is Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. (Monakhov, 1998).

There is a lot of information on poaching and illegal trade in wildlife in Sakhalin Island and the Kurile Islands.

Species most commonly involved are:

- mammals: brown bear, fox, Sakhalin musk deers, Arctic fox, squirrel, sable, sea otter, fur seal, seals, Siberian weasel, mink;
- birds: eagle owl, *Falci pennis falci pennis*, different species of *Charadriidae*, Peregrine falcon, Steller's sea eagle, different species of the geese;
- fish: illegal fishing of Sakhalin sturgeon and yambo;
- invertebrates: trepang;

The present section does not consider the problem concerning to the poaching of marine wildlife such as commercial fish species, crabs, urchins, molluscs, because this problems needs to be discussed separately.

Most commonly smuggled items transported from Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands abroad are:

- hides of fur-bearing animals, first of all sea otter, minks, fox and Arctic fox;
- penises and testicles of fur seal and seals;
- musk of musk deer;
- bile and hides of brown bear;
- live predatory birds: peregrine falcon and eagle owl;
- trepang.

Except for the peregrine falcon, which is transported to western regions of the country, the other wildlife goods are illegally smuggled into China, Japan and the Korean Republic. Hides of fur-bearing animals are transported by sea in Japan and Korean Republic, and also to Vladivostok, or Nakhodka for subsequent reselling to Chinese middlemen. Musk of musk deer, bile of bear, penises of fur seals and seals are smuggled mainly by inhabitants of Sakhalin Island of Korean nationality to Korean Republic. These derivatives are transported mainly: by air - Juzhno-Sakhalinsk-Seul, by sea - Korsakov-Pusan. Illegal movement of trepang from Sakhalin Oblast is performed systematically. After drying, the trepang is transported by sea from Korsakov, Makarov, or the Kurile Islands to Vladivostok, or to Juzhno-Sakhalinsk and then by air to Primorsky Krai. Average volumes of one illegal transportation ranges from 50 to 200 kg. Currently, Chinese citizens of Korean nationality have intensively bought up the trepang from local population, illegally caught it and smuggled it abroad. Smugglers prefer to use sea transport, first of all fishing-boats and transport vessels, because the ship's companies do not get through the customs examination in the examination rooms. Customs inspection is performed by small number of customs officials direct on a vessel.

MAGADAN OBLAST

Magadan Oblast covers 1,191,100 km² and has a population of 258,000. The Oblast has no direct entrance to the markets of the adjacent countries such as China and North Korea. Therefore trade is carried through the sea ports, or air ports. The regions main port is Nagayevo. The centre of the region is the city of Magadan with a population of 135,000 (Monakhov, 1998).

Customs officials of Magadan and personnel of the Environmental bodies of Magadan Oblast intercept smuggled wildlife objects systematically.

Commonly smuggled wildlife species and products are:

- hides of polar and brown bears;
- hides of reindeer and bighorn sheep;
- hides of fur-bearing animals (sable, otter, marmot, mink, squirrel, Arctic fox etc);
- derivatives used in traditional oriental medicine: bear bile, antlers of reindeer stags, penises of bearded seal, reindeer and walrus;
- walrus canines, mammoth ivories, bones of fossil animals;
- applied art works made of walrus canines, mammoth ivories, horns of reindeer and elks, backbones and ribs of whales by bone carvers of Magadan and Chukotka;
- predatory birds: Steller's Sea eagle, Peregrine falcon, Eagle owl, Arctic falcon;
- fishes: there are the cases of illegal catching of sturgeon in the Kolyma River along with the illegal fishing the salmons

The wildlife goods are smuggled mainly by using the air and sea transport. In winter the goods prepared in Yakutia are carried by road ("zimnik" - winter snow road) in Magadan Oblast.

Prepared wildlife products and goods are transported beyond the area of Magadan Oblast in the following directions:

- to the west: the walrus canines, mammoth ivories, remains of fossil mammals, predatory birds and rare insects are illegally moved following the routes Magadan-Moscow, Magadan St.Petersburg, Magadan-Novosibirsk;
- to the east: the hides of polar bear, bighorn sheep, wolverine, walrus canines, art works, ethnographic rarities made of the products of walrus, seals, cetaceans, reindeer, elk and other species are illegally carried by sea and by air transport to the USA and Canada;
- to the south: the furs, wildlife products, used in the traditional oriental medicine (bear bile, antlers of the reindeer stags, penises of the sea animals), walrus canines, mammoth ivories and applied art works made of them and being very popular among the Japanese and Chinese population are illegally carried by sea and by air transport to Primorsky Krai for subsequent reselling to Chinese and Korean middlemen;

REPUBLIC SAKHA (YAKUTIA)

When considering the problem of poaching, illegal catching and collecting the wild animals and their products and subsequent contraband transportation of rare species, it should be noted, that the Republic Sakha (Yakutia) is the greatest territory of the RF with relatively poor developed infrastructure and does not possess a direct entrance to the markets of the adjacent countries.

The following wildlife species are commonly poached:

- ungulate mammals: elk, Manchurian wapiti, wild reindeer, roe deer, musk deer;
- predatory mammals: brown and polar bears, wolverine, fox, badger;
- fur animals: squirrel, ermine, sable, mink, Siberian weasel, fox, black-capped marmot etc.;

- predatory birds: golden eagle, peregrine falcon, saker falcon etc.;
- goose-like: red-breasted goose, eider duck;
- other bird species: e.g. Ross' gull;
- fishes: Siberian sturgeon.

