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Bear trade meeting to be held in Asia for the first time

by Judy Mills, Director, TRAFFIC East Asia

Most of Asia's wild bear populations are threatened, and Asia is also the global centre for use of bear bile as medicine. These two factors make Asia the ideal location for the *Third International Symposium on the Trade in Bear Parts*, which TRAFFIC East Asia is organizing to take place in South Korea, 9-11 September 1999.



European Brown Bear *Ursus arctos*

© David Lawson/WWF-UK

Five of the world's eight bear species are at risk in the wild. All eight bear species are listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which means international trade in all bear parts and products is subject to trade controls and some restrictions. Nonetheless illegal trade in bear parts, especially bear gall bladders for medicinal and tonic use, continues and is endangering some wild bear populations.

The first international symposium on the trade in bear parts was organized by TRAFFIC, together with WWF-US, the Woodland Park Zoo of Seattle, USA and the IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group in 1992. This meeting brought together a variety of people, including traditional medicine specialists, law enforcement authorities and wildlife conservation groups. At the request of some participants, the same organizers convened a second symposium on the same subject in 1997, again in Seattle, so new research and information could be exchanged.

The focus of the September symposium will be sharing new information to help improve implementation of and compliance with controls on trade in bear parts, with the purpose of helping to conserve bears in the wild and stopping illegal trade in bear parts. The agenda will include presentations on the status of bears in the wild; research on substitutes for bear bile in traditional medicine; forensic identification of bear gall bladders and bile; monitoring of the bear parts trade; and the status of world consumption of

bear bile.

The organizers hope this symposium will attract more participation from the traditional medicine industry than ever before. Traditional medicine specialists and wildlife conservationists are increasingly working together for the sake of the earth's biodiversity and to ensure adequate human health care.

The symposium will not be solely about trade in bear parts for medicinal use. It will examine the trade in bear parts as food, ornaments and trophies. Participants will discuss issues of sustainable versus unsustainable use, the cultural differences in using bears as a natural resource, animal welfare considerations, and how these and other considerations complicate the trade in bear parts in today's global community.

Holding this symposium in Asia will be an important step forward for the issue as a whole, as most of the consumers of bear parts as medicine and food are in Asia, while most of Asia's wild bear populations are facing increasing threats to their survival. A venue in the heart of Asia will help increase public and industry awareness of the many conservation threats faced by the world's wild bears and, at the same time, bring together more people involved in both consumption and conservation of bears in Asia.

To show its support for bear conservation, the Government of the Republic of Korea has agreed to be a sponsor of the symposium. South Koreans are one of the largest consumer groups for bear bile and bear gall bladders for use in treating and preventing liver disease. Over the past few years, Korean Customs has seized hundreds of kilos of bear gall bladders and bile being brought into the country illegally. The Korean government recognizes this problem, and hopes that holding the symposium in Seoul will raise public awareness about the illegality of smuggling bear products.

For more information, contact TRAFFIC East Asia, Room 2001, Double Building, 22 Stanley Street, Central, Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2530 0587; Fax: +852 2530 0864; E-mail: tea@asiaonline.net

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TRAFFIC co-hosts Healthy People, Healthy Wildlife Symposium

TRAFFIC Oceania co-hosted a symposium on wildlife conservation and traditional Chinese medicine in Melbourne during March. The symposium, the second of its kind to be held in Australia, was jointly hosted by TRAFFIC Oceania, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and Environment Australia.

The symposium, *Healthy People, Healthy Wildlife: A Symposium on Wildlife Conservation and Chinese Medicine*, stimulated communication and helped build bridges between the Chinese medicine community and government regulatory authorities. It drew together Chinese medicine practitioners and students in Melbourne; participants from elsewhere in Australia; government authorities; and medicine practitioners from China and Hong Kong.

Participants presented information on all aspects of the regulation of Chinese medicine as well as the use and history of Chinese medicine in Australia and alternatives to the use of endangered species as medicinal ingredients.

A particular focus was the newly passed amendments to the *Australian Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982*. These amendments, passed in March 1999, allow prosecution to take place for the illegal import and possession of medicines labeled as containing endangered species, without the need to prove that the products actually contain the species claimed.

The amendments, long recommended by TRAFFIC Oceania, formed an important part of the discussion as did pending regulation of the Chinese medicine profession in Victoria. This regulation will be the first of its kind in Australia. It establishes requirements for practitioners in Chinese medicine, as well as a professional conduct board to oversee the profession.

The first symposium, held in Sydney in August 1997, attracted more than 140 participants.

-- Jane Holden, Senior Programme Officer, TRAFFIC Oceania

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TRAFFIC opens new office in Vietnam

In April, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia opened a national office in Vietnam, a move that will enable it to support and implement projects in the Indochina subregion. The new development brings the number of TRAFFIC offices worldwide to 21.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Vietnam is co-located with the WWF Indochina Programme Office. It has received funding from WWF-UK and WWF-US for the next financial year and further assistance is being sought to secure its long-term viability.

The office, led by National Representative James Compton, will gather information on the trade in a variety of wildlife and their parts and products in Vietnam, including Tiger, bears, *Gecko gecko*, pangolins, fruit bats and sharks. It will also develop links with national management and scientific and enforcement authorities on the medicinal use of wild plants and animals in Vietnam.



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Taiwan establishes orchid registration scheme

On April 16, authorities in Taiwan officially announced the establishment of a slipper orchid nursery registration system, the development of which TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei has been contributing to for two years. The nursery registration system complements earlier measures introduced in 1998 to control trade in plants covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

All orchid species are listed in CITES. The new orchid nursery registration system initially will apply to *Paphiopedilum* spp. and *Phragmipedium* spp. These two genera of orchids are listed in Appendix I so only artificially propagated specimens may be commercially imported or exported.

Taiwan has become an important producer of artificially propagated orchids, with approximately 20% of its production for the domestic market and the remaining 80% for export. Important commercially grown orchids include *Phalaenopsis*, *Cymbidium*, *Oncidium*, *Cattleya* and *Paphiopedilum*.

Since 1997, TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei and the Department of Horticulture at National Chiayi Institute of Technology have been contributing to development of the nursery registration system, which is modeled on a system developed by Thailand. The nursery registration system aims to be an effective tool to verify whether orchids from these two genera are artificially propagated and thereby prevent illegal trade in wild-harvested orchids from Taiwan.

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Legislative reform needed urgently in Japan

TRAFFIC East Asia continued its push for legislative reform in Japan earlier this year with the release of a new survey showing continued widespread availability of Tiger products on the domestic market.



© WWF/Martin Harvey

Indian tiger *Panthera tigris tigris*

While the survey found dispensaries and pharmacies selling medicinal products claiming to contain Tiger, Tiger bone wine and Tiger bone itself, existing government regulations cover only Tiger hair, fur and claws and products derived from these. The sale of products classified as pharmaceuticals is also covered but many of the Tiger products confirmed on sale are not classified as pharmaceuticals.

"Although availability of Tiger products on the market has declined compared with our previous surveys carried out in 1994 and 1996, it remains easy to obtain medicinal products containing Tiger bone in Japan," said Akiko Ishihara of TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan. "It is very important to close these legal loopholes at home."

WWF Japan and TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan released the findings in February to coincide with the last day of the Year of the Tiger in the Chinese lunar calendar. The findings and recommendations for action were submitted directly to the Environment Agency and the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Japan. Japanese citizens were also asked to express their support for amending the domestic trade controls through a petition, which had received more than 35 000 signatures as of late April.

The survey, conducted between October 1998 and January 1999, included visits to 54 dispensaries and pharmacies as well as telephone surveys of 1019 Chinese restaurants and 122 food wholesalers and retailers in Japan.

Of 54 dispensaries and pharmacies visited, 30 sold purported Tiger products, including items such as Tiger bone powder and Tiger bone itself that had not been found in previous surveys. Tiger penis and vitality drinks were also on

sale. Six of the 888 restaurants that participated in the survey said that they sold or kept Chinese liquor containing Tiger parts, although 20 said that it was possible to stock such products. Of the 122 wholesalers and retailers, two reported selling Tiger bone wine.

For more information, [click here for the full text of the study](#) or contact TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan: Tel: +81 3 3769 1716; Fax: +81 3 3769 1304; E-mail: trafficjapan@twics.com

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Sustaining medicinal plant resources of the Indian Subcontinent

An action plan gets under way

India is home to nearly one billion people and a variety of traditional medicine systems, which include Ayurvedic, Unani, Tibetan and local and folklore medicine. The use and trade of wild medicinal plants to supply India's own health care needs and a growing export market is widespread, even as many of the region's plant populations and the habitats upon which they depend may be declining.

TRAFFIC India is undertaking a comprehensive three-year approach to help secure the future of medicinal plant resources of the Indian subcontinent. This work is part of a multi-regional TRAFFIC project supported by Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (BMZ) through an agreement with WWF. The project includes activities in East Asia, the Indian subcontinent, South America and at the wider international level.

In India, the most important first step was to establish a solid foundation for detailed research and conservation efforts. One part of this included creating an advisory group of representatives from other conservation groups; industry; research and education institutes; and government. The advisory group has provided advice on a number of project components and was expanded in late 1998 to include a representative from the Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy.

TRAFFIC India Director Manoj Misra also participated in a government group of experts to revise the "negative list of medicinal plants", a list of indigeneous species banned from export. The final list, agreed by the government, includes 29 medicinal plant species.

Following the meetings, TRAFFIC India organized a two-day meeting in December 1998 for the exchange of information between indigenous medicine manufacturers; traders; exporters; practitioners; non-governmental organizations; various government departments; and others. The meeting drew more than 40 participants and was inaugurated by the Secretary of the Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy.

Future work in this project will focus on the collection of comprehensive

market information and development of tools for local organizations, agencies and industry to assist in the sustainable use and conservation of these resources.

In addition, three workshops are planned for the coming year. The first will bring together Indian traditional medicine practitioners; the second, traders and growers of medicinal plants; and the third, government agencies involved in the use and conservation of medicinal plants. Emphasis will be placed on the common problems faced and the respective roles that each sector can and needs to play in ensuring that trade in medicinal plants of the Indian subcontinent is maintained within sustainable levels.

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TRAFFIC completes marine resource survey

by Nina Marshall, Senior Programme Officer,
TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

The Western Indian Ocean has been an important source of food and other products for its coastal peoples for centuries. Many of these products have been traded regionally and beyond, and in recent decades this trade has expanded substantially. Harvest for local use and export today represents an important source of income for local communities, traders and governments. Conservation and management of these resources, however, is insufficient to ensure a sustainable harvest and in many areas over-exploitation is evident.

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa first investigated the trade in marine resources in this region in 1995 and 1996 by conducting a review of the trade in sharks and shark products. This survey revealed that shark fisheries throughout the Western Indian Ocean are substantial, but are largely unmanaged and unregulated. Exploitation is being carried out with minimal information on the status of the resource or the implications for conservation.

Prompted by concerns about other fisheries found during the shark research, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa initiated a survey of trade in sea cucumbers, seashells (from marine molluscs) and lobsters in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique during 1997 and 1998. The aim of this work was to gather information to help improve the future management, conservation and regulation of these marine resources. This study entailed the review of available production and export statistics, comparison of these statistics with data from key importing countries, and local level research comprising investigations and interviews with fishermen, traders, scientists and government officials in all three countries.

TRAFFIC's research revealed that all three groups of marine resources are extremely important revenue earners in the region, but that improved management is needed to ensure a sustainable fishery.



© Jose Alves/Endangered Wildlife Trust

A lobster catch in Mozambique

The lobster catch is comprised of spiny lobsters caught by artisanal fishermen using traps and spears, and deep water lobsters caught in trawls, mostly off Mozambique. Lobsters are a high-value resource sold to hotels and restaurants for the tourist industry or exported to markets in Europe and Japan. Official landing statistics are often inaccurate, as many fishermen do not report landings to national fisheries departments. Export statistics are likewise unrepresentative of actual trading activity, as data from importing countries rarely correlates.

Legislation regulating harvest and trade for lobsters is poor; only Mozambique limits the size of lobsters that can be caught, only Kenya prohibits the harvest of pregnant females, and Tanzania has no legislation specific to lobsters at all. In all countries surveyed, reports of harvest of immature lobsters were frequent, alongside reports of diminishing numbers of large lobsters. Improved landings and export statistics are needed to allow fisheries departments to understand actual harvest and trade levels, and regulations setting limits on the minimum size of lobsters caught would be useful to ensure that lobsters are able to reproduce before capture.



Seashells, other curios and vegetables on sale in Tanga market, Tanzania

Sea cucumbers are an important, but recent, resource for artisanal fishermen in the region. Sea cucumbers are harvested solely for export, primarily to Asian markets. Sea cucumbers are collected, and dried and processed by artisanal fishermen, and the exported product, known as *bêche de mer*, is regarded as a delicacy in Asian countries. The major importers of East African *bêche de mer* are Hong Kong and Singapore.

During this survey it was found that sea cucumbers are becoming scarce in all three countries surveyed, and that this fishery follows a "boom and bust" pattern of harvest, over-exploitation, eventual decline of the fishery and the subsequent need to search for new stocks. Fisheries departments have little information about actual trade levels, for example Kenyan exports for the period 1988 to 1997 were reported at 314.7 tonnes, while imports by other countries of sea cucumbers from Kenya were reported at 630.3 tonnes. Fishermen and traders alike report declines in sizes of sea cucumbers, pointing to the need for a minimum size limit and regulations aimed at improving management and encouraging sustainable harvest.

Seashells from a wide variety of marine mollusc species are valued in the region for commercial and industrial purposes for road and building construction, and as additives in floor tiles, pottery, toothpaste and poultry feed because of the concentration of calcium carbonate. Seashells are also valued for ornamental purposes, and are sold locally to tourists as well as exported. Some local species are used in Italy for the manufacture of cameos.



Seashells are valued in the region for commercial, industrial and ornamental purposes. They are also sold locally for tourists and exported

Data on the harvest of marine molluscs for their shells is incomplete at best; most shells are harvested by women and children who collect them from shallow waters and rarely report harvests to fisheries officers. Export statistics for shells are often of little value, and in Kenya this is especially the case as statistics do not indicate the species exported or even purpose of export. Tanzania and Mozambique have better information, and do record exports if not by species at least by genus. Both Tanzania and Kenya are known to import seashells from neighboring countries, although this trade is not documented. While this could be the result of local depletion and declines in large-sized individuals, this conclusion cannot be supported because of lack of information on the status of the resource, and minimal species-specific information. Nonetheless, one key finding from TRAFFIC's research was that management is inadequate to address the needs of particular mollusc species, and declines have indeed been reported in some areas for some species.

Overall, TRAFFIC's study found that data on the population status of all three groups of species are insufficient to develop and implement appropriate conservation and management strategies for these important marine resources. While some resource surveys have been carried out in past decades for lobsters, little has been done with the information and the recommendations, in particular that minimum size limits should be imposed for harvest, have been ignored. Sea cucumber and marine mollusc research has been insufficient, and at present resource managers do not have the most basic information about distribution and population on which to base harvest regulations. Therefore, this research points to the urgent need to carry out resource surveys. In the mean time, there are areas where attention could be focused, the most obvious being the improvement of production and export statistics. At present fisheries departments in all countries surveyed do not have accurate harvest and trade data. This fact surely impedes the development of management plans and conservation strategies.

Finally, the artisanal nature of these fisheries must be taken into consideration in future conservation and management strategies. Local communities and their fishermen rely heavily on revenue earned from the sale of seashells,

lobsters and sea cucumbers, and most fishing activity is carried out on an artisanal level with minimal reporting to fisheries authorities. With this in mind, any regulation that is introduced must be coupled with appropriate local involvement and environmental awareness activity. Only by working towards a sustainable fishery can the resource be conserved for a future harvest that will yield local benefits, as well as revenue for governments in the form of export duties.

TRAFFIC will now pursue these recommendations with local fisheries authorities and other relevant bodies.

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Recent reports in the *Species in Danger* series

Searching for a Cure: Conservation of Medicinal Wildlife Resources in East and Southern Africa

Nina T. Marshall *September 1998* 112pp ISBN 1 85850 151 2

This report presents the results of a study of the trade in medicinal plants and animals in 17 countries. It identifies 102 medicinal plant species and 29 animal species as priorities for action.

Europe's Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Their Use, Trade and Conservation

Dagmar Lange *June 1998* 77pp ISBN 1 85850 144 X

This report reviews European trade and documents the results of in-depth studies in Albania, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Turkey and the UK. The report identifies 150 species that could be at risk in one or several countries from over-collection in the wild.

Rhinoceros Horn and Tiger Bone in China: An Investigation of Trade Since the 1993 Ban

J. A. Mills *April 1997* 49pp ISBN 1 85850 128 8

In China, domestic trade in both Tiger and rhinoceros products has been banned since 1993 and the maximum penalty for illicit trade is death. However, this report documents how Tiger and rhinoceros-based traditional Chinese medicines continue to be available.

Species in Danger reports are free, however postage and handling are charged. Copies can be obtained from TRAFFIC International, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL. The price per report is Europe £8 (US\$12); rest of world £10 (US\$15).

Payment for each report must be received in advance.

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Sniffer dogs help detect illegal wildlife trade

by Maija Sirola, Communications Assistant, TRAFFIC International

Dogs have proven to be excellent detectives in the search for smuggled drugs and firearms but few law enforcement agencies have tapped their talent in sniffing out illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.



© TRAFFIC/Rob Parry-Jones

Mason and USFWS Wildlife Inspector Erin Dean training to detect bear bile

Dogs were first trained to detect narcotics in the 1960s and 1970s, a time when the illegal drugs trade was growing rapidly. Later, specialists trained canines to detect firearms and explosives. In the 1990s, trained dogs have been introduced as an effective component of efforts to enforce international and national wildlife trade controls, but only in three countries.

TRAFFIC East Asia has conducted a study on the feasibility of using canines to detect wildlife contraband in Hong Kong and Korea and is using the results to inform enforcement authorities of the benefits. The results are also proving helpful in Kenya, where TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-Kenya is working with enforcement agencies to determine how best to plan for and establish a sniffer dog unit.

The feasibility study found that to date three agencies use sniffer dogs to detect illegal wildlife trade: the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service in Canada, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the South African Police Service. These programmes can serve as valuable models for other enforcement agencies around the world.

A dog's working life begins the moment it starts training, normally at age 11 to 16 months. The breed is selected by the type of work required of the dog. For example, if the dog will be searching passengers, a visually non-threatening dog such as a beagle may be the most suitable.

So far, dogs in these agencies' programmes have been trained to detect wildlife and wildlife products ranging from live parrots, crayfish and abalone

to bear gall bladder and bile, ivory and rhinoceros horn. Quarantine and food inspection dog programmes have shown that canines can also be trained to detect reptiles, birds, eggs, meat and plant material. In fact, it has been said that dogs can be trained to detect anything at all, providing that it has a scent.

"Mason", a three-year-old Labrador Retriever in the canine detection programme of the USFWS, has been trained to detect bear gall bladder, bear bile powder and flakes and live psittacine parrots. It takes about three minutes for Mason to search a car and about 20-30 minutes to search 75% of the baggage and passengers off a Boeing 747. At least 36 Customs officers would be needed to conduct the same search in the same time span on a Boeing 747 airplane with about 300 passengers.

Mason has sniffed out four separate packages containing bear bile and bear bile products in California and helped lead to the seizure of an Amazon parrot on the Mexican border.

While establishing a sniffer dog programme may be costly at the outset, the advantages are numerous. Trained dogs are quicker and more able to detect contraband goods than humans, help reduce the overall costs of law enforcement, can enhance the safety of Customs officers and, ultimately, help increase public awareness. In addition, a dog already trained to detect narcotics or other commodities could be trained to also detect wildlife products in just a couple of weeks.

For more information about using canines to detect wildlife contraband contact TRAFFIC East Asia: Tel: +852 2530 0587; Fax: +852 2530 0864; Email: tea@asiaonline.net

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Kenya considers sniffer dog unit

East Africa has historically been an important trade route for wildlife destined for the Gulf and Asia, and this situation remains the case today.

A wide variety of species originate in or are shipped through East African countries. Many of these species and products are of high value and often high profile, such as shark fins, sea cucumbers and rhinoceros horn. At the same time, it is recognized that existing capacity in East African countries to regulate trade is often insufficient, creating a climate where illegal wildlife trade activities can occur.

In 1998, with funding from WWF-Netherlands, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa began documenting important trade routes in East Africa and the capacity to control wildlife trade at key junctures. This ongoing effort is coupled with research aimed at developing ways to improve implementation of existing controls.

The illegal trade in rhinoceros products and in particular rhinoceros horn is a strong focus of the project, as the plight of rhinoceros species in the region is an ever-present concern and horn imports into Yemen for dagger handle manufacture and into East Asia for medicinal use continue to be reported.

TRAFFIC's current efforts are aimed primarily at the Kenyan situation and have entailed consultations with Customs and wildlife officials, police, and the private sector to ascertain current enforcement problems as they relate to wildlife trade.

The reality of the situation is that capacity is insufficient, salaries are low, and the potential for illegal trade is high given the wide range of routes and methods that are open to smugglers. Nevertheless, there is potential for improved regulation, if cost-effective methods can be identified.

One initiative of TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-Kenya is to investigate the possibility of introducing sniffer dogs into Kenya, specifically to improve the implementation and enforcement of wildlife trade regulations. Initial research has revealed that there is great potential in this area and positive reactions have been received from enforcement agencies.

Sniffer dogs are not new to Kenya: the Kenya Police Dog Unit is already fully operational with 600 dogs. Of these animals, 589 are used for security

purposes, and 11 are actual sniffer dogs, trained to detect narcotics and explosives. Private sector security companies are numerous and maintain security dog units as well.

Discussions with wildlife and Customs officials about introducing a sniffer unit into Kenya have been met with interest and enthusiasm. Local capacity and expertise exists in the country to set up such a unit as well.

TRAFFIC plans to work with the various law enforcement agencies in Kenya to determine how best to plan for and establish a sniffer dog unit. Once this unit is operational, it is expected that progress will be made in improving implementation of wildlife laws, and that traditional trade routes and smuggling rings for rhinoceros horn in particular will be cracked.

-- *Nina Marshall and Rob Barnett, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa*

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Reader suggestions

In response to suggestions from readers, we have re-introduced numbering each issue, beginning with the current issue, Number 11 May 1999. To date, we have produced the following other issues:

- [January 1999](#)
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- WWF East Africa Regional Programme Office
- WWF Endangered Seas Campaign
- WWF France
- WWF Gabon Programme
- WWF Germany
- WWF Hong Kong
- WWF International
- WWF Italy
- WWF Japan
- WWF Large Herbivore Initiative for Europe
- WWF Latin America-Caribbean Programme
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The TRAFFIC Network works in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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* WWF is known as World Wildlife Fund in Canada and the USA.

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TRAFFIC *DISPATCHES*

September 1999

Can the live reef fish trade in Southeast Asia be managed?

by Chen Hin Keong, Director, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

The expansion of trade in live reef fish for food has its beginnings in Southeast Asia. As the waters around Hong Kong and China became depleted of wild stocks, fishing vessels targeted the coral reefs of the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. At the same time Singapore established itself as the main consumer of the reef fish in the region. Today, the reef fish stocks of the Southeast Asia region face drastic overexploitation unless some enduring management of fisheries can be implemented.

A TRAFFIC study titled *Fishing for Solutions: Can the Live Trade in Wild Groupers and Wrasses from Southeast*

Asia be Managed? presents the findings of a study conducted in 1997 which set out to describe the trends, patterns and diversity of the live reef fish industry in the Southeast Asia. The four major countries involved in the industry, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore were studied in detail.

For the study details of the capture, trade and transportation of live food reef fish were obtained primarily by interviewing members of the industry and from the international trade data. Also nine separate case studies were conducted to provide details on exploitation and trade at the local level. As a result of the extensive research carried out it became apparent that the catch rates of live reef fish throughout the region are declining and the size of fish caught in the region are becoming smaller due to overexploitation.

Consuming freshly killed seafood has been the tradition among Cantonese people for centuries. Today live groupers and wrasses are sold at a premium in Cantonese restaurants; for example coral groupers can fetch up to USD20/kg in Hong Kong. The most expensive species targeted for the live food fish market is Humphead wrasse *Cheilinus undulatus*. Also in much demand are the groupers *Serranidae* spp. and the stonefish *Synanceia* spp. Due to the high market prices the fishers in the live food reef fish trade can expect to earn up to five times that of an average fisher.

Juvenile fish are usually found in seagrass beds and tidal pools, and adults live among coral reefs which gives rise to the term 'live coral reef fish trade'. The destruction of this reef fish habitat through degradation of coral reefs, especially by cyanide

poisoning, blasting, removal of coral for construction and aquarium trade can cause immense damage to the species.



TRAFFIC/C.R. Shepherd

A grouper being sold at a fish market in Medan, Indonesia.

As well as the use of hook and line, traps are common fishing methods. Cyanide is used in large amounts in the region to catch fish. For example by at least 15-20%, and according to some recent estimations even 50%, of the fishers in the Calamian Islands use cyanide. The fish is normally stunned and survives the long journey to the market. This means that it has time to excrete the cyanide, so that any remaining amounts of the poison are well below those safe for human consumption when the fish reaches the restaurant.

Catches are either sold to middlemen or directly to exporters - foreign or local. Large self-contained foreign vessels have dominated the fishery but also local operations are found in many areas today. Exporters and larger fish

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- ***On the scent of musk trade in Europe***
- ***A sniffer dog purchase under way in South Korea***

TRAFFIC staff news

Welcome

Sabri Zain commences his work as the new Communications Manager at TRAFFIC International in mid-October 1999. Sabri moves to TRAFFIC from WWF-Malaysia where he has worked as Director of Special Tasks giving senior level support within the Directorate. Prior to that he worked at WWF-Malaysia as Director of Communications for five years and Communications Manager for two years.

Celia Denton has started as the new Funding Development Officer at TRAFFIC International in May 1999. Most recently she worked as a major gifts fundraiser at the University of Cambridge and prior to that as fundraising manager for a children's charity.

Nguyen Tri Man joined TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Vietnam in August 1999 as a Project Assistant. Before coming to TRAFFIC he worked in the fields of journalism and economic research.

Appointment

Director of TRAFFIC Oceania *Glenn Sant* has been appointed to the newly established Environment Committee that will provide high level advice to the Australian Fisheries Management Association (AFMA) Board on issues relating to the environment and fisheries management.

Moving

Deputy Director of TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa *Nina Marshall* moved her working base from Kenya to South Africa in August 1999.

Goodbye

Communications Manager *Bobbie Jo Kelso* left TRAFFIC International in June 1999 to take up the post of International Manager of Campaign Communications at WWF International.

Senior Programme Officer *Jane Holden* left TRAFFIC Oceania in August 1999 to pursue her legal career.

Programme Officer *David Mulolani* from the East/Southern Africa office left TRAFFIC in June 1999 to join a GTZ project in Malawi.

TRAFFIC re-opens its South America office

A critical gap in the TRAFFIC Network's geographic coverage will be filled in October 1999 with the re-opening of a regional TRAFFIC office for South America. TRAFFIC South America will be based in Quito, Ecuador, and co-located with the Regional Office for South America of IUCN - the World Conservation Union. TRAFFIC's work in the region is already in full swing with projects on mahogany, medicinal plants and the sea cucumber trade from Galapagos either completed or under way.

The establishment of a full regional office will allow more extensive attention to the wildlife trade issues. Applications for the position of Director for the regional office are currently being sought.

TRAFFIC International becomes a charity

TRAFFIC International, the UK-based headquarters of the TRAFFIC Network, became a UK Registered Charity (No. 1076722) when its charitable status was conferred by the Charity Commission in July 1999.

This is a significant milestone in the Network's development and will provide a strong legal base and allow TRAFFIC International to seek funds from a range of new sources.

Bear trade meeting to take place in October

The Third International Symposium on the Trade in Bear Parts organized by TRAFFIC East Asia, the IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group and the Ministry of Environment, the Republic of Korea will take place 26-28 October 1999 in Seoul, South Korea.

The organizers are grateful for the financial support given by Association of Korean Oriental Medicine, Cho Seon Pharm. & Trading Co., LTD., Johnson & Johnson, Miljø- og Energieminiisteriet Denmark, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, UK-Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, World Wildlife Fund-US, and WWF Netherlands.

Dr. Ing. Pier Lorenzo Florio

TRAFFIC staff were extremely sad to hear of the recent death of *Dr. Ing. Pier Lorenzo Florio*, the Director of TRAFFIC Italy for six years after its establishment in 1986. Pier Lorenzo, a founder member of WWF Italy, will be warmly remembered for his great contribution to TRAFFIC's work and his tireless dedication to a wide range of conservation causes.

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buyers usually have holding facilities near fishing areas where the reef fish are kept until they reach a suitable 'table' size before shipping them to the buyers. Many exporters also have holding facilities at international airports to facilitate transport to Hong Kong and other large markets. Such major centres in the region are Manila in the Philippines, Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia and Jakarta, Ujung Pandang, Medan and Denpasar in Indonesia.

Between 1991 and 1995, Indonesia provided about 60% of the live food reef fish harvested from Southeast Asia while the Philippines was the first Southeast Asian nation recorded as being fished for live food reef fish. However, the supply in the Philippines was reduced by almost 50% after 1996 compared to 1100t in the preceding

three years. In Malaysia, the most extensive coral reef areas are in Sabah. Today the state of Sabah exports only about 350t per year compared to a peak of 500-600t in 1993. Singapore, the main consumer in the region, has an annual consumption of around 500t.

The study shows that the fishery for live food reef fish needs to be managed to make it sustainable. Stock depletion, habitat destruction as well as fishers' income need all be taken into account when decisions are being made. According to the study the best approach is the management of the industry that maintains the fishers' livelihood and at the same time stresses the conservation needs of the coral reef ecosystems in Southeast Asia.

The report recommends that

national governments of Southeast Asia should set separate quotas as well as minimum and maximum exporting sizes for each live food reef fish species to prevent overexploitation. Also the national governments need to implement a system of monitoring and enforcement of export quotas. Among other recommendations the report also stresses the role that government and non-government agencies should take in training the fishers to use non-destructive fishing techniques.

Fishing for Solutions: Can the Live Trade in Wild Groupers and Wrasses from Southeast Asia be Managed? 1999. TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, M19B, 2nd Floor, Jalan Pasar (1/21), 46000 PJ Old Town, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia. Tel: +60 3 7917284, Fax: +60 3 7947220, E-mail: tsea@po.jaring.my.

Farmed groupers are the main source of live reef fish for food in Taiwan

by Marcus Phipps, Deputy Director, TRAFFIC East Asia

TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei has completed a study on Taiwan's grouper fisheries, aquaculture and trade. The study provides insights to the grouper resources and the future prospects of grouper fisheries in Taiwan.

Groupers are popular in Taiwan's seafood markets because of their texture and taste. As Taiwan's seafood consumers show a marked preference for freshness as opposed to the source of groupers, farmed groupers remain the main source of live specimens in Taiwan's fish markets. Live wild-caught specimens appeal only to a limited number of discerning consumers.

Taiwan's government has encouraged grouper breeding, farming and export by streamlining regulations and procedures for grouper and fingerling imports and exports. Techniques are well developed for the breeding and rearing of a number of grouper species and these play a significant role in Taiwan's live fish exports. There appears to have been a corresponding decrease in imports of large wild groupers and fingerlings. However, whether the trend towards reduced imports is a result of increased

domestic supply or other factors such as reduced supply in the wild or stricter export restrictions by traditional supplying countries has yet to be determined.

Grouper farming could enhance the conservation of wild groupers in the medium-term by providing an alternate source of supply. However, farming cannot be assumed to have a completely benign impact on wild grouper populations. During the research and development of farming techniques for specific species, collection of wild specimens for breeding stock is unavoidable. Once self-sufficiency in production is obtained, farming faces a number of other obstacles including the need for substantial resource input, the threat of disease, and possible negative environmental impacts.

The report contains a number of recommendations aimed at fisheries authorities and industry. These include the need for species-specific feasibility studies which would include collection of information on conservation status, regulatory measures in range states, and consumer preference; technical assistance to range states; and



Amos Chung



Keith Wilson

Top: High-finned Grouper
Cromileptes altivelis;
Humphead Wrasse
Cheilinus undulatus.

improved data collection for wild grouper populations and fisheries in Taiwan's own coastal and offshore areas.

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Also available from TRAFFIC East Asia: The Hong Kong Trade In Live Reef Fish For Food. 1999.

TRAFFIC examines the trade in woodcarvings in Malawi

by Louisa Sangalakula, Programme Officer, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

Malawi's forest resources have come under immense pressure in recent years due to the uncontrolled rate of exploitation of indigenous forest resources. Uncontrolled harvest outside protected areas for fuelwood, furniture, construction, and in particular woodcarving, has caused great concern about the sustainability of current harvesting practices. It is evident that forest resources in Malawi are over-exploited, and that solutions must be found soon to address declines in natural resources, as well as the needs of an important source of livelihood to many people in Malawi.

Malawi plays a major role in the woodcarving trade within southern Africa. The trade is regional and beyond, yet very little is known about it. The only studies that pertain to Malawi's woodcarving industry were undertaken in 1981 and 1984 to survey craft production and export in the northern, central and southern regions of the country. Other recent surveys in neighbouring countries indicate that Malawi's trade is inter-linked and that the country functions as both an importer of raw material, and an exporter of finished products.

Prompted by the information gap and the uncontrolled rate of exploitation of indigenous forest resources, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa initiated a project in late 1998 to assess the trade in woodcarving products in Malawi. Financial support for this project was provided by USAID through support from the Regional Centre for Southern Africa (IUCN NETCAB Grant), USAID SHARED Project and Flora and Fauna International. Efforts during this

survey focused on examining the status of tree species used for woodcarving, and documenting the

angolensis. Based on the data obtained from various players in the woodcarving industry, a decline in the



TRAFFIC / Nina Marshall

trade and utilization patterns for hardwoods occurring in the central and southern region. The aim of this project was to identify species of concern through examination of the industry and trade, and to develop recommendations that would result in conservation and sustainable utilization of these valuable resources.

Fieldwork for this project was carried out in ten districts at 32 study sites within the central and southern regions. The northern region was omitted from the study, as there has never been a tradition or culture of woodcarving in this part of the country. Information was collected through questionnaires as well as interviews with woodcarving producers, traders, and exporters.

The study is now nearing completion and project researchers are in the process of compiling and analysing their information. The study has revealed that 14 tree species are used for carving, the three most popular species in order of preference being *Combretum imberbe*, *Dalbergia melanoxylon* and *Pericopsis*

supply of these three most popular species used in carving is evident. Surprisingly, survey results also revealed that this problem tends to be localized in certain districts. However, the scope of the problem is still under examination.