The smuggled wildlife goods are:

- antlers of the reindeer stags, horns of reindeer and of Manchurian wapiti, penises, tendons and tails of reindeer and of Manchurian wapiti, musk of musk deer, suet and glands of badger, horns of elk and roe deer;
- hides of brown and polar bears, wolverine;
- hides of fur-bearing animals;
- fledglings and mature individuals of the predatory birds;
- eggs of goose-like and other birds.

Typical feature of the region is wide spread illegal collecting the remains of fossil animals, which have been conserved in the permafrost, and their illegal transportation abroad.

Wildlife and wildlife products are illegally transported from the northern districts of the republic by the following directions:

- west: by civil and military-transport aircrafts following the routes - Tiksi-Moscow, Tiksi-St.Petersburg;
- east: by sea (in summer) following the routes - northern ports of Yakutia - ports of Primorskiy and Khabarovskiy Krai; by road (in winter) following the route - north-eastern districts-Magadan;

Wildlife and wildlife products are illegally transported from the southern districts of the republic via the following routes:

- west: by road and by air following the routes - towards Irkutsk, Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk.;
- south: by rail and by road towards Blagoveshchensk in Amurskaya Oblast. Wildlife goods from northern and central districts are transported southwards by the Lena River in summer navigation. Wildlife goods are carried from Yakutsk by road to Amurskaya oblast, from Neriungri - by rail.
- south-east: by air and by road.

AMUR OBLAST

The Amur region covers 363,700 km² and has a population of 1,057,000 (Monakhov, 1998). Administrative centre of Amur Oblast is the city of Blagoveshchensk which is located at the Amur river the frontier between the Russian Federation and China in this region. Thus it is rather attractive for wildlife smugglers. There are two frontier motor-vehicle passages to China apart from Blagoveshchensk in Amurskaya Oblast. So, wildlife and wildlife products are smuggled only to China (with the exception of transit goods).

Major wildlife species poached in Amurskaya Oblast are:

- the ungulates: elk, Manchurian wapiti, roe deer, musk deer;

- predatory mammals: brown bear, lynx, racoon dog;
- fur-bearing animals: sable, ermines, minks, otter, squirrel, Siberian weasel;
- birds: pheasant.

Major wildlife products smuggled to China are :

- bile and pads of brown bear, musk of musk deer, and currently its carcasses also, antlers of the Manchurian wapiti stags, moccasins snakes;
- hides of fur-bearing animals: squirrel, minks, Siberian weasel, sable;
- pheasant carcasses;
- great Siberian sturgeon, Amur sturgeon (it is carried in winter from Khabarovskiy Krai).

Both local population and nationals of China temporary staying in Amurskaya Oblast, are engaged in poaching and smuggling the wildlife species. Large volumes of wildlife goods are illegally carried mainly by river and by road to China. River transport is used in summer on the Amur River. In winter motor-vehicle transport carries the goods from Blagoveshchensk to Heikhe by the icy surface of the Amur. Being located directly at the frontier with China, Blagoveshchensk offers a comfortable passage for derivatives (used in traditional oriental medicine) poached in other regions, in particular in Krasnoyarskiy and Khabarovskiy Krai, Republic Sakha, Irkutskaya Oblast and smuggled. Most usual places, where reselling the derivatives occurs, are Chinese market and Chinese residence halls. Total volume of smuggled abroad wildlife and wildlife products is relatively low, because the greatest part of these goods are transported to Primorsky Krai.

Currently, smugglers have expressed an increased interest for fossil animals of the Mesozoic and Cainozoic periods, which remains have been found by palaeontologists working on the territory of Amurskaya Oblast. There is information about the great interest in these remains from some citizens of Moscow, Sanct-Petersburg and Vladivostok.

KHABAROVSK KRAI

Khabarovsk Krai is 824,000 km² and has a population of 1,038,000. The centre of the territory is Khabarovsk with a population of 600,000. This city also harbours the largest airport of the Russian Far East (Monakhov, 1998).

The territory plays an important role in smuggling the wildlife and wildlife products. International airport and river port located in Khabarovsk, sea ports in Okhotsk, Nikolaevsk-na-Amure, Komsomol'sk-na-Amure, Vanino, motor-vehicle passages facilitate this process.

Major poached wildlife species in Khabarovsk Krai:

- predatory animals: tiger, brown bear, wolverine, badger, less frequent - lynx, racoon dog, fox;
- the ungulates: elk, Manchurian wapiti, roe deer, musk deer, boar;
- fur-bearing animals: sable, Siberian weasel, mink, , squirrel, Kamchatka marmot, beaver, ermine;
- reptiles: soft-shelled turtle, moccasin snakes, racers;
- amphibians: *Rana cruenta* and *Rana semiplicata*
- fishes: Siberian sturgeon, Sakhalin sturgeon, Amur sturgeon, Chinese perch, Amur bream

- birds: waterfowl - hen-like (hazel grouse, pheasant etc.).

Major smuggled wildlife products are as following:

- animals, parts of animals and derivatives used in traditional oriental medicine: antlers of the stags of maral, sika deer, reindeer, Manchurian deer; penises of ungulates; bile of brown and Asiatic black bears; musk of musk deers, castors, badger's fat, fat of frogs and moccasin snakes and their poison, fat of Far-East soft-shelled turtles, all parts of tiger, penises of fur seal;
- animals and their parts used in Chinese cooking: bear paws, frogs, carcasses of pheasant, serpents;
- hides of: squirrel, Siberian weasel, sable, racoon dog, mink, beaver, marmot, otter, fox;
- fish products of: great Siberian sturgeon, Sakhalin sturgeon, Amur sturgeon, Chinese perch, Amur bream, *Mylopharyngodon piceus*, caviar of sturgeons and salmons;
- products of cetaceans: meat and fat of white whale.

Wildlife and wildlife products are illegally carried by air, by road, by sea and by river. A considerable amount of these goods are moved to Primorsky Krai for subsequent reselling to middlemen and smuggling abroad.

Air transport. musk of musk deer, bear bile, small lot of antlers of reindeer stags are carried by air to South Korea. Bear bile, poison of moccasin snakes, small lot of antlers and furs, small volumes of caviar of the sturgeons and salmons are transported to China. Major groups of population engaged in this business are nationals of China, Korean Republic and the Russian Koreans. The goods are hidden under clothes, or in hand luggage. Caviar of Siberian sturgeon, Amur sturgeon, applied-art works made of wild animals are carried by air to USA and Japan.

River transport carries the wildlife goods being in demand among Chinese. Car transport is used to transport all kinds of wildlife and wildlife products to China. Parts of animals are hidden under the declared cargo and moved through the frontier passages within the Khabarovsk Krai, or Evreyskaya Autonomous Oblast.

Products of cetaceans: meat and fat of white whale, killer whale, grey whale are carried illegally to Japan. Poaching of pinnipeds, in particular bearded seal, is continuing at the Shantarskie Islands. In 1999 a fish farm located in the Lower Amur river was engaged in intensive catching of white whale to supply the Japanese markets. Production of the sturgeons poached in the Amur Limans is also illegally transported to Japan.

PRIMORSKY KRAI

Primorsky Krai borders the Sea of Japan from the east. It covers 165,900 km² and has a population of 2,225,000. The distance of the northern and the southern points is 900 km and the capital is Vladivostok, with a population of more than 800,000. The coastline of Primorsky Krai has two large ports: Vladivostok and Nakhodka (Monakhov, 1998).

Primorsky Krai is a centre of illegal wildlife trade in the Far East. Widely developed poaching, well developed infrastructure, Korean and Chinese middlemen - all these facts made this region very attractive for a criminal business in wildlife trade. Considerable number of points for crossing the

border also attracts wildlife smugglers. There are 9 sea ports, 5 highway passages and 3 railway passages over the border and international airport in Primorsky Krai. It should be noted, that visa-free regime is acting on the territory of Russia and China for the Russian and Chinese nationals.

Major wildlife species poached in Primorskiy Krai are:

- ungulates: Manchurian wapiti, sika deer, roe deer, musk deer, boar, ghoral.
- carnivores: tiger, leopard, lynx, racoon dog, badger, brown and Asiatic black bears, fox, Amur wild cat;
- fur-bearing animals: squirrel, Siberian weasel, sable, otter, mink, Alpine weasel;
- reptiles: moccasin snakes, racer, Far-East soft-shelled turtle;
- amphibians: *Rana semiplicata*, *Hyla japonica*, *Bufo bufo*, *Hynobius keyerlingi*, *Onychodactylus fischeri*
- birds: the all species of goose-like, owles, partridge, heron, azure-winged magpie, Steller's sea eagle, hazel grouse, pheasant;
- fishes: the salmons, Amur sturgeon, Sakhalin sturgeon, Chinese perche (in the Ussuri River) etc.;
- river crustaceans: crawfishes, woolly-handed crab;
- sea species: trepang, deep-sea scallop, crabs, etc.

Vladivostok, Ussuriysk, Nakhodka are the final locations in a criminal chain: poaching and smuggling of wildlife goods. Wildlife species poached in different regions of Russia - Altay, Siberia and Far East are carried in Primorskiy Krai for reselling, or for direct illegal transport to other countries - first of all to China, the Korean Republic, Japan and also Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, Korean People's Democratic Republic. Along with this, some wildlife species are carried by air and by road to western regions of Russia, first of all to Moscow and St. Petersburg, and also to Ukraine and the Baltic Region.

The following wildlife goods are smuggled from Primorskiy Krai:

- parts of animals, derivatives used in traditional oriental medicine, i.e. parts of the Amur tiger, Far East leopard, bile of brown, polar and Asiatic black bears, musk gland of musk deer, glands and liver bile of badger, antlers of Manchurian wapiti, maral, elk, sika deer and reindeer stags, blood and horns of ghoral, horns of saiga antelope, penises, tendons and tails of all deer species, penises of fur seal, bearded seal, walrus, Manchurian wapiti, maral and sika deer, poison of moccasin snake, poison of Far Eastern bee, fat of frog and hyla, secretion of toad, Far Eastern soft-shelled turtle, liver and bile of ravens, gallstones of tiger, leopard and of ungulates, medicinal plants
- animals and their parts used in Chinese for food: paws of brown and Asiatic black bears, meat of bears, ghoral and roe deer, frogs, urchins, moccasin snakes, racer and Far East soft-shelled turtle, pheasant, dried trepang, live Japan woolly-handed crab, dry scallops and crawfishes;
- fish production: Siberian sturgeon, Amur and Sakhalin sturgeons, caviar of the salmons and of the surgeons, Chinese perch, *Mylopharyngodon piceus*, lamprey, pike etc.;
- the furs: hides of squirrel, mink, sable, Alpine weasel, otter, fox, Arctic fox, Amur wild cat, black-capped marmot, Siberian weasel, wolverine;

- insects for entomologic collections and in commercial purposes.