The most popular species are favoured for making specific products such as chessboards, ornaments, furniture, which include the famous chief chairs, and utensils mainly because of the hardness and finishing quality, accessibility, and customer preference of the wood. *Albizia gummifera*, *Colophospermum mopane*, *Kirkia acuminata* and *Pterocarpus angolensis* are the species least exploited. Other species include *Khaya nyasica*, *Newtonia buchanani*, *Burkea africana*, *Swartzia madagascariensis*, *Gmelina arborea* and two other unknown taxonomic species.

Fieldwork showed that while much of the wood used by woodcarvers in Malawi is harvested within the country, some is imported from Mozambique and other neighbouring countries. Often the wood is harvested



TRAFFIC / Nina Marshall

Dalbergia melanoxylon

Update on the Elephant Trade Information System - ETIS



illegally, for example, from within protected areas. Importation is often unregulated or illegal, and when discovered, forestry officials usually confiscate shipments lacking the required documentation.

Most traders and producers are unaware of forestry regulations governing the harvesting, transporting and trade in forest resources within the country. The only form of regulation that is commonly known is that of royalties, which range from USD16-USD35 per tree. As this fee is regarded as being rather high, it is not surprising that illegal felling of trees is prevalent throughout Malawi.

The woodcarving industry is dependent upon tourists, as well as local and foreign businesspersons who export the products for resale in foreign markets, notably Italy, South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States. There has been a significant upward trend in the value of the domestic exports of carvings, with the figure growing from an estimated six thousand USD in 1994 to eleven thousand USD in 1996. With this level of exports, significant foreign exchange is generated for the country.

The woodcarving industry is extremely important for rural woodcarvers, urban traders and exporters, and the government. As natural resources dwindle, the future of this industry is precarious. A balance must be found between employment and resource exploitation, in order to ensure the health and wellbeing of both the resource and the people of Malawi. As TRAFFIC enters the final stage of this project, it is this challenge that will be addressed.

In 1997, at the tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, TRAFFIC's Bad Ivory Database System (BIDS) was recognized as "the appropriate instrument for monitoring the pattern and measuring the scale" of trade in ivory and other elephant products.

The further refinement of BIDS commenced in November 1997, when TRAFFIC commissioned a statistician from the Statistical Services Centre of the University of Reading in the UK to undertake a thorough evaluation of the system. The results and recommendations of the technical evaluation were presented at an Elephant Monitoring Workshop organized by IUCN/SSC and TRAFFIC, in co-operation with the CITES Secretariat in December 1997.

At the workshop, it was agreed that BIDS would be expanded to include seizures of all elephant products and would develop into an integrated information system comprising several components. This system would be renamed ETIS - or the Elephant Trade Information System - and work in parallel to MIKE, (the system for Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) to be managed by IUCN/SSC.

Specific objectives of the system are to enable an appropriate statistical analysis for the purpose of monitoring current levels and trends of trade in ivory and non-ivory elephant products. Further, the outputs of the system will be linked with those from MIKE to facilitate an assessment of whether or not "observed trends are a result of changes in the listing of elephant

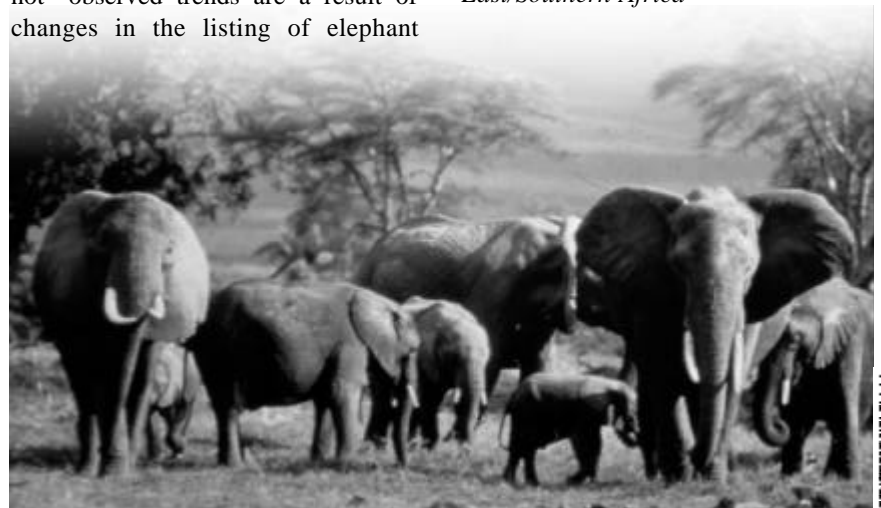
populations in the CITES Appendices and/or the resumption of legal international trade in ivory".

In March 1998, the Ivory and Elephant Product Seizure Data Collection Form (SDCF) was produced and circulated to all CITES Parties requesting them to use the form to submit information on seizures of ivory and elephant products. Completed forms are submitted by governments to the CITES Secretariat which provides relevant information to TRAFFIC for entry into ETIS. The response from Parties has been commendable, with more than 100 SDCF received to date.

A detailed functional specification of ETIS was produced and approved for the 41st CITES Standing Committee Meeting in February 1999. At the same time detailed explanatory notes for the SDCF were produced and circulated to all CITES Parties in April 1999. Funding for implementation during 1999 was secured from the UK Government.

A beta test version of ETIS was installed in April 1999, further development to the structure of the system continued, and in July 1999 a refined version was installed. It is anticipated that the final structure of the system will be completed by the end of 1999 to facilitate preliminary data analysis prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Nairobi in April 2000.

-- Louisa Sangalakula, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa



An overview of medicinal plant activities in TRAFFIC

by Teresa Mulliken, Network Research and Programme Development Manager, TRAFFIC International

TRAFFIC is working around the globe to document the medicinal plant trade and identify threats to wild species and, in turn, the people and healthcare systems that depend upon them. Last September the work undertaken by TRAFFIC in East Asia, India and South America through a grant from Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ*) was featured in *Dispatches*. This time we provide an overview of the work implemented by TRAFFIC offices including an update on some of the activities supported by BMZ.

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

Work in East and Southern African countries centres on follow-up to the findings of the TRAFFIC Species in Danger report *Searching for a Cure: Conservation of Medicinal Wildlife Resources in East and Southern Africa* and recommendations resulting from the workshop that followed - *Sustainable Utilisation of Wildlife Medicinals in East and Southern Africa: A Challenge for the Health and Natural Resource Sectors*. The proceedings of the workshop were distributed earlier this year, and several projects are being initiated to implement specific recommendations.

Through a grant from The Rufford Foundation, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa is producing public awareness materials targeted at traditional medicine practitioners throughout the region in order to increase knowledge about conservation concerns and to stimulate action to address declines in wildlife medicinals.

Work in South Africa is currently focused on a study of the use and trade of medicinal plants from the fynbos region, a unique habitat in the southern Cape that supports a great variety of wild plants.

TRAFFIC Europe

As in Africa, TRAFFIC's work in Europe is guided in large part by the results of a region-wide study of the medicinal plant trade followed by a stakeholders workshop. The proceedings of the workshop, *Medicinal Plant Trade in Europe: Conservation and Supply*, have been published and distributed and follow-up actions are underway.

At the country level, TRAFFIC Europe is completing trade studies in Russia and Italy, and has published the results of a study of the trade between

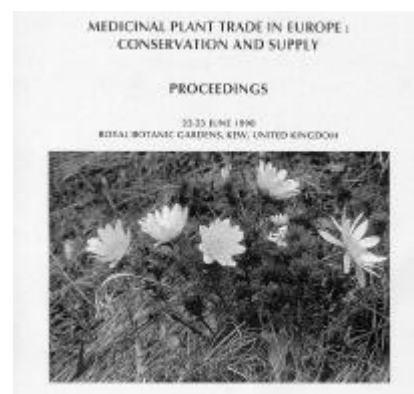


American Ginseng *Panax quinquefolius*

India and Germany.

'Species' work includes an in-depth study of the trade in Asian Ginseng *Panax ginseng* focusing on the Russian Far East, home to the last known wild stands of this species. A report on the trade in Asian Ginseng, which has been proposed for inclusion in CITES Appendix II by the Russian Federation, is in preparation. The study is funded by the German Agency for Nature Conservation (BnF**) and WWF Germany.

Thanks to a grant from The Rufford Foundation, TRAFFIC Europe will soon be better able to facilitate the region-wide exchange of information related to medicinal plants and related conservation concerns. A strategy and business plan for the establishment of a European Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Resources Secretariat is being developed. The Secretariat will undertake activities to increase the availability of information on medicinal and aromatic plants traded in Europe, especially those of conservation concern, to monitor the socio-economic aspects of the trade, to evaluate existing regulatory tools and to provide advice for improvements where appropriate, and to develop practical guidelines for sustainable exploitation of selected European medicinal and aromatic plant species.



TRAFFIC North America

Work continues to focus on the trade in American Ginseng *Panax quinquefolius* and Goldenseal *Hydrastis canadensis*, CITES Appendix II species traded internationally in large quantities for their medicinal properties (see *TRAFFIC Bulletin* Vol. 18(1)). TRAFFIC North America has been working directly with dealers of wild ginseng in the Appalachian Mountains to identify potential ways to reduce overharvest. Working with those involved in the trade is crucial to ensure conservation of wild ginseng populations and therefore the availability of future supplies.

The experience gained in North America has also been used to help medicinal plant conservation efforts initiated in East Asia and Oceania. Chris Robbins, Programme Officer for TRAFFIC North America, recently gave papers at workshops convened by TRAFFIC Oceania, and with Judy Mills of TRAFFIC East Asia, co-wrote a paper *Conservation Measures and International Trade Controls for Wild and Cultivated Ginseng*, presented to the International Ginseng Conference in Hong Kong in July 1999.

The first two phases of a joint project with The Nature Conservancy

to identify other North American medicinal plant species at risk from overharvest for trade have been completed. TRAFFIC North America inventoried the US market for native medicinal plants and, with information on the status of wild species provided by The Nature Conservancy and input from industry experts, identified 80 species of native herbs, shrubs and trees considered a priority for further research.

Harvest permits issued by the US Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service have also been analysed. Next steps include more detailed species analyses and comparative case studies of medicinal plant harvest, monitoring and management in selected National Forests in the Klamath-Siskiyou and Blue Ridge Mountain areas of the USA.

TRAFFIC Oceania

Approximately 100 delegates participated in *Medicinal Plants for the Future: Sustainability and Ethical Issues*, a two-day conference organized 19-20 August 1999 by the National Herbalists Association of Australia and TRAFFIC Oceania. The conference attracted a variety of stakeholders concerned with Australia's use and trade of medicinal plants, including herbalists, industry members, growers, Aboriginal community members and conservationists.

Presentations reflected the broad range and complexity of medicinal plant issues in Australia. Topics addressed included sustainability, preservation and use of traditional knowledge, intellectual property rights, national and international trade controls, industry procurement policies and genetic modification.

Delegates explored the issues in more depth during workshops held the second day of the conference and produced recommendations subsequently adopted during the closing plenary session. The need to develop a code of ethics, to establish mechanisms to monitor wild harvesting and to raise awareness of conservation issues within the herbal products industry was recognized.

Furthermore, the conference recommended that a model policy be developed with respect to addressing intellectual property rights, and that recognition of and appreciation for traditional knowledge held by indigenous communities be increased.

The conference concluded with a call for the establishment of a working group consisting of and funded by stakeholders, which would be devoted to addressing issues related to the conservation, sustainability and ethical production of medicinal plants within Australia.

The conference demonstrated the importance of medicinal plants to Australia's people and biodiversity, and the importance of stakeholder cooperation in addressing issues such as sustainability and intellectual property rights. Jonathan Veal, TRAFFIC Oceania Research Officer noted: 'Especially encouraging was the pro-active approach being taken by the medicinal plant industry, and their interest in working with indigenous and conservation communities in a transparent and participatory manner. This is good for the industry, for other stakeholders, and for Australia's medicinal plant species.'

Elsewhere in the region, TRAFFIC Oceania is completing a preliminary assessment of the medicinal plant trade in and from the South Pacific (funded by the Rufford Foundation). Specific emphasis is being placed on establishing contacts with local and

national NGOs, particularly women's traditional healer groups, reflecting the important role of women in healing and the use of medicinal plants in this region.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

Over 200 million people of Malay descent use or are influenced by traditional medicine systems, which in turn rely largely on native plants. However, little research has been undertaken to identify whether current harvest and trade rates are sustainable.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia therefore undertook preliminary reviews of the use of wild plant species for traditional medicine in Indonesia and Malaysia. Completed in August 1999, these reviews document the importance of native wild plants both to 'jamu' - traditional medicine produced locally from raw plant materials - and to manufactured herbal remedies based on medicinal plants.

Over 100 species were found to be used in both Indonesia and Malaysia, with most of these collected from the wild rather than cultivated. Funds are being sought to undertake more in-depth studies of the trade in species for which initial research has indicated there may be a conservation problem.

Meanwhile, work continues on agarwood *Aquilaria* spp., a group of trees whose fungally infected wood is used medicinally as well as for incense and perfumes.



Trading medicinal plants at
a market place in Quito, Ecuador

TRAFFIC / Ximera Botón



D. Lange / TRAFFIC



Hajo Schmitz-Kretschmar / TRAFFIC

Top left: Cover of the report on medicinal plants in Ecuador by TRAFFIC South America; top right: medicinal and aromatic plants products in Germany; Aloe ferox harvest in South Africa.

BMZ funded projects under way

Medicinal plant work made possible through a grant from BMZ through a framework agreement with WWF International (see *Dispatches* September 1998) continued to gain momentum, especially with regard to market research and building links with stakeholders.

Detailed market research is now well under way in China, India, Colombia and Brazil and preliminary research initiated in Peru and Bolivia.

The report, *Ecuador - Uso y Comercio de Plantas Medicinales - Situación Actual y Aspectos Importantes para su Conservación* (Use and Trade of Medicinal Plants - Current Status and Important Aspects for their Conservation) was published and formed the backbone of a September 1999 workshop on medicinal plants in Ecuador. The workshop determined actions to be taken to improve the trade legislations and to strengthen the co-operation between government and NGOs. At the request of the Ministry of Environment Affairs, TRAFFIC also helped produce a pamphlet on the trade in medicinal plants targeted at the national congress and the media.

The proceedings of another TRAFFIC workshop on the *Conservation*

of Medicinal Plants, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea have been published in a combined Korean/English volume.

Following on from a stakeholders meeting held in December 1998, TRAFFIC India convened a meeting on the role of practitioners of traditional systems of medicine in sustainable utilization and conservation of medicinal plants in July, with participants including practitioners of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Tibetan traditional medicine systems. A similar meeting for commercial growers, traders and the plant medicinals industry is planned for December.

Emphasis on CITES

The TRAFFIC Network continues to maintain a specific focus on the use of CITES as a tool to bring the international trade in medicinal plants within sustainable levels. Two briefing documents were prepared in conjunction with a CITES Secretariat funded project to examine CITES implementation for three medicinal plants; two Himalayan species recently included in the Appendices (Jatamansi *Nardostachys grandiflora* and Kutki *Picrorhiza kurrooa*), and the Southeast Asian tree species Agarwood *Aquilaria malaccensis* (see box). These documents were presented by TRAFFIC to the ninth meeting of the CITES Plants Committee (Darwin, Australia, June 1999), where medicinal plants figured prominently on the agenda.

TRAFFIC's research documented poor levels of CITES implementation for all three species, and identified a number of possible actions to improve trade controls.

TRAFFIC India also presented initial research results on these species

to the second Indo-Nepal Trans-border Meeting in February 1999. As a result, the final resolution of that meeting called for bringing the bilateral treaty regulating cross-border trade into line with CITES requirements.

As a contribution to a project of and with funding from the German Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN**), TRAFFIC East Asia was able to take a closer look at the use and trade of orchids for traditional medicine, further highlighting the need for more effective trade controls for plant medicinals in the country.

The upcoming CITES meeting in Nairobi in April 2000 will provide an important focus for further TRAFFIC efforts to address unsustainable and illegal international trade in medicinal plants. Implementation problems documented by TRAFFIC and others will be on the agenda, and it is likely that several new medicinal plant species will be put forward for listing in CITES Appendix II.

*Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, more commonly known as BMZ.

**Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN.

For more information on projects, workshop proceedings or papers mentioned in this article, contact TRAFFIC Regional Office in question or TRAFFIC International. See page 12 for contact information.

On the scent of musk trade in Europe

Musk is one of the most expensive natural products in the world, with a retail value three to five times higher than gold. It has been used in medicines and perfumes for thousands of years. In traditional East Asian medicine (TEAM), musk has been used to treat a variety of ailments and as a stimulant of the heart, nerves and breathing.

Today, musk remains popular in trade, however nearly all populations of musk deer, the source of natural musk, are declining throughout much of their range. There are at least four and possibly six or more species of musk deer, of which the Siberian Musk Deer *Moschus moschiferus* in particular has declined rapidly due to loss of habitat and, more recently, an increase in both legal and illegal hunting. In addition, all musk deer and their products are regulated in international trade under CITES.

A new report, *On the Scent: Conserving Musk Deer - The Uses of Musk and Europe's Role in its Trade* by Volker Homes of TRAFFIC Europe-Germany, documents the international trade in musk, with a focus upon Europe's role in the trade and use, particularly in the perfume industry. The study, released in July 1999, is part of a comprehensive effort by TRAFFIC to document the trade in and uses of natural musk.

Europe's role in the trade

The findings indicate that at least 52 countries participate in the international trade in musk specimens. In Europe, Russia acts as a major supplier of raw musk to the international market as it is home to the Siberian Musk Deer, while France, Germany and Switzerland all play a significant role as importers. France is Europe's main raw musk consumer.