According to the State Environmental Committee different wildlife species are currently exported by various organizations from the Primorsky Krai for scientific purposes. There is information to be verified that wildlife species are smuggled along with the legal export.

- Russian, Korean and Chinese middlemen are very active on the territory of Primorsky Krai. A final purpose of the Russian middlemen is to resell the goods to Chinese, or Korean nationals. Advertisements on purchase and sale of musk deer musk, bear bile, wild ginseng are usual phenomenon in the mass media and radio paging in Primorsky Krai. Most popular smuggled objects are trepang, ginseng, furs, musk of musk deer, bear bile, antlers of reindeer stags. Parts of the animals are intensively purchased in Vladivostok, Ussuriysk, Lesozavodsk, Dal'nerechensk, settlements Pogranichniy and Kavaleroovo.

The following points offer a passage for poached and smuggled wildlife goods:

- a) by sea: Vladivostok, Nakhodka, Zarubino, Slavianka, Ol'ga, Terney.
- b) by rail: Grodekovo.
- c) by road: Poltavka, Sosnovaya Pad', Markovo.
- d) by air: Artyem.

The customs officials are usually not able to examine all vehicles (the impeding factors: great flow of the motor vehicles, lack of the required loading and unloading facilities). Bribery of the customs officials, which salary is extremely low, must not be ruled out. Small amounts of wildlife goods are hidden under clothes, or in the hand luggage. There cases, when the wildlife derivatives are modified to carry abroad, e.g. bear meat and sturgeon are cut by Chinese nationals into the pieces supposedly to eat during the way to motherland.

Volumes of wildlife illegal import into Primorsky Krai are much lower than they are in Moscow, or in St. Petersburg. However, sometimes exotic animals are imported from Vietnam, Philippine, Indonesia, China, Korean Republic by sea and by air. Transportation of various goods made of the wildlife parts into Primorsky Krai is also popular. These are: medicinal preparations, souvenirs, leather production, food, and pet animals.

The following species and wildlife products are imported from Vietnam:

gibbon, slow loris, different parrot species, corals, mollusc shells, souvenirs made of hawksbill turtles, scorpions, beetles, butterflies, gekkos, lizard and sea horses, medicinal preparations of tiger bones, antlers of reindeer stags, ginseng and various tropic plants.

The following species are imported from the Philippines:

various species of parrots, souvenirs made of sea turtles, corals, and marine mollusc shells.

Parrots - sulphur-crested cockatoo, cockatoo parakeet, souvenirs of sea turtles, marine mollusc shells are carried from Indonesia. For example, in 1997 20 sulphur-crested cockatoos were bought illegally

in Indonesia by a Vladivostok based firm, however, only 4 of them were brought to Vladivostok alive, the rest had died.

The following species are imported illegally from the Republic of Korea:

slider turtles, aquarium fishes, ornamental plants (orchids, roses, chrysanthemum, carnations etc.).

Medicinal preparations of ginseng, bear bile, musk of musk deer, toad secretion are illegally imported from the People's Democratic Republic of Korea from time to time. For example, customs officials from Artyem and Khasan intercepted repeatedly medicinal preparations made of bear bile 1998-1999.

China exports illegally slider turtles, zebra parakeets, aquarium fish, medicinal preparations of ginseng, antlers of reindeer stags, tiger bones, bear bile and bee poison, alcohol tonics with serpents, ginseng, goods made of hides of wild species, medicinal teas composed of various plants and parts of animals, souvenirs made of insects.

Considerable amount of wildlife products prepared abroad (medicinal preparations of Chinese and Vietnam origin, goods made of the elephant leather, crocodile, serpents, guitarfish; tropical butterflies and beetles; different orchid species, cacti etc.) is imported into Primorsky Krai from Moscow and St. Petersburg.

In 1992-94 horns of saiga antelope were exported in great amount to Primorsky Krai from Kazakhstan for subsequent illegal transportation to China. However, the volumes of this export trade have decreased sharply since 1995, because presently major lines of smuggling of saiga horn pass directly through the Kazakhstan-Chinese border.

Commercial volumes of *Testudo horsfieldii* were being illegally carried to the region by military and transport aircraft from Tadzhikistan in 1998-99. Smaller numbers of *Testudo horsfieldii* are carried by rail from Moscow to supply the pet shops. Isolated attempts to smuggle *Testudo horsfieldii* to China through the far-eastern customs posts were being recorded in 1998-99.

Trade in Insects

Illegal collection and illegal import-export of insects are very popular in Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai and in the Republic of Sakha. To a lesser extent in Amurskaya and Sakhalinskaya Oblasts.

In fact a great part of the shops that sell souvenirs, is engaged in the trade of illegally collected insect species and souvenirs made of them. Specimens listed in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation as well as species listed CITES are sold in these shops. It was revealed during a special inspections of these shops, that there were no CITES import permits, nor the required papers for the legal collection of the species that are listed in the Red Data book.

Insects are illegally exported to the Russian Far East from China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. However, a large volume of insects to be sold commercially is obtained from Moscow. Professional and amateur entomologists from Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, Artyem are

middlemen in this. Small-scale entrepreneurs are engaged in delivering the souvenirs made of insects (trinkets, table and wall adornments). Small lots (30-50 pieces) are carried by air, by rail and by road. Isolated specimens are some times carried in by tourists, businessmen, and persons that work in the countries of south-eastern Asia. The goods are imported mainly by air through the airports in Khabarovsk and Vladivostok.

Analysis of the goods sold in the souvenir shops and art show rooms of the cities in the Russian Far East indicate, that the following tropic species and souvenirs made of them imported most frequently:

- Lepidoptera: *Papilio adamanfius*, *Papilio blumei*, *Kallima paralekta*, *Helikonida erota*, *Preponaeugehes spec.*, *Prepona deophon*, *Heliconius spec.*, *Morpho menelaus*, *Morpho didius*, *Morpho sulkowski*, *Morpho deidamia*, *Papilio ulisses*, *Papilio lysithous*, *Papilio hypolitus*, *Papilio brookiana*, *Hebomoia glaucippe*, *Papilio androcles*, *Hebomia glaucippe*, *Parthenos sylvius* etc.
- Coleoptera: *Dicranorrhina micans*, *Rhamorrhima splendida*, *Dynastes hereules*, *Enpatorus gracilieornis* etc.

Souvenirs made of scorpions are often carried in from Thailand and Vietnam. In December 1999 one of the servicemen carried by military and transport aircraft from Vietnam about fifty trinkets made of scorpions. There is a case, when entomologist from Vladivostok carried on his body live *Phyllium siccifolium* hidden under his clothes. Considerable number of butterflies and beetles are delivered to Primorsky Krai from Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia by mail in exchange for national far-eastern species.

Three to five expeditions come each year to collect illegally insects on the territories of Yakutiya, Primorsky and Khabarovsky Krai. These are citizens of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Saratov, nationals of the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Germany, the USA and Japan. The insects collected are then transported to Moscow, or St. Petersburg and are then smuggled to Eastern and Western Europe, the USA, or Japan. The Moscovites are active participants of this business. Annually about five groups from Moscow collect the insects in Primorsky Krai. Usually a group consists of 4-5 persons: 2-3 collectors, one cooker and one security man. The insects are collected in July-August. At the end of the season the groups come together usually in a settlement called Komissarovka to review their work. Local entomologists are also engaged in the intensive collection of insects for transportation to Moscow, or St. Petersburg, or mailing to countries of Indo-China, where the entomological business is well developed. Especially great anxiety is caused by the nationals of China, which collect illegally a great amount of insects (butterflies and beetles). These insects, are smuggled in form of wall adornment and in collection boxes after appropriate decoration and addition of tropical species.

Thus, collection materials of butterflies and beetles are illegally exported from the Russian Far East to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Japan, and also through the western regions of the country to Germany, Czechia, Hungary, the USA etc. A considerable amount is bought by Moscow middlemen for subsequent reselling abroad, or for exchanging on tropic species, which are sold after appropriate execution in the Far-eastern applied art show rooms, or souvenir shops.

The following far-eastern species are most intensively illegally collected and smuggled:

- Lepidoptera: *Brahmea certhia*, *Actias artemis*, *Nossa palaeartica*, *Eurydoxa adrena*, *Atrophaneura alcinous*, *Parnasius eversmani*, *Sericinus montela*, *Luehdorfia puziloi*, *Apatura schrenckii*, *Apatura iris*, *Argynnis zenobia*, *Sephisia dichroa*, *Lycaenopsis filipjevi*, *Epicopeia mencia*, *Papilio maackii*, *Kaniska canace*;
- Coleoptera: *Carabus lopatini*, *C. constricticollis*, *C. jankowskii*, *Lucanus spec.*, *Callipogon relictus*, *Rosalia coelestis* etc.;

Almost all these species are included in the Russian Red Data Book. There are attempts to breed certain butterfly species in captivity. However, the total production volume of these projects, i.e. for *Papilio maackii* is so far insignificant.

Trade in Medicinal Plants

Available information on collection and transportation of medicinal plants growing in the Far East indicates an increase in the number of exported species and their volumes. Unfortunately the volumes of the plant species listed in the Russian Red Data Book and illegally collected and exported have increased too. It is required to note, that there are incidents, where local authorities break the Federal laws and give the permissions to various companies and organizations to collect medicinal plants listed in the Red Data Book..