The changes brought by the 1992 dissolution of the Soviet Union led to a rapid increase in hunting and poaching of musk deer. While information on musk deer populations in Russia varies widely, specialists estimate that the population numbered no more than 60 000 in the mid-1990s compared to more than 160 000 in the late 1980s. No population information was available for other republics where musk deer may occur in this region, now known as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The Soviet Union and then later, the CIS republics of Russia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have served as the main European exporters of raw musk to the international market since 1978. In the period from 1992-96, the three CIS suppliers exported at least 360 kilos of raw musk, an amount requiring the killing of 40 000 to 75 000 musk deer. This number is so high as only male deer produce musk and during a



Michael B. Green

A gland of a male musk deer produces an average of 25 grams of musk per year.

hunt, three to five musk deer are usually killed to obtain one male with a sufficiently large gland.

Germany and Switzerland act mainly as intermediaries in the raw musk trade and re-export to other destinations, such as Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and even France. In the four years following the break-up of the Soviet Union, Germany developed an important role in the global trade.

France has also exported musk but more than 90% of all imports of raw musk from 1978-96 were consumed in France itself or re-exported as products containing musk. It is highly likely that a large proportion entered the French perfume industry.

The study found that historically musk has been used as an ingredient in classic and expensive perfumes produced in Europe. It has also been estimated that in the French industry the use of natural musk still amounts to some kilograms per year.

Today much of the natural musk used in the perfume industry has been replaced by synthetic musk in Europe's leading perfume industry countries, including France. Synthetic musk is also commonly used in many cosmetics, shampoos, detergents and other perfumed products. The suspected toxicity of some synthetic musk compounds on the environment



H.-W. Schulski, Zoo Leipzig

Only the male Musk Deer *Moschus moschiferus* produces musk. During the hunt, three to five musk deer are killed to obtain one male with a sufficiently large musk-secreting gland.

Illegal musk trade

Between 19 November 1998 and 17 March 1999, Felixstowe Customs and Excise authorities seized commercial imports of traditional Chinese medicines from China amongst which were 76 080 pills and 492 aerosols containing, among others, Musk Deer Moschus.

From 1 January to July 1998, 8 dozen boxes of traditional Chinese medicines containing Musk Deer Moschus, from China to Belgium, were seized at Zaventem Airport.

On March 1998, Zhi Lin Dong and his company, Chinese Medical Centre, in Utrecht, were found guilty of trading packages claiming to contain ingredients of CITES-species. Dong was sentenced to gaol for three months and fined HFL10 000 (\$US 5000); the company was fined HFL80 000. Eight lorry-loads of traditional Chinese medicines were seized. Some packages claimed to contain, among others, Musk Deer Moschus.

On March 1997, Hampshire Magistrate's Court, Bang Hue Thu pleaded guilty to four charges under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1985 (COTES) of illegal sale of traditional Chinese medicines. She was fined £2000 (US\$ 3336) and £150 costs. Among the items seized were packages that listed also derivatives from Musk Deer Moschus.

has not, to date, been adequately verified and requires further investigation.

Industry representatives interviewed during the study reported that use of natural musk perfumes has declined for a variety of reasons, including the high price, increased difficulty in obtaining natural musk and conservation concerns.

Illegal trade in musk and musk products in Europe was found in some

The young musk deer grow rapidly and become independent of their mother by the age of six months, and reach sexual maturity at 18 months of age. Female musk deer are capable of breeding after their first year.

countries. For example, the report indicates that a significant percentage of musk traded in Russia is likely to originate from illegal sources. Smuggled musk glands can be hidden with ease and carried across the border into neighbouring countries or shipped to other foreign destinations.

The countries of the European Union are now in the process of suspending imports of wild musk deer products from Russia until stronger safeguards are introduced.

In western parts of Europe, most of the illegal trade in musk has been in medicinal products manufactured in Asia, although illegal raw musk has been seized in France. In recent years, thousands of traditional medicines manufactured in Asia and claiming to contain musk have been seized in European countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and the UK because they lacked necessary CITES permits.

Recommendations

The report includes a variety of recommendations to ensure the long-term conservation of musk deer. The most important action would be to reduce the use of natural musk by increasing public awareness about the

status of musk deer and through the use of alternatives such as musk taken from live deer without harming the animal.

Further studies of the harvest, trade and demand in countries where musk deer occur and in countries participating in the trade are needed. Improved legal protection, where necessary, and assessments of population and status should also be undertaken.

In Russia, export quotas for musk should be based on solid scientific data and kept at the lowest possible levels until wild populations have had a chance to recover and reliable field assessments have been conducted. The report also recommends continued monitoring of the use of musk in the European perfume industry.

-- MS

On the Scent: Conserving Musk Deer - The Uses of Musk and Europe's Role in its Trade. Available from TRAFFIC Europe, Waterloosteenweg 608, 1050 Brussels, Belgium or TRAFFIC Europe-Germany c/o Umweltstiftung WWF Deutschland, Rebstocker Str. 55, D-60326 Frankfurt, Germany.

www.traffic.org news

The design of the *traffic.org* web site will be renewed in the near future to give the site a fresher look. At the same time changes to the structure of the site will be introduced to assure easy access to information whilst the amount of information displayed increases steadily.

In October a special section of the *traffic.org* site will be launched to cover the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. Regular updates, TRAFFIC reports and recommendations will be provided in the six months leading to the Conference. During the meeting itself, a daily news update will be maintained.



Michael J. B. Green



F. Meyer and B. Schneider, Zoo Leipzig

A sniffer dog to detect illegal wildlife trade in South Korea

Animals Asia Foundation (AAF)*, in close co-operation with the Korea Customs Service, is planning to fund a sniffer dog to work in South Korea detecting illegal trade in wild animal parts. Based on the recommendations of the 1998 TRAFFIC East Asia report *The Feasibility of Using Canines to Detect Wildlife Contraband* this important development marks a new stage in the efforts to intercept illicit trade in wildlife. Selection of the appropriate dog and a twelve-week training course for the dog and the handler should begin soon.

The TRAFFIC East Asia report, produced with support from the UK-based Rufford Foundation, found that canines used in existing wildlife detection programmes in the USA, South Africa, and Canada can detect products ranging from bear gall bladders, bear bile, ivory and rhinoceros horn to live parrots, abalone, and crayfish. Quarantine detector dogs have also shown that

reptiles, birds, eggs, meat, and plant material can also be detected by their scent. Which scents the AAF "Detective Dog" will be trained to detect has yet to be finalized but will likely include animal parts ranging from bear gall bladders to tiger bone.

Although implementing a project of this nature will not be cheap, the cost implications are minimal when compared to the enhanced efficiency of detection and increased public awareness brought about by a dog and its handler. At the same time, the safety of law enforcement officers is increased since an alert from a dog will indicate that the officer should proceed with caution in case, for example, live venomous snakes are found. Increased interaction between the dog handler and customs officials as well as the general public enhances awareness about which species are banned or regulated in trade. Of equal importance, the presence of a wildlife scent detection dog should act as a deterrent to potential wildlife smugglers.

** Animals Asia Foundation, a charitable foundation based in Asia, is developing and expanding regional animal welfare projects, including the creation of assistance programmes, such as "Detective Dog", to encourage a growing awareness of the plight of animals in trade, and to foster respect for wild, domestic and endangered species.*

-- Rob Parry-Jones, Programme Officer, TRAFFIC East Asia



TRAFFIC / Rob Parry-Jones

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WWF Endangered Seas Campaign
WWF France
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More protection needed for turtles in Asia

by **Craig Hoover**, Programme Officer, TRAFFIC North America and **Peter Paul van Dijk**, Senior Programme Officer, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

Rising demand for tortoises and freshwater turtles in Asia, and especially southern China, has provoked concern that many Asian species are in serious decline in the wild and that some species are already facing extinction.

Turtles and tortoises are used for food, traditional medicine, religious release, decoration and as pets. Of these uses, food and traditional medicine pose the greatest threat to their survival. Market studies and analyses of trade dynamics conclude that this harvest is generally non-specific - any available species is targeted to supply the trade. Given the enormous demand for turtles and tortoises, and the relatively late age and low levels of reproduction of these species, even a small harvest can cause a turtle population to decline significantly - and in some cases, even disappear.

In response to this crisis in biodiversity, TRAFFIC, WWF and The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), brought together 40 regional turtle experts from 16 countries, primarily within East and Southeast Asia, to discuss the trade problem. Turtle ecologists, government representatives, international conservation NGOs, traditional Chinese medicine practitioners, and zoological advisors convened in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 1-4 December 1999 at the *Workshop on Trade in Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in Asia*. The workshop provided a forum to gather available information on the status of more than 80 individual species at national levels; map trade routes and types of demand; analyse legislative and enforcement frameworks protecting turtles; and assess national and regional threats to turtle populations posed by the trade.



Photo: TRAFFIC/D Sharma

Giant Asian Pond turtle in a pet shop, Penang, Malaysia

The immediate aim in addressing this critical conservation issue is to reduce

or eliminate collection from native populations and reduce demand in consumer countries. The workshop participants identified a combination of immediate and long-term measures to assist the conservation of Asian turtles.

The workshop developed a variety of recommendations urging, among others, for a thorough review and improvement of national legislation for effective protection of turtles in the region as well as for prompt enforcement of all local, state and national regulations and legislation concerning the conservation of turtles.

Further, the workshop recommended that out of the 93 turtle species found in the region those that are still not listed in the CITES Appendixes, should be added to them.

The workshop also underlined that the collaboration with the media, schools and other institutions to develop campaigns that boost awareness and generate financial returns to support conservation of native turtle populations is crucial for the success of the efforts carried out.

Complete workshop proceedings will be published in March 2000. Currently, the full text of the workshop conclusions and recommendations is available on the TRAFFIC website at www.traffic.org.

The workshop was funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; the Office of Scientific Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Chelonian Research Foundation, USA; Kari and Andrew Sabin; and the Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, Hong Kong.

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COP 11 Conference Room



In the run-up to 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CITES this April, TRAFFIC has launched the *COP 11 Conference Room* - a regular feature of the TRAFFIC Network website bringing Internet users the latest information, news, updates and views on COP11.

"As a leading expert on wildlife trade issues, we play a vital role in ensuring the effectiveness of CITES - and the key to that effectiveness is information," said TRAFFIC International Communications Manager Sabri Zain. "We aim to make the website's *Conference Room* a central information resource for others to gain access to both our outputs and up-to-the-minute information on CITES priority issues and current developments. Hopefully, it will become an indispensable and influential resource for decision-makers prior to, during and after COP11."

The *Conference Room* features various sections. 'About CITES' has information dealing specifically with CITES and the COP. The 'News Room' highlights the latest press releases, statements and features related to CITES. The 'Briefing Room' has the relevant briefing papers, position statements, fact sheets and policy documents related to priority issues being raised at the COP, while more detailed reports and publications can be found in the 'Library'. The 'Links' page offers a selection of CITES-related websites and organisations supporting CITES work.

The TRAFFIC website was set up in November 1997 and now has at least 100,000 'hits' every month. The COP 11 Conference Room can be located at <http://www.traffic.org/cop11>

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TRAFFIC review influences a new swordfish recovery plan

by Caroline Raymakers, Fisheries Research Officer, TRAFFIC Europe

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) held its 16th Regular Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 15-22 November 1999.

Swordfish *Xiphias gladius* caught special attention this year and repeated reference was made to TRAFFIC Europe's review,

Slipping the net: Spain's compliance with ICCAT recommendations for Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna.



Photo: Miguel Murcia

At the meeting the 27 member countries agreed to a 10-year recovery plan to rebuild Swordfish stocks in the North Atlantic. This was an important step forward, not only because overfishing jeopardises the future of the species, but also because the livelihoods of fishermen depend on these fisheries.

TRAFFIC Europe's report was released on the commencing day of the ICCAT meeting was the result of a two-year project. It included field surveys undertaken in Spain in summer 1998 and an analysis of legal measures that were in force in August 1999, namely ICCAT Recommendations, European Union (EU) Regulations and Spanish national legislation.



Photo: Miguel Murcia

Landings of Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna *Thunnus thynnus*, also called Northern Bluefin Tuna, were recorded in seven Spanish harbours on the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts. The survey results revealed that 44% of the Swordfish observed weighed less than 25kg, ICCAT's recommended size limit, and 51% of the Bluefin Tuna weighed less than 6.4kg. These figures suggest that Spain, one of the major fishing countries in the world, exceeds the 15% ICCAT tolerance by multiple of three for both species.

However, in the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics

(SCRS) 1998 report, it is recognised that Spain is not the only ICCAT Party to exceed set limits for its Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna fisheries. France, Japan, Italy, Morocco and the USA, among others, also have problems with compliance. The TRAFFIC review indicates that the Spanish legislation adopted to manage tunas and tuna-like fisheries complies with both ICCAT Recommendations and EU requirements.

In recommendations proposed by the report, TRAFFIC underlines the importance of adopting strict management measures for Swordfish in the Mediterranean as well as applying sanctions against ICCAT Contracting and non-Contracting Parties, for example, by allocating lower annual catch quota to those nations that are fishing in contravention of international recommendations and regulations. The report also recommends setting up programmes to record discards and by-catch from Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna fishing vessels, particularly with reference to sharks caught by Swordfish longliners in the Atlantic.

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Building Enforcement Capacity in East Asia

by Crawford Allan, Global Enforcement Assistance Co-ordinator, TRAFFIC International



Photo: TRAFFIC/Crawford Allan

The CITES enforcers of twelve countries, mainly from East Asia, gathered in December 1999 for a five-day training seminar that focussed entirely on the roles that law enforcement personnel fulfil in their daily work. A comprehensive package of training and exercises had been developed by the CITES Secretariat, Her Majesty's Customs and Excise - United Kingdom and TRAFFIC, with presentations by the countries from the region and some guestspeakers from outside the region. TRAFFIC's involvement came hot on the heels of the signature in November 1999, by the CITES Secretariat and TRAFFIC of a Memorandum of Understanding, to formally recognise and promote collaboration on CITES capacity building. Presentations were made by several TRAFFIC offices in attendance and TRAFFIC International provided one of the trainers. The sessions led by TRAFFIC focussed on monitoring and investigation of illegal trade. The driving force behind the seminar was the Hong Kong Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD, the CITES Management Authority for this Semi-Autonomous Region of China), which funded and hosted the event.

The Seminar was not entirely based in the classroom. Some relief from the intense tutorials and exercises was afforded through a field trip to an AFD reserve, providing an insight into the work of the AFD. This was also illustrated through a presentation of its collection of CITES-listed live specimens and products which had been seized in recent years. It was clear that much was learned during the seminar, for the delegates and trainers alike, setting a good foundation for future collaboration and more effective CITES law enforcement. This was the second such seminar in the region in the last five years and illustrates an effective means to maintain contacts, refresh experienced staff, train new staff and introduce new developments in CITES

enforcement. The undertaking or continuation of similar programmes in other regions needs to be encouraged.

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Agarwood: Threatened multi-cultural resource?

by Angela Barden, Research Officer, TRAFFIC International

Used for incense, perfumery and medicine, the value of the fragrant wood of *Aquilaria* species, agarwood, has been recognised for thousands of years. International trade in agarwood dates back at least 800 years and currently threatens six of the 15 tree species in this Indomalayan genus. TRAFFIC's recently completed study of CITES implementation for *A. malaccensis* and the wider trade in agarwood confirms earlier concerns regarding conservation and trade controls.



Photo: TRAFFIC/Michael Song

Agarwood chips are the most common form of agarwood in raw trade

TRAFFIC first investigated the trade in agarwood in 1994, TRAFFIC India's report *Trade in Agarwood*, being a key source of information considered by the Parties in deciding to list *A. malaccensis* in CITES Appendix II in 1995. *A. malaccensis* is the only species currently listed in the CITES appendices. A review of the implementation of *A. malaccensis* listing was identified by the CITES Plants Committee as a priority under the CITES Significant Trade process for the period 1998-2000. The CITES Secretariat contracted the TRAFFIC Network to study CITES implementation in key range States, with TRAFFIC India and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia taking the lead. Initial research showed that it was impossible to study the trade in *A. malaccensis* without investigating the trade in other agarwood-producing *Aquilaria* species. The research was therefore widened to consider the larger agarwood trade.

A summary report documenting TRAFFIC's research was circulated at the Ninth meeting of the CITES Plants Committee in June of 1999. The full report was submitted to the CITES Secretariat, who in turn circulated it to all *A. malaccensis* range States in September 1999. The findings of the study, including market reviews in seven countries, are to be presented in a forthcoming report compiled by TRAFFIC International, with funding support from Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (BMZ).



Photo: TRAFFIC / Michael Song

Agarwood incense sticks are popular in many countries, including India, Japan and the Middle East

When infected by certain fungi, *Aquilaria* trees produce a fragrant resin-like substance popularly referred to in trading circles as agarwood among other names. The greatest volumes of resin are found in trees aged 50 years or more. However, not all *Aquilaria* trees produce agarwood, with uninfected trees being of negligible commercial value. If agarwood is present, it exists in unpredictable quantities and qualities that can only be fully determined once the tree has been split open. As a result, trees are indiscriminately felled in search of the highly prized 'black gold' resulting in the drastic decline of wild populations.

Agarwood is used in a variety of ways, including in traditional medicine systems such as Ayurvedic, Tibetan and Traditional East Asian medicine. Its pleasant fragrance makes it popular ingredient of perfumes and tends to be mixed with less expensive carrier oils such as sandalwood. Agarwood is also burned to create incense for example in India, Japan and the Middle East. Less commonly, it can be used as an insect repellent and as an ingredient in wine.

Agarwood is traded in several raw forms including chips (the most common form of raw agarwood in trade), powder, timber pieces, and very occasionally, roots. The price of agarwood depends on a complex set of factors including country of origin and fragrance strength, but not the species that the agarwood is from. Reported wholesale prices for chips have ranged from USD25 to USD1000 per kilogramme in Singapore. Agarwood oil, produced through the steam distillation of agarwood powder, is the most commonly traded processed product. It is virtually impossible for traders or consumers to assess the purity of oil offered for sale, however, agarwood oil can range in price from USD5000 to USD10000 per kilogramme.

CITES Annual Report data show that 20 countries traded a total of over 1350 t of *A. malaccensis* from 1995 to 1997. This represents only part of the global

agarwood trade. Taiwan Customs data that show that Taiwan alone imported over 2000 t of agarwood (species unknown) during these same three years. The main CITES-reported exporters during this period were Indonesia and Malaysia, whilst the largest importer was Singapore, confirming this country's importance as a major international agarwood trading centre. Several Middle Eastern countries were identified by CITES Annual Report data as being major consumers of *A. malaccensis*. TRAFFIC research suggests that this region consumes the largest amount of agarwood of all species in trade.

Problems with CITES implementation included inconsistent trade reporting, determining sustainable export volumes and identifying agarwood in trade. TRAFFIC's research also found evidence of ongoing illegal trade - over 68 t of agarwood was seized in India alone from 1994 to 1998.

The agarwood trade involves a variety of players including local harvesters, various middlemen, governments and consumers. Collaboration among these different stakeholders will be vital to the success of efforts to bring the agarwood trade within sustainable levels. TRAFFIC's report calls for such collaboration together with other measures to more effectively control agarwood harvests and trade, and makes specific recommendations aimed at more effective CITES implementation for *A. malaccensis*.

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TRAFFIC joins forces with celebrities to end shahtoosh trade

In October 1999 celebrities joined TRAFFIC and WWF India in calling for an end to the shahtoosh trade which drives a large-scale poaching of Tibetan antelope *Pantholops hodgsonii* (chiru) on the plateaux of China. A TRAFFIC East Asia and TRAFFIC India review summarised the latest information about the status of chiru and illicit trade of shahtoosh. It also served as the foundation for a successful campaign against shahtoosh trade in India, Hong Kong, Europe and the USA, gaining wide attention by the media and consumers worldwide.



International trade in shahtoosh, which is a luxury fibre made from the wool of chiru, has been prohibited under CITES since 1979. The only notable exception is the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, where the chiru wool is woven into shahtoosh shawls and scarves to be smuggled to consumer markets worldwide. Shahtoosh shawls range in price from USD1000 to USD5000. An estimated 20,000 animals have been killed each year to obtain the wool for the consumer market. The wild population is now estimated to be 70,000.

The summary report titled *Fashion Statement Spells Death for Tibetan Antelope* recommended, among other actions, that all the countries should stop all internal trade, export and import of shahtoosh products whilst consumers should refuse to buy and wear such products.

In India, the campaign spearheaded by TRAFFIC India and WWF India, with a helping hand from celebrities and politicians, has been the biggest success to date. Prominent adverts in newspapers urged people to "Say no to shahtoosh" and warned of the penalties of possessing a shawl or engaging in the illegal trade. The campaign, which was backed by the Delhi Government, also appealed for information about those flouting the law. As a result, an

anonymous phonecall resulted in a raid on an exclusive auction held in a five-star hotel in Delhi. A shahtoosh shawl was seized from the auction and two persons, including the organiser of the auction, were arrested.

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Bear-Trade stakeholders find common ground in Korea

by Judy Mills, Director, TRAFFIC East Asia

Altogether, there may be only 50,000 individuals of Asian bear species left in the wild, spread across habitats and fragmented populations from India, though China, and into the ASEAN countries, according to renowned bear biologist Dr. Chris Servheen.



Photo: WWF / Marek Libersky

Dr. Servheen was one of 21 speakers at the Third International Symposium on Trade in Bear Parts, in Seoul, South Korea, 26-28 October 1999, which was organised by TRAFFIC East Asia, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, and the Bear Specialist Group of The IUCN-World Conservation Union.

More than 100 stakeholders from disparate professions and cultures came together in the Seoul symposium to discuss the impact of trade in bear parts on the status of bears world-wide. This was the third symposium of its kind, following on from a first and second organised by TRAFFIC and WWF in 1992 and 1995 in the USA. Seoul was chosen as the venue for the third such meeting because Koreans are among the most avid users of bear bile as medicine and as a health tonic.

The main messages from symposium participants were that Asian bear species are still in serious trouble in the wild, demand for gall bladders of wild bears for use as medicine remains a threat to the survival of Asian bear species, and all sides - including traditional medicine communities - wish to work together to solve these problems and conserve bears in the wild.

While mainland China's bear farms now produce some 6,000 kg of bear bile annually, which is more than what the entire country consumes, conservationists questioned whether this oversupply was helping wild bears or creating more users and uses of bear bile. In fact, a spokesman for Korea's traditional medicine community said that 50 kg of bear bile is "quite sufficient" to satisfy South Korea's purely medicinal needs each year. "There is a tendency to misuse bear bile due to its reputation as a health enhancer", said Lee Yong Jong of the Association of Korean Oriental Medicine.

Though the representative from China said China would like permission to market its excess bear bile internationally, a representative of the Animal Welfare Institute in the United States called for a ban on international trade in bear gall bladders, bile and feet (the latter of which are considered a culinary delicacy in parts of Asia). Despite these divergent opinions, a majority of symposium participants seemed to favour a reduction in trade in bear gall bladders and bile to a level that would satisfy only urgent health care needs.

Organisers and participants alike supported the creation of an international working group to suggest actions that would reduce the threat trade poses to wild bears, while still meeting the health care needs of people.

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Reptile trade booms in Tanzania

by Simon Milledge, Programme Officer, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

According to an on-going TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa study, the live bird export volumes have declined by more than three-quarters since 1994 as a result of trade restrictions imposed by the Tanzanian government, CITES, importing nations and airline companies. On the other hand, the trade in live reptiles and amphibians is growing fast. A total of over 65 000 reptiles were exported from Tanzania in 1998 showing an increase of over ten-fold between 1991 and 1998.



Photo: WWF-Canon / Oliver Langrand

The study that investigated this important shift in the live animal market in Tanzania found that spiny-tailed lizards, geckos and chameleons constituted almost three-quarters of the reptile trade between 1991 and 1998. The study also found that the notably high amphibian diversity will most likely lead to a rapid rise in demand in the near future. The most traded species are the Rubber-banded frog, African bull frog, Mottled shovel-nosed frog and bubbling kassina.

Although the bird trade appears to be in a much more sustainable level, some priority species, particularly parrots and large waterbirds, will continue to need closer attention.

In the past, as one of the largest exporters of live birds in Africa, Tanzania has received considerable attention concerning levels of sustainability and general policy. TRAFFIC research, CITES-significant trade studies and workshops have been carried out and considerable progress has been recorded. In particular a revised quota system, reducing the number of non-quota species in trade and encouraging captive breeding has proven very successful.

The study that was embarked in 1998 is also analysing the three main tools for controlling the live export trade: licences, quotas and permits. A report on TRAFFIC's studies of the live animal export trade from Tanzania will be published later in the year to encourage conservation action.

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Wildlife trade in the Russian Far East under scrutiny

by Tom De Meulenaer, Director, TRAFFIC Europe

In November 1999 the *International Workshop on Enforcing Wildlife Trade Controls in the Russian Far East and North East Asia* was held in Vladivostok, Russia, bringing together over 40 delegates and wildlife trade experts from the Russian Federation, the Peoples Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and various international non-governmental organizations.

The Russian Far East is a land of salmon streams, pristine seashores, natural hot springs, and vast stretches of untouched forest that are amongst the largest and best preserved in the northern hemisphere. In this region a rich biological diversity prevails with habitat for rare and endangered species of global importance such as the Siberian Tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*, and the Amur Leopard, *Panthera pardus altaica*.



Poaching of these rare species for Asian wildlife medicinals and trophies, intensive subsistence hunting, over-fishing, and ruthless exploitation of the forestry resources are of serious concern. Much of these wildlife resources are destined for markets in China, Japan, Korea and other Asian countries.

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 northeast Asia, and are of common concern. Besides the Tiger and Leopard, these species include the Brown Bear *Ursus arctos*, Asiatic Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*, and Musk deer *Moschus* spp., all of which are listed CITES and to which all three participating countries are signatory Parties. Attention was also drawn to the trade in Sea cucumbers and Asian Ginseng, which are protected in Russia, but appear to be heavily exploited for export to Asian countries.

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

During comprehensive discussions, the participants agreed on a range of activities that would significantly improve CITES implementation and enforcement. These include practical steps to enhance co-operation between East Asian Customs administrations on CITES, to review the CITES implementing legislation in each of the three countries and remedy weaknesses, to organize common capacity building and training activities, and to ensure that public awareness and education activities are conducted.

Finally, it was agreed that the results of the workshop had to be made available to the relevant authorities in other northeast Asian countries.

The participants appealed to various organizations and agencies, including the CITES Secretariat, the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and the International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO-Interpol), to help and support this effort.

The Workshop was organised by the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection and TRAFFIC Europe, with financial support from the Save the Tiger Fund, and in collaboration with Global Survival Network (GSN), Fund Phoenix, and the Russian Programme Office of WWF.

Also available a report titled 'Wild Animals and Plants in Commerce in Russia and CIS countries' by TRAFFIC Europe. For more information, contact [TRAFFIC Europe](#).

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Straddling Stocks Agreement important to large migratory fish

The catches of migratory fish species in the Southern and Indian Oceans have increased steadily since 1980s, mainly due to the improved efficiency, range and effort of Southeast Asian fleets. Large migratory fish (LMF) are threatened also by an anticipated increase of fishing effort from China and elsewhere as well as the growing consumer demand of shark meat in Southeast Asia.

The TRAFFIC Oceania report Sustainable Use of Large Migratory Fish in the Southern and Indian Oceans: Gaps in the International Legal Framework investigated how well the existing international agreements provide management framework for the sustainable fishing of LMF such as tunas, billfish and oceanic sharks.

The report identified the UN Straddling Stocks Agreement for 1995 as providing the most comprehensive and legal guide to facilitate conservation and sustainable use of LMF. However, many major fishing nations of the region, among others India, Madagascar, Malaysia, South Africa and Thailand, have not ratified or acceded to the Agreement. The study also found, that most of the other agreements reviewed lacked core legal obligations for sustainable fisheries, emphasising only short-term economic, social and political objectives.

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* WWF is known as World Wildlife Fund in Canada and the USA.

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TRAFFIC *DISPATCHES*

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Bush meat utilisation depletes wildlife in East and Southern Africa

Many wildlife populations in east and southern Africa are facing a lean future. The illegal killing of wild animals for meat, the so-called use and trade of 'bush meat', is believed to be one of the greatest direct causes of the decline of wildlife numbers outside of protected areas.

While many rural Africans struggle for survival amidst endemic poverty and frequent famine, wild animals continue to be an economic resource of major importance, particularly as food. Wildlife is critically important as a source of cheap protein for malnourished people and, when traded, as earnings in cash where few alternative sources of income exist. But such use and trade is widely prohibited

by law in the countries of East and Southern Africa.

To date, most research on bush meat has been focussed on west and central African countries. To gather more substantial information on the situation in other parts of Africa, TRAFFIC conducted a two-year review on trade and utilisation of wild meat in seven east and southern African countries (Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The study *"Food For Thought: The Utilisation and Trade of Wild Meat in Eastern and Southern Africa"* by Rob Barnett, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa, will be released on 18 July 2000.

This study documents the utilisation of wild meat in the region, its economic value to rural communities, and the impact of harvest on protected areas and individual species valued in the trade.

A total of 23 surveys were conducted from 1997 to 1998, of which 16 were focused on illegal use of wildlife. A diversity of rural and urban areas was targeted and approximately 6,000 respondents contributed to the collection of baseline data.

Versatile source of food and protein

A wide variety of species - from insects, rodents and birds, to duikers, elephants, and impalas - are utilised regularly throughout the areas studied. Bush meat also affects a wide range of communities, from traditional hunter/gatherer societies, to agro-pastoral and pastoral communities as well as urban centres in the region. Among the majority of the people, bush meat is recognised as a valued resource and consumed regularly on daily, weekly or



Freidkin Conservation Trust

Decomposing carcass. Hundreds of animals are caught but only few are taken and majority left behind.

monthly basis.

For example, the study found that in Kitui District, Kenya, about 14.1 kg of bush meat per household is consumed by 80% of the households each month and in the Kweneng rural area of Botswana, 46% of households consume at least 18.2 kg of bush meat every month. In many areas bush meat also represents the only viable source of meat protein, with domestic meat being prohibitively expensive and largely unavailable.

With increasing urbanisation, a key trend within all countries of the study is a continuing reliance on affordable sources of bush meat protein. For example, in the urban survey area of Maputo Province, Mozambique, a substantial trade of more than 50 metric tonnes (mt) per month of bush meat exists, with the supply emanating from numerous, often distant, source areas. Such commercialised urban trade is also extensive elsewhere, for example in Lusaka, Zambia.

In six of the seven countries surveyed, bush meat was found to be

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Far From A Cure: Tiger Trade revisited

Despite a marked fall in the consumption of tiger-bone medicines in former major consuming States, there is little evidence of a major reduction in poaching of some key tiger populations.

A new TRAFFIC report *Far From A Cure: The Tiger Trade Revisited* released in March 2000, examined the tiger trade in the late 1990s and revealed that use of tiger parts in traditional Asian medicine continues to be a threat to wild tigers.

However, the study also reports of progress made in Tiger trade control since the early 1990s. The Tiger has not become extinct in any range State, despite fears in the early 1990s that this may happen by the turn of the millennium.

There has been greatly increased investment in all aspects of Tiger conservation, including anti-poaching, biological monitoring, local community development, public education, and capacity-building. Progress in India, Nepal and the Russian Federation is particularly notable, although problems remain.

In the recent years markets have

also seen the trade shifting more in to tiger skins and other products beside bone.

TRAFFIC International, TRAFFIC offices in the East Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe, India and Oceania, as well as WWF International and a number of WWF national organisations participated in the worldwide launch urging the tiger range States, especially key countries in Southeast Asia, to strictly enforce trade bans, improve anti-poaching capacity, develop specialised enforcement units for undercover investigations and provide incentives against commercial tiger poaching.

The launch also stressed the importance of close co-operation and work with traditional medicine practitioners. This community can play an important role in eliminating any remaining trade, promoting the use of substitutes and raising conservation awareness among consumers of such medicine.

Also management solutions, such as compensation, livestock protection and management as well as developing alternative livelihoods, must be urgently developed.

This report was published with financial support from Save the Tiger Fund (a special project of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with ExxonMobil), Johnson and Johnson, WWF-UK, WWF-US and WWF-Japan.



TRAFFIC East Asia

Specific media events were held by TRAFFIC and WWF offices in the UK, Hong Kong (in photo) and India.

TRAFFIC staff news

Welcome

Claire Nugent has started her work as the new Programme Administration and Evaluation Officer in TRAFFIC International in March 2000.

Mary Hansford has started her work at TRAFFIC International in March 2000 replacing Rose Warwick as the new administrative officer.

Susanne Honnef started as the new Medicine and Plants Officer in TRAFFIC Europe-Germany in May 2000.

Rolie Srivastava has joined TRAFFIC Europe also in May and will be working as Project Consultant to support the establishment of European Medicinal Plant Resources Secretariat until November 2000.

Janet Ong has started as Administrative Officer at TRAFFIC Southeast Asia in May 2000.

Lorena Hidalgo will start as Administrative Assistant at TRAFFIC South America in the end of June 2000.

Moving

Nina Marshall has left her position as Deputy Director at TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa to take up a new challenge as Assistant Director in TRAFFIC Europe Regional Office in mid-June 2000.

Julie Thompson the National Representative of TRAFFIC North America-Canada will be moving to Vietnam in August 2000 to take up a new post as the National Representative at TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Vietnam.

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TRAFFIC completes a study on butterfly trade in Europe

by Peter Schütz, Consultant, TRAFFIC Europe and
Roland Melisch, National Representative, TRAFFIC Europe-Germany

Many butterflies and beetles are threatened by commercial trade. Earlier observations by a variety of publications have indicated a significant commercial trade - both legal and illegal - in insects. A new TRAFFIC study shows that this trade has continued over the years and insect trade fairs in Germany, France, Switzerland and the Czech Republic continue to offer many endangered butterfly and beetle species for sale for demanding public.

The report titled '*Flügel hinter Glas. Der Insektenhandel in Deutschland unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Schmetterlinge*' by Peter Schütz will be released later this month. It focuses on butterflies but also examines the beetle trade. A total of 12 insect trade fairs were visited in Germany, France, Switzerland and in the Czech Republic between September 1996 and November 1997. In addition, offers on threatened insects that appeared in journals and magazines specialising in entomology that were published from 1995 to 1997 were analysed. The overall aim was to assess and analyse the butterfly and beetle species offered, their prices, origin, quantity, purpose of trade and form of presentation in trade. In the process, the study also aimed to highlight threatened and/or protected species offered on the market and underline possible solutions to overcome the conservation problems encountered.

The study found that most of the species in trade were not protected by any national or international law or regulations. However, a big selection of the offered species still remained subject to the German Federal Species Conservation Act (Bundesartenschutzverordnung, BArtSchV) and other countries' domestic legislation prohibiting the species in question to be captured, on sale and traded without prior official permission.