Major collected medicinal plants are:

- fruits, berries and seeds of brier, magnolia-vine, haw, partridgeberry, Amur oak tree, ginseng, Manchurian walnut, lotus, cedar;
- roots and rhizomes of ginseng, Manchurian udo, High udo, *Eleutherococci*, *Acorus*, licorice, inula, *Opolopanax elatus*, *Acantopanax spp.*, *Rodiola roseae*, red peony, *Paeonia mlokosevitchii*, *Dioscorea nipponica*, thyme, *Astragalus*, milkwort, hazelwort,
- bark of Amur oak tree, oak, Manchurian birthwort, licorice;
- leaves of partridgeberry, *Convallaria keiske*, milkwort, udo, *Kalaopanax septemlobus*, the orchides, lotus, rhododendron;
- stems and sprouts of, tea plant, magnolia-vine, *Lespedeza spp.*, birthwort;
- bulbs of *Lilium dauricum*, the far-eastern orchids.
- tubers of *Dioscorea nipponica* and the far-eastern orchids.

Wild ginseng, *Convallaria keiske*, pine nuts, roots of *Eleutherococci*, *Rodiola roseae*, parts of magnolia-vine, *Dioscorea nipponica*, Amur oak tree and udos are most intensively collected. In 1999-2000 numerous facts on purchasing of oak bark from the local population by the Chinese nationals were revealed. Ground bark is sold at the price of 200 RUB per bag.

References:

Monakhov, V. (1998): The Fishery Industry in the Russian Far East. FAO/Eastfish, Fishery Industry Profile, Vol. 19. Copenhagen

AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

Monday, 15. November 1999

14.00- Arrival & registration of participants

Tuesday, 16. November 1999

9.00h Opening Ceremony

Welcoming speech by:

Tom De Meulenaer, Director of TRAFFIC Europe

Valentin Ilyashenko, Deputy-Head of the Russian CITES Management Authority

Karin V. Elliot, Representative of the Global Survival Network

Part I:

Wildlife trade and wildlife trade Regulations in the Russian Far East and North East Asia

Moderator: Valentin Ilyashenko (CITES Management Authority of Russia)

Wildlife trade in the Russian Far East - an overview

by Alexey Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe - Russia

Basic CITES Provisions and Regional Characteristics

by Valentin Ilyashenko, CITES Management Authority of Russia

Presentation Session I. Custom procedures and controls for trade with CITES Specimens.

Customs provisions for CITES Specimens in trade.

Procedures for illegally traded specimens.

Disposal of confiscated specimens.

Presentations by representatives of the Russian Federation,

the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea

Presentation Session II. Legal framework for performing CITES trade controls.

Review of existing legislation with brief characteristic and evaluation of their effectiveness and practical use.

Co-operation and collaboration with foreign states.

Presentations by representatives of the Russian Federation,

the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea

Evening Session

Special: Poaching and Human-Tiger conflicts in the Russian Far East

Video session + open discussion forum

Moderator: Representative of the Russian Anti-poaching brigade

Wednesday, 17. November 1999

Part II:

Enforcing wildlife trade controls

Moderator: Tom De Meulenaer (TRAFFIC Europe)

Illegal wildlife trade in the region - an overview

- **Tigers in the Russian Far East**
by Pavel V. Fomenko, WWF-RPO-RFE
- **Overview of the work of the Inspection "Tiger"**
by Egor Kopaev, Fund Phoenix
- **Conserving Musk Deer - the use of and trade in wild musk**
by Stephanie Theile, TRAFFIC Europe
- **Ginseng in the Russian Far East**
by Alexey Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe-Russia
- **Traditional East Asian Medicines in East Asia**
by Vincent Chen, TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei
- **Trade in marine species in the Russian Far East**
by Alexey Vaisman, TRAFFIC Europe-Russia
- **Halting the illegal trade in animals and plants in Russia: the role of the WWF Russian Programme office**
by Alexander Shestakov, WWF RPO

Presentation Session III. Detecting and identifying CITES specimens in trade.

Procedure for detecting wildlife in trade and evaluation of their efficiency.
Proposals to improve existing procedures.

Presentations by representatives of the Russian Federation,
the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea

Presentation session IV. CITES training for Customs Officers.

Current training activities.

Training needs.

Presentations by representatives of the Russian Federation,
the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea

Thursday, 18. November 1999

Part III:

Improving wildlife trade controls in the Region

Moderator: Alexander Shestakov, WWF-RPO)

Discussion forum: Regional collaboration for a better implementation of CITES and to improve wildlife trade controls.

Items for discussion:

- The need to conserve the regions' biodiversity.
- Improving regional collaboration and co-ordination on CITES trade controls.
- International agreements on CITES implementation.
- Exchange of samples and models of documents, signatures, and stamps.
- Streamlining identification and investigation procedures.
- Joint development and exchange of manuals, training materials and instructions.
- National legislation and their compatibility with CITES provisions.
- Information exchange on modifications in national and local legislation.
- Joint training for Customs Officers and other wildlife trade control agencies of the countries of the region.

Discussion on the workshop results. Closing ceremony.

PRESS RELEASE

The International Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia. Vladivostok, Russia, 18 November 1999

An International Workshop on North East Asian wildlife trade was held in Vladivostok, Russia, from 15 to 18 November, 1999. The Workshop was organised by the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection and TRAFFIC Europe. The State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation and the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection invited representatives from the Russian Federation, the Peoples Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, who agreed to collaborate closely to improve controls of the international trade in wild plants and animals in the region.

The trade in many of the wild species that cross the borders in North East Asia is regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), to which all three participating countries are signatory Parties. Still other species that are protected in the Russian Federation, are illegally harvested and exported from there to neighbouring countries.

The International Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia brought together delegates from the Customs Administrations and the CITES Management Authorities of the three countries, representatives from the Russian Environment Committees from Moscow and Primorsky Krai, and wildlife trade experts and participants from national and international Non-Governmental Organizations.

During the workshop, the delegates reviewed a large amount of up-to-date information on the conservation status and the legal and illegal trade in a number of species that occur in North East Asia, and which are of common concern. These species include Tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*; Leopard, *Panthera pardus altaica*; Brown Bear, *Ursus arctos*; Asiatic Black Bear, *Ursus tibethanus*; and Musk deer, *Moschus* spp.; which are all listed in CITES.

Attention was also drawn to the trade in Sea cucumbers, which are protected in Russia, but appear to be heavily exploited for export to Asian countries.

It was noted that the Russian Federation had submitted to the next Conference of the Parties to CITES a proposal to include Asian Ginseng, *Panax ginseng*, in Appendix II of the Convention.

The participants recognised the threats posed to the unique biodiversity of North East Asia by unregulated or unsustainable cross boarder trade, and agreed that the CITES Authorities, Customs

Administrations, and other enforcement bodies in the three countries should co-operate effectively at a national and regional international level to strengthen the implementation of CITES and to stop illegal trade with CITES listed species.

During comprehensive discussions at the meeting, the participants agreed that the following actions would significantly improve CITES implementation and enforcement in North East Asia:

- to organize close collaboration and co-operation between Customs administrations on exchange of information relevant to CITES enforcement and implementation;
- to exchange models of, and official signatures on, CITES permits and certificates, as well as models of any other legal documents associated with or required for CITES transactions;
- to exchange and provide translations in each others languages of the texts of national CITES implementing legislation, and to review the CITES implementing legislation in each of the three countries with the aim to assess their compliance with the provisions of CITES, and to undertake the necessary steps to address possible gaps and weaknesses;
- to provide mutual technical support for monitoring and controlling CITES listed species in trade;
- to organize national and international capacity building and training activities;
- to ensure that public awareness and education activities are conducted.

Finally, it was agreed that the results of the International Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia needed to be made available to the relevant authorities in other North East Asian countries.

The participants recognised the great importance of regional collaboration to implement CITES, and appealed to the CITES Secretariat, the Parties to CITES, Governmental and Intergovernmental Aid Agencies, the World Customs Organisation (WCO), the International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO-Interpol), World Wide Fund Nature (WWF), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), TRAFFIC and other Non-Governmental Organisations to help and support this effort.

The participants expressed their gratitude to Save the Tiger Fund for the financial support provided for the workshop, and to the main organizers of the workshop, TRAFFIC Europe, in collaboration with Global Survival Network (GSN), Fund Phoenix, the Russian Program Office of WWF, and TRAFFIC East Asia.

LIST OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Governmental Organisations

RUSSIA

Sergei N. Liapustin
Deputy-Head of the Division for the Struggle
against the
Most Dangerous Kinds of Smuggling
66A, Prospekt Krasnogo Znameni,
690000 Vladivostok, Russia
Tel.: +7 4232 42 33 74

Galina P. Sherbina
Head of Division
2A, 1-ya Morskaya St.
690000 Vladivostok, Russia
Tel.: +7 4232 41 20 40

Igor V. Sazonov
Senior Officer of Far Eastern Custom
Investigating Division
66A, Prospekt Krasnogo Znameni,
690000 Vladivostok, Russia
Tel.: +7 4232 42 33 74

Alexey G. Abramov
Head of the Division for Non-Tariff Controls
2A, 1-ya Morskaya St.
690000 Vladivostok, Russia
Tel.: +7 4232 41 20 40

Vladimir G. Svinykhov
Deputy-Director
Russian Custom Academy Vladivostok Branch
16v. Strekovaya St.
690034 Vladivostok, Russia
Tel.: +7 4232 23 76 41

Russian CITES Management

Authority

Valentin Y. Ilyashenko
Head of Department of Biodiversity Conservation
8-1, Kedrova St., 117874 Moscow, Russia
Tel.: +7 095 124 5301

Tatiana Y. Beliakova
Officer of Department of Biodiversity
Conservation
8-1, Kedrova St., 117874 Moscow, Russia
Tel.: +7 095 127 8510

Moscow Regional Environmental Committee

Vladimir V. Krivtsov
Officer
11-1, Novy Arbat, 121019 Moscow, Russia
Tel.: +7 095 202 2260

State Environmental Committee of Primorsky Krai

Michael N. Bibikov
Chairman of Committee
93, Pushkinskaya St.,
690091 Vladivostok, Russia
Tel.: +7 4232 22 03 02

Sergei A. Subtzov
Head of Inspection "Tiger"
93, Pushkinskaya St.,
690091 Vladivostok, Russia
Tel.: +7 4232 22 80 65

Boris I. Litvinov
Deputy-Head of Inspection "Tiger"
93, Pushkinskaya St.,
690091 Vladivostok, Russia
Tel.: +7 274 91 707

CHINA

Custom General Administration of the P.R. China

Wu Genping
Deputy Director, Trade Administration Division
6 Jian Guo Men Nei Avenue
Beijing 100730
Tel.: +86 10 65 19 52 44
Fax.: +86 10 65 19 53 94