The study found that 250 butterfly species offered for sale were protected by the BArtSchV, including all domestic species threatened by trade. Additionally, 21 out of 37 (57%) beetle species listed under the BArtSchV

were illegally offered for sale at insect trade fairs.

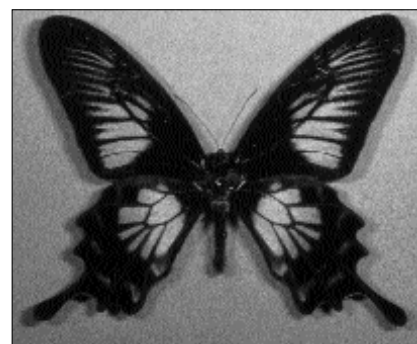
21 out of 31 CITES-listed butterfly species (among them *Parnassius apollo* and *Ornithoptera alexandrae*) that were recorded during the study period were not allowed for trade and sale according to a EU Council regulation and were thus offered illegally. In addition, as many as 14 of 55 beetle species that were listed on the IUCN Red list (1996), as well as 39 out of 238 butterfly species, were offered on the markets surveyed. Among them were *Atrophaneura jophon* (critically endangered) and *Ornithoptera alexandrae* (endangered).

Prices for butterflies ranged between DM0.20 (US\$0.1) for some specimens to DM 7,000.00 (US\$3,400) for a pair of *Ornithoptera meridionalis*, a birdwing species *Ornithoptera meridionalis*. Exotic species offered outnumbered the palaearctic (Eurasian) ones by far. After analysing international trade data, the study found that Germany is the fourth biggest importer of CITES-listed butterflies after Japan, the USA and the UK. About 81% of all CITES-listed butterflies traded worldwide were imported for commercial purposes. More than half of these specimens came from ranching or farming programmes, and about 11% were of wild-caught origin. With respect to non-CITES butterfly species, the study registered an increase of Eastern European, Russian and Central Asian species for sale. However, with the exception of the CITES data mentioned above, there are no statistics available giving information about general trade in

insect species.

Every species for which there is a demand was for sale on the market. In most of the insect trade fairs surveyed, the species' population, conservation or protection status appeared to have very little, if any influence on the behaviour of insect traders - as was also the case with the existing legal restrictions.

- continued on page 14



WWF/A. Österle

Critically endangered Sri Lankan Rose *Atrophaneura jophon* was offered for sale in most of the European insect trade fairs surveyed.

Price for *Macrodonia cervicornis* originating from Brazil and Peru varied between DM30 (US\$15) and DM200 (US\$97) in fairs surveyed.



WWF/A. Österle

Pangolin distribution and trade in East and Northeast India

by Manoj Misra, Director and Fahmeeda Hanfee, Senior Project Officer, TRAFFIC India

Pangolins in India are widespread but little known and appreciated. There is a low intensity and low profile illegal trade flourishing in village markets (*haats*), which could accumulatively be significant and of conservation concern. Belonging to the family Manidae, two species of Pangolin, namely the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*), are reported at least from 22 protected areas in the country. Both these species are given the highest degree of legal protection i.e listed in Schedule 1 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, of India.

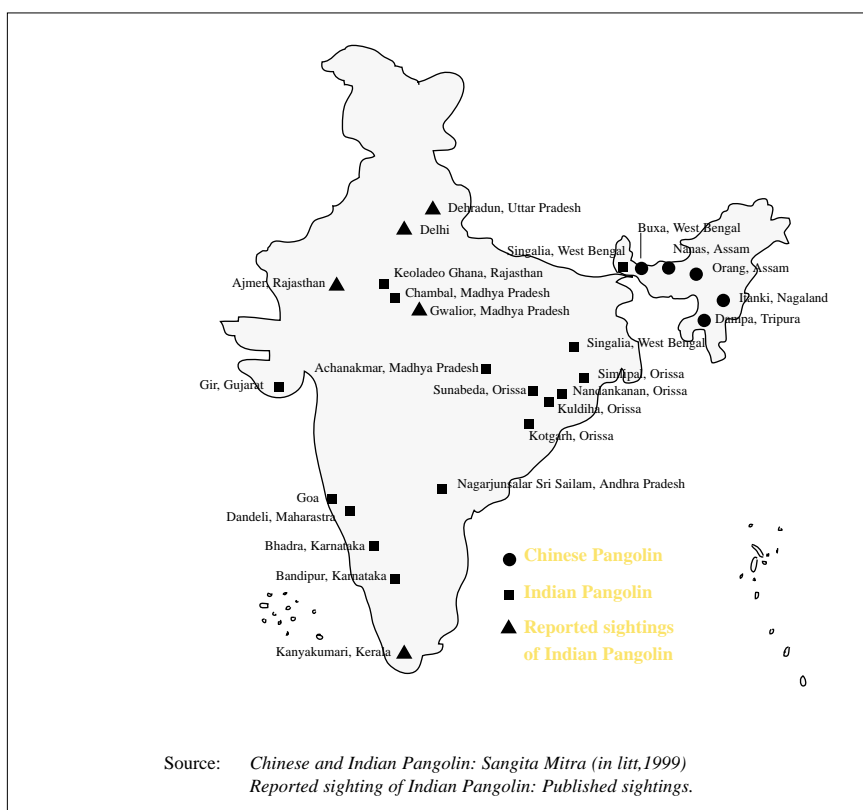
In order to determine the nature and volume of trade in pangolin scales and parts and its impact (if any) on natural populations in the wild, TRAFFIC India undertook a field survey in parts of West Bengal and Orissa in East India. The field work was carried out by the Indian Society for Wildlife Research, Calcutta between June 1997 and January 1998 in the forests of several areas of West Bengal and Orissa.

The field investigators interviewed 209 villagers and 12 forest officers, collecting information about species sighting, as well as seizures of animals and their parts. Previously identified urban and rural '*haats*', were visited to estimate the nature and volume of trade.

Main threats

Found in a variety of habitats, including primary and secondary forests, cultivated lands and hilly tracts, pangolins prefer rock crevices and burrows, which they make in sheltered boulders. These burrows may be as deep as 6m. They are nocturnal, coming out during the night for feeding on eggs and adult termites and ants. It is reported from Kannyakumari district in Tamil Nadu that they also feed on the soft shelled land molluscs found in gardens and cultivated lands. It is not known how they feed on molluscs - they possibly break the shells with their strong nails as evident in the crumbled shells in their hide outs.

Known by various names such as *Bajrakit* (Sanskrit), *Banrui* (Bengal), *Sallu Samp* (Hindi) and *Enampechi* (Malayalam), habitat loss and hunting for meat and scales are the major threats to the species. Traditional hunters such



as tribesmen use trained dogs to track and hunt them. Pangolin scales are extracted after killing and skinning the animal. Scales from one adult animal weigh an average of 1kg. Oil is extracted from the fat of the animal (amounting to 250 grammes per animal) for medicinal purposes. The brain of the animal is used by local medicine men. Local tribesmen eat also the flesh.

The scales of pangolin, the main part in trade, are found all over the body except the snout, chin, sides of face, throat, belly and inner surface of limbs, are two sided symmetrical elevations of the epidermis, which are constantly replaced on wear. The size of Indian Pangolin's scale may vary from 6.5 cm

- 7 cm (height) from the dorsal and tail region of the body, with an average breadth of 8.5 cm and weight of 7-10 gms. The Indian pangolin may have about 160-200 scales all over its body, of which 40-46% is present on the tail. The Chinese Pangolin found in North East India is smaller in size when compared to the Indian pangolin.

Distribution and status

Pangolins have been reported to occur in the Indian sub-continent from eastern Pakistan, through much of India south of the Himalayas, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. They may occur also in Myanmar and extreme western China.

Indian Pangolin
Manis crassicaudata
has 160-200 scales
all over its body.



But essentially no information is available on population levels of any of the pangolin species. In a CITES Management Authority document from 1986 pangolin populations are described to occur in India, with an indeterminate status. Further, it considers that the population have been greatly reduced by hunting.

Trade

Available data shows that the principal component of the Pangolin trade is exploitation for scales and meat for medicinal purposes. The trade pattern is such that it mostly goes undetected and therefore unrecorded. The reported international trade in its products generally involves two commodities - scales and skin. It is recorded that about 700 skins of Indian Pangolin were exported to the USA in 1983 compared to 5,023 skins between 1980-1982.

The price of one pangolin in the USA was about \$US6 and 1kg of scales is valued \$US18. The prices of scales vary from INR 250-500 per kg at the collection points; INR 500 - 1000 per kg at the main trading centers; and INR 900 - 1500 per kg at the border trading centres. The international market prices are reported to be INR 7000 - 8000 per kg.

The traders in all the states are mainly the tribal charmers. Generally they are the direct primary level sellers, though there is sometimes involvement of middlemen or agents. The tribal communities in the rural areas are directly involved in hunting while the middlemen or the agents usually buy the products from them. However, some agents were found to be hunters themselves.

Findings

The survey found that in East India a regular trade in pangolin scales take place in numerous weekly bazaars such as the Bundwan Choke and Kuilapal market in Purulia district of West Bengal. In Orissa such markets were

found in urban as well as rural areas, such as High Court market, Choudhary Bazar, and Nimchandi market in Cuttack, and Kiplipada, Udala and Nilgiri rural markets in Mayurbhanj and Baleswar districts. Puri, a popular pilgrimage town on the Orissa coast, is also known for the flourishing wildlife trade including Pangolin products.

On the other hand the interviews with villagers and forest officials confirmed that pangolin sightings are far apart and few, though tribal communities continue to track and trap them successfully to feed the markets. The Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Orissa was found to be the main supply source for markets in the region, in addition to the forests of Baripada, Hathgarh, Satkosia, Kuldiha and Sunabera. In West Bengal, supplies come from the hilly forests of Purulia and the adjoining forests of the state of Bihar (Dhama hills) and Orissa.

The survey also found that there are two types of end users. The first group consists of the general public, who purchase scales or the rings made from the scales, mainly for personal use, for example, to be used as charms or cures for haemorrhoids, rheumatism or labour pain. The other group consists of medicine men (locally called 'kaviraj') who purchase the scales, fat and brain of pangolins from their regular suppliers.

Unfortunately population numbers or population trends in the wild of the Pangolin species could not be determined. Of all the respondents from areas in West Bengal only five reported recent sightings. In the major rescue and rehabilitation centre in the state, Nandankanan Zoo in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, records mention only 12 Pangolin arrivals since 1990.

TRAFFIC India investigations from the North Eastern states of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura indicate that Chinese Pangolin scales and meat are regularly collected from many different areas in the region (such as Assam, Nagaland, and Manipur) and traded in markets such as Imphal, Bishnupur and Moreh in Manipur. There are also

reports of supplies to Nepal via Dimapur in Nagaland.

Also the study found that there is a flourishing cross border trade on the Indo Myanmar border. A monthly trade estimate of 25-45 kg (3-4 animals make one kg) of scales in Manipur has been recorded, out of which about 80% is destined for Myanmar. There are collection agents all over the state, in the districts of Senapati, Tamenglong, Churachandpur, Ukhrul and Chandel. Moreh (Manipur-India) And Tumu (Myanmar) are the notable, cross border trade centres.

Epilogue

This study encourages more research on the pangolin status in the region and recommends focussing the enforcement efforts on porous borders of Indo-Nepal and Indo-Myanmar. At the same time, the study acknowledges that lack of adequate information on the pangolin populations making the animal data deficient.

At the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in April 2000, a proposal to transfer Asian Pangolins *Manis crassicaudata*, *M. pentadactyla* and *M. javanica* from Appendix II to Appendix I was put forward by India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the USA. This proposal was rejected, despite the fact that the Parties acknowledged that Asian Pangolin populations are increasingly under threat due to domestic and international demand as well as habitat destruction.

TRAFFIC welcomed the decision and urged COP to direct the Animals Committee to complete its review of trade in specimens of these pangolin species. TRAFFIC also called for a suspension of international trade in pangolins, their parts and derivatives, until the status of the species has been assessed in all exporting range States.

For more information on the study contact TRAFFIC India. For contact details see page 16.

Significant progress made at COP11

The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held in Nairobi, Kenya in April 2000. With its 152 member states, COP11 proved once more to be a vital forum for international action to halt over-exploitation of valuable resources in wildlife trade.

Significant progress was made in controlling the elephant trade when a continued ban on the ivory trade and support for elephant trade monitoring systems was agreed upon. A deeper understanding of the illegal trade and killing of elephants ensured enough time for monitoring systems to become operational and deliver analytical results to the next CITES conference which will be held in the year 2002.

Other significant progress was made by addressing poaching of tigers and monitoring the illegal trade in tiger parts. Further, a resolution was adopted to tighten controls on the illegal trade in shahtoosh shawls made from the endangered Tibetan Antelope. Also a working group looking at trade controls in mahogany was revitalised.

Since some Parties felt that national legislation or regional agreements regarding fisheries are sufficient, some proposals, such as the whale shark, basking shark and great white shark, were rejected. This left these species at risk from unregulated unsustainable international trade. Further, a resolution aimed at clarifying trade controls for marine species taken on the high seas outside any national jurisdiction, termed in CITES as 'introduction from the sea', was defeated.

TRAFFIC recommends that plans for the future of CITES pay particular attention to the application of science, economics, law enforcement and awareness. In addition, CITES member countries should strive to harness greater finance to support national action and pay close attention to the wider conservation and trade agenda.

Full TRAFFIC report on COP11 will be published in *TRAFFIC Bulletin Vol. 18 No.3* later this year.

Plant for a Healthy Future

The importance of traditional medicine can not be understated – especially in developing countries where traditional medical practitioners represent the first line of treatment for many maladies. In rural locations modern medicine, in contrast, is often difficult to acquire in rural locations, and beyond the economic reach of the majority of the ever-expanding population. These factors mean that the demand for medicinal plants far exceeds supply and many species are under threat of local extinction. This is especially true if there is a strong commercial element to be satisfied as in the case of *Prunus africana*.

In order to improve this situation, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa (TESA) has initiated a self-help project to encourage traditional medical practitioners to grow indigenous plant species that are considered most important. This project has five components:

1. Identification of species that are considered threatened by use in traditional medicine. This includes discussions with traditional medical practitioners as well as reviewing academic studies undertaken on the subject.
2. Discovering the most effective means to propagate these species in tandem with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute and the International Centre For Research in Agroforestry.

3. Testing the propagation methods developed by IUCN in field situations.

4. Collation of the above information into a simple manual for use by the traditional medical practitioners.

5. Dissemination of the information to traditional medical practitioners, community and school groups as well as the voluntary sector.

Once the species have been identified and the methods refined, TESA plans to distribute "kits" providing starter materials for individuals and groups to propagate some of the species for themselves. Unfortunately, some of the medicinal species are extremely difficult to grow in basic situations. Thus, the nurseries at the Eastern Africa Regional Office of IUCN will act as a seedling centre for these species, which can then be collected and distributed.

Between raising awareness of the values of indigenous trees and propagating the most threatened species it is hoped that traditional medical practitioners, community and school groups can all "Plant for a healthy future".

This project is funded by the Rufford Foundation.



Traditional Medical Practitioners' stand at the Machakos Agricultural Show displaying a range of species of plants, and the medicines derived from these that are used in the treatment of patients.

South America:

A diverse continent of wildlife resources

The Challenge

For many centuries Latin America was conquered and colonised mainly for its mineral richness. The mentality of mineral extraction may have also triggered the continuing exploitation of natural resources in South America. No distinction was made between well sought-after metals and large amounts of wild resources, plants, and animals. In many cases they were used to total exhaustion.

Many of the products were and continue to be important to the economies of the region and to international markets. Oyster pearls, Brazilian wood, Caribbean mahogany, primates for pets and biomedical research, macaws and parrots, bird feathers, reptile skins and mammals skins for fashion, the sap of the rubber and quinine (the only antidote known against malaria for centuries) are just a few such products.

Today, the legal and illegal extraction of animals and plants from the wild continues to be driven by the demand of markets around the world. Human populations increase and the insatiable demands of the more developed countries and the élite of the developing countries keep the demand high. Thanks to a world of free trade and global economies, obstacles to sell anything anywhere - provided that there is someone willing to pay for it - are few.

The challenge for South America's new TRAFFIC regional office that was re-established in October 1999 is to generate positive changes in this

complex scenario - and in the context of a large, biologically and culturally diverse continent.

It is TRAFFIC's aim to provide guidance and recommendations from the perspective of one of the most serious problems that the conservation of biological biodiversity faces: the unsustainable extraction of species and its impact on the environment to feed the trade of fauna, flora and their products. The basis of TRAFFIC's work is objective information of high technical and scientific quality.

No single organisation alone can generate the urgent changes needed. Our work focuses on strategic liaisons with WWF, IUCN and key international, regional or national Institutions. Together we can combine efforts and contribute solutions to the problems faced by our societies. The loss of biological diversity, its productivity and continued existence need to be urgently addressed by us and future generations.

We are also part of a global network, offering analysis and alternatives from the perspectives of both producing and consumer countries that can help us find integrated solutions. The support for the correct implementation of CITES and other related agreements in the region is crucial in all our work.

We reaffirm our commitment with the Region in the search of a more just and sustainable world.

The Way Ahead

TRAFFIC South America has identified four approaches to guide its work within the region:

Identification of possibilities to introduce a wildlife in trade element to focused projects of priority ecoregions and species issues under the WWF umbrella in the region.

Increased involvement in CITES implementation work in the region in fields such as timber, fisheries and enforcement, where TRAFFIC can help to make a difference.

Co-operation with governments in the region through clearly identified sets of issues where TRAFFIC's input has been and will be welcomed.