Guo Bangbiao
Trade Administration Division
6 Jian Guo Men Nei Avenue
Beijing 100730
Tel.: +86 10 65 19 52 44
Fax.: +86 10 65 19 53 94

Zheng Kun
Foreign Affair Officer
Kunming Customs of the PR of China
No. 618 Beijing Road
650051 Kunming Yunnan, China
Tel.: +871 30 16 222

Yang Gengshun
Suifenhe Custom

CITES Management Authority

Zhai Baoguo
Deputy Chief
International Communication Division
18 Hepingli Dongjie, Beijing 100 714, P.R. China
Tel.: +86 10 842 39 014
Fax.: +86 10 842 56 388
cnma@public.fhnet.cn.net

Zhang Qi
Programme Officer
Fauna Import and Export Management Division
18 Hepingli Dongjie
Beijing 100 714, P.R. China
Tel.: +86 10 842 39 014
Fax.: +86 10 653 24 851
cnma@public.fhnet.cn.net

KOREA

Korean Custom Service

Dong-Kyoon Shon
Deputy Director of the Trade Cooperation
Division
Information & International Affairs Bureau
Government Complex Taejon, 920
Dunsandong, Seo-gu, Taejon, 302-701
Republic of Korea
Tel.: +82 42 48 17 963 / 47 22 196
Fax.: +82 42 48 17 969

Ministry of Environment

Chang-Man Won
Research Wildlife Ecologist
National Institute of Environmental Research
613-2, Bulkwang-dong, Eunpyung-gu,
Seoul 122-706, Republic of Korea
Tel.: +82 2 389 42 98
Fax.: +82 2 388 79 87
wonkorea@chollian.dacom.co.kr

Korea Food and Drug Administration

Jung-Yeon Kim
Senior Pharmacist of the Pharmaceutical Safety
Division, Pharmaceutical Safety Bureau
5, Nokbun-dong, Eunpyung-gu,
Seoul 133-704
Tel.: +82 2 380 18 46
Fax.: +82 2 359 69 65

Non-governmental Organizations

TRAFFIC Network

Tom De Meulenaer
Director, TRAFFIC Europe
608, Chaussee de Waterloo
1050 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 343 8258
Fax.: +32 2 343 25 65
tdemeulenaer@traffic-europe.com

Stephanie Theile
Research Officer, TRAFFIC Europe
608, Chaussee de Waterloo
1050 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 343 8258
Fax.: +32 2 343 25 65
stheile@traffic-europe.com

Alexey L. Vaisman
National Representative
TRAFFIC Europe – Russia
c/o WWF Russia Programme Office
PO Box 3, 109240 Moscow, Russia
Tel.: +7 095 264 99 48
Fax.: +7 095 264 99 27
vaisman@deol.ru

Natalia A. Dronova
Programme and Administrative Assistant
TRAFFIC Europe – Russia
c/o WWF Russia Programme Office
PO Box 3, 109240 Moscow, Russia
Tel.: +7 095 264 99 48
Fax.: +7 095 264 99 27
vaisman@deol.ru

Vincent Y. Chen
Senior Programme Officer
TRAFFIC East Asia – Taipei
PO Box 7-476, Taipei 106, Taiwan
Tel.: +886 2 23 62 17 53
Fax.: +886 2 23 62 97 99
teatai@ms51.hinet.net

GLOBAL SURVIVAL NETWORK

Karin V. Elliot
Coordinator of the Russian Far East Program
165 Svetlanskaya Street, Suite 307
Vladivostok, Russia 690001
Tel. & Fax: +7 4232 21 52 08 / 21 51 69
gsnrfe@mail.primorye.ru

Richard R. Scharalt
Deputy Program Coordinator
PO Box 73214
Washington, DC 20009
Tel.: +1-202-387 00 32
Fax.: +1-202-387 25 90
ingsn@hotmail.com

Phoenix Fund

Egor N. Kopaev
Director of Phoenix Fund
165 Svetlanskaya Street, Suite 307
Vladivostok, Russia 690001
Tel.: +7 4232 21 52 08

Sergey L. Bereznuik
Officer, Phoenix Fund
165 Svetlanskaya Street, Suite 307
Vladivostok, Russia 690001
Tel.: +7 4232 21 52 08

IUCN

Olga N. Krever
Officer, IUCN Russian Representation
Marshala Vasilevskogo, 17,
123182 Moscow, Russia
Tel.: +7 095 190 46 55
onk_iucnmos@interset.ru

WWF- World Wide Fund for Nature

Vladimir G. Krever
Biodiversity Conservation Officer
WWF - Russian Program Office (RPO)
PO Box 3, 109240 Moscow, Russia
Tel.: +7 095 727 09 39
vkrever@wwfnet.org

Proceedings of the International Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia held in Vladivostok in November 1999

Alexander Shestakov
Law Officer
WWF - Russian Program Office (RPO)
PO Box 3, 109240 Moscow, Russia
Tel.: +7 095 727 09 39
ashestakov@wwf.org

Pavel V. Fomenko
Biodiversity Conservation Officer
WWF RPO – Russian Far East Office
Pologaya St. 68, 411
690091 Vladivostok
Tel.: +7 4232 40 66 51 / 52 / 53
Fax.: +7 4232 43 09 58
wwfrfe@vld.global-one.ru