Improvement of TRAFFIC's own knowledge and appreciation of the most urgent needs where TRAFFIC's input can help conservation of biodiversity in South America.

These approaches will help TRAFFIC South America frame the most realistic and effective programme for the region. TRAFFIC's aim is to be recognized by the conservation and wildlife trade community in its region as a reliable, objective source of information and advice, known for the quality and timeliness of its products. Databases on species in trade, infractions, and trade levels will also be part of the expertise in wildlife trade issues provided by TRAFFIC.

As part of a worldwide network, TRAFFIC South America staff work to better ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

In photo from left:
Anita Sancho, Bernardo Ortiz and Ximena Buitrón.



TRAFFIC South America

Sea cucumbers in Galapagos Islands

During 1999 an experimental season of sea cucumber *Isostichopus fuscus* fishery was opened in the Galapagos Islands. During this period over 4.4 million sea cucumbers were harvested. The majority of them were destined to Taiwan and Hong Kong, with small amounts sent to the markets of USA and Singapore.

The trial period was supervised by the Directorate of Protected Areas of Galapagos as well as supported by studies before and after the season in order to determine the impact of the harvest on the populations of *I. fuscus*. In this context TRAFFIC presented a report 'The Galapagos Sea Cucumber Trade during 1999' to the Minister of the Environment of Ecuador (to be published in the near future). The report concludes that sea cucumber fishery should be halted until it is certain that this endangered resource is recovering successfully.

However, due to pressure imposed by the fishermen, the authorities included the fishery of *I. fuscus* in the annual fishing calendar for year 2000. A new fishing period was established with a quota of two million sea cucumbers. The fishermen did not accept the offer and requested an increase of the quota and the establishment of an official minimum price per sea cucumber.

After negotiations a new quota of four and a half millions sea cucumbers was set, with a two month fishing season and a fixed price of US\$2 per

unit. A few days prior the start of the fishing season, the fishermen requested a new increase of the quota. To create pressure on the authorities, they "kidnapped" juvenile giant tortoises from the breeding centre at Isabela Island and occupied the installations of the National Park. Fishermen had used these kind of tactics successfully in the past to meet their demands.

The authorities fixed a new date to open the fishing season and fishermen had to concede and accept the previously agreed quota. The sea cucumber fishery for year 2000 began on 22nd May.

TRAFFIC has expressed its support to the Ministry of Environment in enforcing the law, rejecting all radical positions by the fishermen that imply blackmail, lack of respect towards previous agreements and disregard of the integrity of the Galapagos ecosystem and the resources. The management authorities are urged to make all parties respect the established fishing quotas and to exercise the corresponding control. The appropriate sanctions need to be applied to those who have fished and stocked sea cucumbers outside the fishing season.

In recent dialogues with the fishing sector of the archipelago and with the authorities, TRAFFIC was requested to continue with investigations providing recommendations related to the processing and presentation of the product, as well as trends in the international market.



TRAFFIC South America

The Galapagos is home to some 14 species of sea cucumbers - relatives of the starfish - but only *Isostichopus fuscus* is heavily exploited.

Sea cucumber fishers started targetting the Galapagos Islands in 1992 following exhaustion of the supply from the coast of mainland Ecuador.



TRAFFIC South America

Larger environmental programme underway for the Galapagos Islands

The Ecuadorian government together with the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) is preparing a conservation programme for the Galapagos Islands. The programme aims to promote efficient use of natural resources and conservation of the environment in the archipelago.

As soon as the agreement between government and IDB has been finalised, TRAFFIC South America will undertake the evaluation of trade in marine resources in the Galapagos region. This work supports the Directorate of Protected Areas of Galapagos (DAPG) in its efforts to better manage fishery-related issues in the region. The activities are envisaged to start in the year 2001.



Jonathan Green

Sea cucumbers are marine animals that range in size from two centimeters to two meters and move by means of many small feet. They are regarded as a delicacy, tonic food and occasionally used in medicines.

Medicinal plants in trade

Ximena Buitron / TRAFFIC



Trading medicinal plants at a market place in Quito, Ecuador.

Leaves and bark of *Tabebuia impetiginosa* are used for medicinal purposes.



S.R. SILVA

Medicinal plants as well as their derivative products, such as potions, pills and creams, are sold daily in the local markets throughout South America and traded internationally. There is evidence that the volume of medicinal plants traded is considerable and that net sales exceed millions of dollars annually.

To a great extent the plants are harvested from the wild and come from Coastal, Andean and Amazonian regions. In some cases they are well known species, that have been known since the colonial era, such as the Quinine and the Sarsaparilla. In other cases, such as Ayahuasca, they were known for long time only by indigenous communities but recently have been studied and used also by larger communities.

South America supplies raw material used for the production of many medicines aimed at relieving or curing illnesses, from various aches and infections to cancer. For example native plants like Boldo, Dragon's blood, Cat's claw and Ipecac are used for these purposes. The region also consumes vast amounts of products containing medicinal plants, such as Gingseng, that are produced overseas and then imported to the region.

The use of traditional medicine is increasing steadily. The reliance on natural medicinal resources is due to cultural preferences as well as the high cost and inaccessibility of modern medicine. The increasing wild harvest and current trade patterns of these resources can create a negative impact that threatens not only the sustainability of the species but also the health of the population.

Better use and management of the trade in medicinal plants is the key challenge – not only in South America

but worldwide.

In order to address this enormous challenge, TRAFFIC South America aims to enhance the body of information on these resources and to better understand harvest and trade patterns, as well as the existing and proposed trade legislation in the region and recommendations for future developments.

Various activities by TRAFFIC have recently been undertaken, are ongoing or planned to take place in the near future:

- Medicinal plant studies on harvest, use and trade in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.
- Workshops organised by TRAFFIC on medicinal plants and trade, with the participation of not only the scientific experts but also indigenous and local communities, traders and private companies as well as the governmental sector.
- Interaction with various technical networks such as RIPROFITO (Iberoamerican Network of Phytopharmaceutical Products), CYTED (Science and Technology for Iberoamerican Development) and GICPLAM (Iberoamerican group for the just Commercialisation of Medicinal Plants) as well as with private groups related to trade and health, universities and herbaria, and environment and health NGO's.

- Participation in various conferences and other events, such as the upcoming International Fair on Natural Health, EXPONAT 2000, to be held in Colombia in September 2000.

Toothfish study in Chile

In November 1999 TRAFFIC South America commenced research on the status of the trade in Patagonian toothfish *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Chile, as part of a larger study carried out by the TRAFFIC Network investigating the global trade of both Patagonian and Antarctic Toothfish.

Toothfish is a very important resource for the fishing industry in Chile, as it generates a considerable amount of direct and indirect employment and creates incomes of US\$ 90 million per year to the country.

The fishery for toothfish in Chile began in the early 1970s and has expanded across to the northern and southern borders of the country. Toothfish is exported as frozen HG (headed and gutted) and as iced fillets to some twenty countries worldwide. The main export markets are Japan and the United States.

Chile has a Fishery Development Regime, which requires regular stock evaluation and management regulations. Chile also complies with the regulations of Convention on the Conservation of Atlantic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

Chile is also one of the few countries that has historical detailed information on statistics and biology of the resource.

Patagonian
toothfish
*Dissostichus
eleginoides*



TRAFFIC

Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla*

Big leafed Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla* continues to be one of the most exploited and exported tree species in South America. Its great demand and value on international markets has made it by far the most profitable wildlife timber species to Bolivia, Brazil and Peru. The USA is still the largest importer of mahogany followed by the Dominican Republic. In South America only Brazil is known to have a considerable local market.

There are indications of a decrease in exports from Brazil and Bolivia. This is partly due to increase of control measures but also because of exhaustion of the resource. The market is growing constantly, and the demand continues to be supplied by wild mahogany, especially at the time when the mahogany plantations in the region are still in their early days.

Swietenia macrophylla trade reflects to a great extent market patterns and the systems of extraction, exportation and control of valuable timber in general. The findings by TRAFFIC carried out in two separate studies in South America illustrate the problem of forestry and forest management in the region. Both '*Legislation and extraction controls and trade of mahogany in Bolivia,*

Brazil and Peru' and '*Mahogany Markets and trade: obstacles and opportunities*', provide a better insight to the diverse factors that threaten the species and/or impede adequate management. The reports will be released in the near future.

Mahogany and CITES: Next Steps

To date Costa Rica, Bolivia, Brazil and Mexico have included mahogany populations in Appendix III of CITES.

The re-establishment of a Working Group on Mahogany at CITES COP11 in April 2000 prompted new challenges to the work with this species in a more participative and integrated manner. TRAFFIC is preparing a publication that will include information on the monitoring of implementation of Appendix III listing up to 1999. In addition, dialogue and exchange of information in the region continue between TRAFFIC and CITES authorities, with the support of WWF and IUCN, to ensure better implementation of CITES.



Margaret Stern

**Big leafed Mahogany
Swietenia macrophylla
being stored and processed
at Espinoza Sawmill
in Maldonado,
Madre de Dios, Peru.**



Margaret Stern

Recent publications

Ecuador: Use and trade of medicinal plants, current situation and important facts for its conservation (in Spanish). Ximena Buitrón, July 1999.

Ecuador: Use and trade of medicinal plants, current situation and important facts for its conservation. Proceedings of the Workshop 1-3 September, 1999, Quito, Ecuador (in Spanish). Ximena Buitrón, December 1999.

Publications under preparation

Legislation and extraction controls and trade of mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla) in Bolivia, Brazil and Peru.

Mahogany Markets and trade: obstacles and opportunities.

Medicinal Plants of Brazil: legislation and trade.

Evaluation of trade of sea cucumbers Isostichopus fuscus in Galapagos Islands during 1999.

TRAFFIC South America is part of the worldwide TRAFFIC Network which has offices in 21 countries. TRAFFIC is a joint programme of WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature and IUCN-The World Conservation Union and it works in co-operation with the CITES Secretariat. TRAFFIC aims to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

TRAFFIC
— SOUTH AMERICA —



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TRAFFIC study offers insight into illegal TCM trade in Europe

by Stephanie Theile, Research Officer, TRAFFIC Europe

From November 1999 to March 2000 TRAFFIC Europe conducted surveys on the availability of Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM) purported to contain species regulated by CITES. This study documented the range and legality of TCM products offered in five West European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) and investigated the types of products most commonly on sale. Because TRAFFIC Europe undertook a similar survey in 1995, possible market shifts during recent years could be assessed. In parallel with these TCM surveys, TRAFFIC Europe-Germany studied the TCM user communities in Germany (see *TRAFFIC Bulletin Vol. 18 No. 2*).

The surveys showed that TCM products purporting to contain CITES-listed species were available in all of the five countries surveyed. 31% of the 149 sites that were visited offered TCM products claiming to contain ingredients of species such as Tiger *Panthera tigris*, Musk Deer *Moschus spp.*, Wild Ass *Equus spp.*, Saiga Antelope *Saiga tatarica*, American Ginseng *Panax quinquefolius*, Costus root *Saussurea costus* and several species of Orchids. Musk deer products such as anti-rheumatic plasters and pills claiming to contain Costus root were among the products that were most commonly found on sale.

The findings of this study were made available to national enforcement agencies in all five countries, leading to a number of significant seizures of illegal TCM.

'Musk & Tianwang Analgesic Plaster' containing leopard bone liquid and musk extract was seized from UK-based premises.



The Dutch Investigation Service (AID), for example, seized several thousands illegal TCM products since the beginning of this year. TRAFFIC Europe's information led to one of the largest seizures ever of Musk & Tiger Bone Plasters in Europe, when in April 2000 the Federal Police of Brussels confiscated more than 6.000 plasters from a single shop in Brussels.

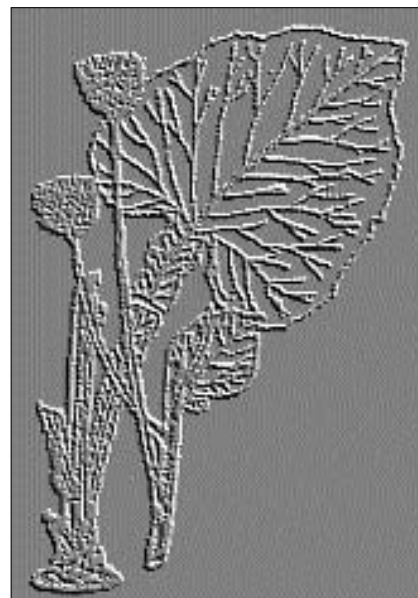
The study also revealed relatively low awareness among retailers and traders of the EU laws and regulations governing the trade in certain TCM products. As a follow-up activity, TRAFFIC Europe will commence outreach and awareness work towards the TCM communities in Western Europe. For example, TRAFFIC Europe is participating in information seminars organised by the Dutch AID, and aimed at retailers and traders of TCM in the Netherlands. In addition, TRAFFIC Europe-Germany plans to produce a leaflet for TCM practitioners about the relevant Regulations that apply to the trade also listing the most commonly used animal and plant species in TCM as well as TCM products that contain regulated ingredients.

UK focuses in raising awareness on lesser known species used in TCM

As part of the European study seven cities in the United Kingdom were visited and a total of 41 premises surveyed. It was found that over half of the premises sold traditional Chinese medicines. Included in this survey were Chinese supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics and doctors surgeries.

Of the 22 premises that stocked TCM, 14 (64%) were selling TCM that claimed to contain EU Wildlife Trade Regulation Annex A protected species, either in patent medicines or as raw ingredients. These species include Costus root, Leopard, Bear and Musk. Precise species in many cases remained unknown.

Costus root was the most prevalent species to be found, and in its raw state



CITES Appendix I-listed *Costus root Saussurea costus* is one of the most common species found on sale in the countries surveyed. It is said to act on the spleen and large intestine. It helps to ease abdominal pain and heighten body awareness and sensitivity. It is also used to treat asthma, bronchitis and cancer among other illnesses.

was available in all 14 premises that sold TCM claiming to contain protected species.

Over three-quarters of the practitioners questioned were aware that the sale of tiger and rhino and their products was illegal. However, outside of these two high profile species, their awareness was low. Efforts within the UK will now be focused on raising awareness of these lesser known species within the TCM community, as has been done for the tiger and rhino in the past.

-Stephanie Pendry, TRAFFIC International

This study was supported by WWF-Netherlands and WWF-UK.

TRAFFIC analyses wildlife trade dynamics in Vietnam

by James Compton*, National Representative, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Vietnam

Surveys conducted in Indochina over the past decade have shown that Vietnam plays three overlapping roles in the wildlife trade: as a conduit for wildlife sourced in surrounding countries, particularly Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia en route to more lucrative markets; as a consumer; and as a source country in its own right.

Vietnam has a long border with its western neighbours, and a protected area network has been set up in an attempt to safeguard Vietnam's remaining forested wilderness. One of the most important areas for endemic flora and fauna is the ecoregion known as the Northern Annamites, where attempts have been made by WWF and other conservation programmes to link areas of contiguous habitat in Vietnam and Lao PDR.

As part of the protected area system, the Pu Mat Nature Reserve (PMNR) was established in Nghe An

province in 1995, encompassing an area of 91,113 hectares across tropical and sub-tropical evergreen forest – including the largest tract of primary lowland tropical forest left in Vietnam.

PMNR lies between two important road conduits for trade between Lao PDR and Vietnam, Route 7 and Route 8. More importantly, it is surrounded by a bufferzone of 86,000ha, populated by 50,000 people who rely on exploiting forest products as part of their livelihoods.

Following an initial phase of biodiversity assessment conducted by

the Social Forestry and Nature Conservation project (SFNC) which began in 1997, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Vietnam office was contracted to assess the wildlife trade dynamics that operate around the nature reserve area.

A three-month survey was conducted between August and November 1999 by a four-person survey team who looked at key villages within the buffer zone, interactions with middlemen and traders, and how cross-border trade from Lao PDR plays a part in supply and demand.

The team found that – as with much of the trade through Vietnam – reptiles made up the largest proportion of observable trade, in this case 40%. Observed reptile species in trade included species listed on CITES Appendix II such as Impressed Tortoise *Manouria impressa*, Indian Cobra *Naja naja*, King Cobra *Ophiophagus hannah*, Common Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosus* and Burmese Python *Python molurus*.

Indochinese Box Turtle *Cuora galbinifrons* (recently listed on CITES App II at CITES COP11) made up 41% of all turtles observed in trade, while *Cuora trifasciata* (also now in CITES App II) was reported to fetch up to VND18 million (US\$1286) per kilogramme.

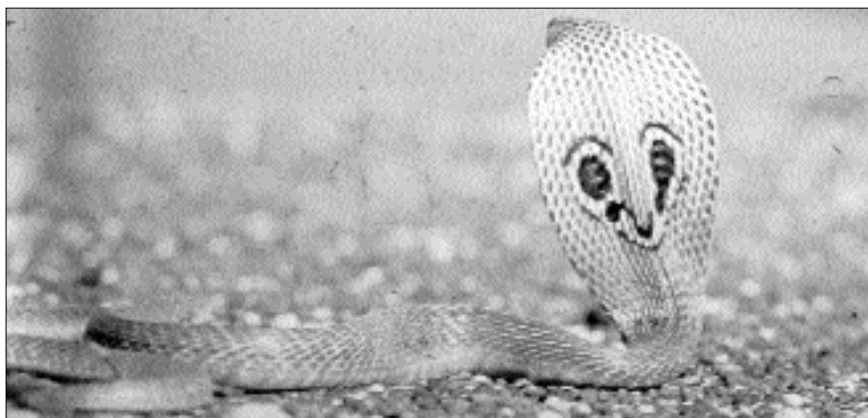
Live individuals and parts of mammal species comprised 18% of the total observable trade, including the following CITES listed species: Tiger *Panthera tigris*; Sun Bear *Ursus malayanus*; Asiatic Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*; Clouded Leopard *Neofelis nebulosa*; Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra*; Gaur *Bos gaurus*, Pangolin *Manis* sp. and Serow *Capricornis sumatraensis*.

These species are utilised as bushmeat by local people and sold-on to wildlife restaurants along Route 7, adjacent to the buffer zone of the park.



WWF/Gerald Cubitt

Young Serow
Capricornis
sumatraensis



WWF / Ron Whittaker

They are also used as medicinal ingredients or as decorations and pets.

Three main source areas were identified: the PMNR itself, areas in Nghe An province outside the protected area, and Lao PDR. Traders estimated that 40% of the bear trade and 90% of the pangolin trade originated in Lao PDR. If the animals were not consumed in the districts surrounding the PMNR, they were most likely to be transported north to Hanoi, possibly going further north across the border into China.

The TRAFFIC survey discovered that trade in Indian Cobra and King Cobra peaks between November and January each year, targeted to supply Chinese traders during a specific 10-day period when they extract the venom for supplying the TCM market.

Prior to the commencement of the larger SFNC project (ECU 22 million over six years, funded by the European Community) baseline socio-economic analysis indicated an income gap of US\$1million between what village communities in the PMNR buffer zone can produce from agricultural activities and what the population needs to survive. Harvesting and exploitation of wildlife and other forest products is believed to play a major role in making up this shortfall.

TRAFFIC's involvement in this project has provided a localised counterpoint to working at the national level with the CITES Authorities of Vietnam. By analysing the wildlife trade dynamics around a source area such as the PMNR, TRAFFIC has compiled insights on several levels:

- Traded species profiles, uses of wildlife products and current market prices;
- The need to strictly police protected areas as sanctuaries for

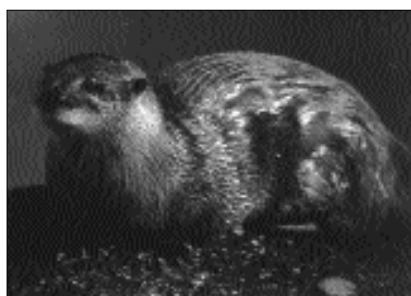
Vietnam's wildlife;

- Reliance of rural communities on forest resources, and therefore the need to conserve these resources;
- Role of Lao PDR as an additional source area for the trade; and
- How enforcement strategies could be improved.

The results of this survey will be taken forward by the SFNC project in the near term. TSEA-VN will also be using the report as an advocacy tool with the Vietnamese authorities at central and provincial levels, aiming to catalyse a more coherent approach to regulating wildlife trade relative to the needs of the rural poor who depend on the forest for their livelihoods.

** Currently James Compton is working in TRAFFIC Oceania office as a Senior Programme Officer.*

Top photo: Indian Cobra *Naja naja*
Below: Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra*;
Gaur *Bos gaurus*.



WWF / Henry Ausloos



WWF / Mandel Ranjit

Symposium on Medicinal Utilisation of Wild Species

This year's World Exposition, EXPO 2000, with its overall theme 'Humankind - Nature - Technology' will last from 1st June until 31st October.

Within a series of fora presented by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-Germany, WWF and TRAFFIC would like to announce a one-day symposium:

'Medicinal Utilisation of Wild Species - A Global Conservation Challenge in the New Millennium'

on October 13th, 2000 at the Nord/LB-Forum, EXPO 2000, Hannover, Germany.

Scope:

80 per cent of the world's population relies on plant and animal-based medicines for their primary health care needs. Rising demand for wildlife medicinals has led to increased rates of over-exploitation in many regions of the world. Encouraging the sustainable use of medicinals from the wild is crucial to maintain both biodiversity and health requirements for future generations.

Aim:

Decision-makers and experts in the fields of health-politics, conservation, development co-operation, pharmaceutical industry and traditional medicines are invited to develop strategies for a more effective management of species used for medicinal purposes. Speakers will include international representatives from the political, conservation and health care sector.

Among the invited key note speakers are Prof. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the UN Environmental Programme, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Maritta Koch Weser, Director General of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), as well as the German Ministries for Health and Development Cooperation.

Symposium languages will be English and German.

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continued from page 1

much cheaper than domestic meat. For example, in Zimbabwe bush meat is 75% cheaper than domestic meat and in Botswana it is 30% cheaper. The study also found that the poorer the household, the greater its reliance on bush meat seems to be.

During times of economic hardship, droughts and famine, bush meat is relied upon to an even greater extent. Peak hunting periods coincide with dry season drought months, as vegetation is less dense and wildlife searching for watering holes are easier to locate and hunt. Hence, supply peaks during times of hardship, and constitutes an important drought and famine coping strategy for the majority in the rural areas surveyed.

Legal game meat production

All the countries surveyed legally produce game meat through ranching, farming, cropping/culling, licensed hunting or problem animal control initiatives. Such schemes collectively yield about 8,500 metric tonnes (mt) of meat annually, with an estimated local

value of nearly \$US 7.7 million.

Game meat production in Zimbabwe (2,925 mt per year) represents a substantial and growing industry. It is economically more favourable compared with other land uses such as farming and livestock ranching in semi-arid areas. This is due, in part, to the ability of wildlife to adapt to harsh conditions, and the versatile options wildlife offer in terms of photographic tourism, trophy hunting, and hide and meat production.

However, the study found that the other countries surveyed have a negligible game ranching, farming and cropping sector due to unfavourable wildlife ownership and land tenure laws. In these countries, wildlife is government-owned with only limited and, in many cases, short-term user rights given to landholders. When a continuing uncertainty about the retention of wildlife user rights persists, landholders remain reluctant to invest in costly start-up infrastructure.

Game meat also results as a by-product from licensed hunting. All the countries surveyed have legislation allowing low-cost licensed hunting by

citizens. However, due to the subsidised cost of licenses, licensed citizen hunting can be open to misuse.

For example, in Tanzania the cost of a citizen license to hunt a Cape Buffalo is USD 10. By comparison, the animal's meat is valued at USD 211 and its value as a safari hunting trophy is USD 800. Hence, the high-value of bush meat can result in many citizen hunters, literally, over-shooting their license quotas for commercial gain.

Bush meat trade

In many rural survey areas, hunters whose primary objective is still to provide meat to their families, conduct



Wildlife trader with dik dik *Rynchostragus kirki* meat in Maputo, Mozambique.

IUCN Mozambique

A landmark tuna agreement underway

Since June 1997 the coastal states, territories and states fishing in the area of the western and central Pacific Ocean have been negotiating a new fisheries arrangement under the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement¹. Called the 'Multilateral High Level Conference (MHLC) process', the resulting arrangement will be the first to be concluded under the UN Agreement.

The fishery for highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific is based on four tuna stocks; skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and South Pacific albacore. The largest tuna fishery in the world, it is worth around US\$1.7 billion per annum. The geo-political nature of the western and central Pacific distinguishes it from other major tuna fisheries, with around 70% of the total catch taken in the exclusive economic zones of Pacific island countries and territories. This, combined with the high economic reliance by many Pacific island countries on the fishery, makes these negotiations very sensitive.

Not unexpectedly, the issues that have polarised participants mirror those that have plagued other international

fisheries organisations; among others decision-making processes and basis for future fishing entitlements.

TRAFFIC Oceania continues to work with other environmental NGOs, as well as in co-operation with the Australian government, to ensure that any decisions made do not undermine the effectiveness of the arrangement in support of effective conservation and management.

At present, only two countries have had environmental NGO delegates – Australia and the US. TRAFFIC Oceania is the only NGO on the Australian delegation and has been liaising closely with the NGOs represented on the US delegation, including through the tabling of a joint statement on transparency provisions for observers at the last session of the MHLC.

Negotiations are pursued to be concluded by the end of summer 2000.

- Anna Willock, Senior Fisheries Adviser
TRAFFIC Oceania

1) The UN Fish Stocks Agreement was adopted in 1995 and requires 30 ratifications to bring it into force. There are currently 26 ratifications and it is expected to come into force later this year.

continued from page 3

The study also showed that enforcement and market surveys that are carried out sporadically by both, the enforcement authorities and the insect fair hosts, are far from satisfactory. The conservation status of certain non-migrant, resident insect species with low population densities and restricted range (eg., *Atrophaneura jophon*, a Sri Lankan Papilionid butterfly and *Colophon primosi*, a South African Lucanid beetle) seems to remain under threat by commercial collecting and trade.

The report urges that all the specific butterfly and beetle species threatened by trade should be considered for trade restrictions under the EU-Wildlife Trade Regulation and possibly also under CITES. The report also calls upon entomological associations to explore the possibilities of self-regulation and co-operation in trade-related activities.

For full recommendations and report (in German) contact TRAFFIC Europe-Germany. For contact details see page 16.

the majority of trade. In Kitui District and the Loikas area of Kenya, and the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania, many hunters, who are primarily subsistence farmers, sell only excess bush meat after their families have been satisfied.

Full-time commercial traders also exist in most of the survey areas. Such traders sell larger quantities of meat and, in many cases, identify more lucrative markets outside the local supply area.

In Kitui District, Kenya, a range of more commercially orientated trade outlets such as open air markets, illegal brew bars, and butchery kiosks are used to trade bush meat.

In the western Serengeti of

Tanzania, 34% of traders rely on bush meat as their sole source of income, and have identified markets as far as 200 km away on the more densely populated Kenyan border.

However, most trade in rural areas still occurs locally. Trading mechanisms vary, with house to house sales and contracts between hunters and consumers or traders being successful due to their relative secrecy.

Rights for landholders

This study recommends that wildlife ownership be more widely transferred to landholders and secure land tenure needs to be formalised in

legislation. This would prompt an interest among landowners and holders to invest in the sustainable management of the wildlife resource for meat production.

Once benefits increase to landholders, wildlife can play an important sustainable role in community development and, by doing so, ensure its continued survival. Without it, wildlife will continue to be seen as a freely exploitable, uncared-for resource, that benefits only those who use it first.

Without a dynamic and proactive response to the bush meat issue in the region, it is likely that the countries of this study will lose not only a valued natural resource, but also a vital community development option.

The study urges for a more equitable distribution of donor funding to this critical conservation and social issue, with greater collaboration between the conservation and community development government departments, NGOs and professionals.

This study was funded by the European Union.

For more information and full report contact TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - Kenya office, Senior Programme Officer Rob Barnett. For contact details see page 16.

Longline snares, used for capturing antelopes and buffalo, seized from poachers by Wildlife Division, Tanzania.



Freidkin Conservation Trust

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WWF Large Herbivore Initiative for Europe
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WWF Sweden
WWF Switzerland
WWF Tanzania Programme Office
WWF Tiger Conservation Programme
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TRAFFIC DISPATCHES

Number 15 November 2000

A new focus for TRAFFIC's conservation programme

by Stephen Nash, Programme Director, TRAFFIC International

TRAFFIC's vision is that wildlife trade will be kept at sustainable levels, without damaging the integrity of ecological systems, so that it contributes to human needs, supports livelihoods and helps motivate commitments to the conservation of wildlife species and their habitats. Our mission is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

To help guide and focus our conservation work towards achieving these, the TRAFFIC Network has adopted a new three-year strategy covering the period from mid-2000 to mid-2003. This new strategy, based on TRAFFIC's strategic plan for 2000-2010, outlines objectives and targets

for four major conservation objectives addressing the relationship between wildlife trade and key biological and human concerns. These objectives are to reduce wildlife trade threats to threatened species, reducing threats to priority ecoregions for biodiversity conservation, and to the security of key wildlife resources for human needs, and promoting the need for international co-operation in regulating and managing wildlife trade.

1. Ensuring wildlife trade does not result in the endangerment of any wild animal and plant species.

Many species are under direct or indirect threat from trade. Others may become so in the near future. TRAFFIC is mindful of its specific role in informing decision makers about the impacts of trade on species and motivating efforts to guarantee the ecological sustainability of trade in wild species. TRAFFIC also works to identify and address indirect impacts of wildlife trade on biodiversity conservation, including researching the trade in potentially invasive species and the detrimental impacts of wildlife harvests on "non-target" species such as fisheries by-catch.

Over the next three years TRAFFIC aims to increase knowledge and awareness among government, industry, consumers and local communities about trade in threatened species and the direct and indirect impacts of this trade on wild populations and on biodiversity conservation.

Our work will encourage governments, industry, consumers and local communities to take appropriate



David Lawson/WWF-UK

Indian Tiger *Panthera tigris*

actions to reduce threats to these species. Our regional-based programmes will contribute to the development and implementation of trade monitoring systems and trade management plans for priority species. TRAFFIC will be evaluating local and national controls for threatened species in trade, and pushing to strengthen them.

Over the next three years TRAFFIC will focus its efforts on a number of priority species and taxonomic groups, including African and Asian Elephants, African and Asian Rhinoceroses, Tiger, marine turtles, sturgeons, tortoises and freshwater turtles, Tibetan Antelope, Whale Shark and other sharks, and Bigleaf Mahogany and other threatened tree species.

2. Ensuring wildlife trade does not threaten the integrity of priority ecoregions.

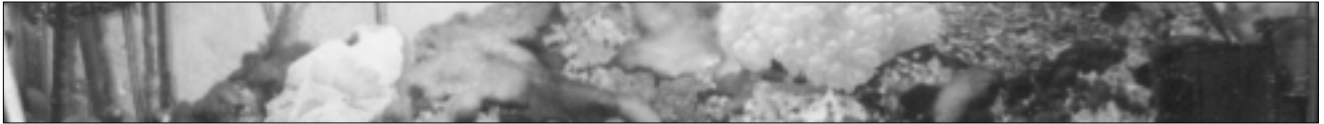
The world's conservation problems are being addressed at increasingly large bio-geographic scales. Many conservation efforts are now focusing on maintaining essential ecological processes and life support

...continued on page 10

INSIDE:

- *Native corals of Japan*
- *CITES Workshop in Taipei*
- *Symposium on Medicinal Utilisation of Wild Species*
- *Study on information needs of medicinal plant stakeholders*
- *UK herbal medicine industry meets conservation groups*
- *Mahogany trade in the USA*
- *EXPONAT, Natural Health trade fair*
- *Endangered freshwater turtle species doubles*
- *Agarwood use and trade*

WWF and TRAFFIC appeal to end illegal harvesting of native corals in Japan



Japanese native corals on display.

TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan

On August 2, 2000, WWF Japan and TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan presented an appeal to the Wildlife Department of the Environment Agency, the Fisheries Resources Department of the Fisheries Agency, and the fisheries divisions of the governments of Tokyo and 13 other prefectures. This appeal urged the recipients to take measures to prevent the illegal removal of coral growing around the Japanese coast. It was drawn up on the basis of a survey of the market for living corals collected from Japanese coastal waters and sold for ornamental aquarium purposes. The study was undertaken by TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan in cooperation with Mr. Takeshi Igarashi of Tohoku University School of Post Graduate Studies.

In 1999, TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan carried out telephone surveys of tropical fish shops and pet shops that advertise in aquarium hobbyist magazines and found that of the 78 stores surveyed, 45 stores claimed to stock living corals collected from Japanese coastal waters.

TRAFFIC researchers visited tropical fish shops and pet shops in Tokyo and Kanagawa, and carried out site surveys and analysis aimed at identifying the coral species on sale at these stores and their origin.

Researchers found living corals on sale at 12 of the 16 stores visited, and the number of species sold at individual stores ranged from 2 to 60. The survey also found a wide variation in the retail price of corals, with the cheapest priced as low as 2,000 yen (approximately US\$20) and the most expensive selling for around 40,000 yen (approximately US\$390). On sale were species such as *Acropora pruinosa* and *Alveopora japonica*, which can be found on the shores of Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu.

It was also clear from the results that existing regulations in Japan governing coral collecting are inadequate. In order to prevent domestic trade in living corals from threatening the continued existence of native reef-building coral species, WWF and TRAFFIC in Japan propose that a number of steps be taken.

These steps include the prohibition of coral gathering in all prefectures where living corals are found. Secondly, coral species should also be added to the list of wild animals and plants under the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. This listing would prohibit capture and transfer of coral species. In addition, specialists should determine the conservation status of species whose status is still unknown by carrying out follow-up field surveys. An English-language summary of the Japanese report is in preparation.

Akiko Ishihara, Programme Officer,
TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan

New TRAFFIC office opens in Mexico

The TRAFFIC Network increased its size to 22 offices worldwide with the opening of the TRAFFIC North America-Mexico office in the beginning of September, 2000. The new office is co-located with WWF Mexico Programme Office in Mexico City.

Adrian Reuter joined the office to become the first National Representative of TRAFFIC North America-Mexico.

Most recently Adrian worked as a lecturer in the research, management and conservation of birds of prey at the National University of Mexico. Adrian has a long interest and involvement in wildlife trade-related activities and has also worked in the reptile field, among others.

TRAFFIC staff news

Welcome

Miriam van Gool has been appointed as the new National Representative of TRAFFIC Europe-Netherlands in August 2000. Miriam works also as Species Programme Head of WWF Netherlands.

*

Elizabeth Scoggins has joined TRAFFIC International in the beginning of November 2000, replacing Celia Denton as the new Funding Development Officer. Most recently Elizabeth worked as Trust Fundraiser for Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide based in London, UK.

TRAFFIC Dispatches

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TRAFFIC is a joint programme of IUCN-The World Conservation Union and WWF*-World Wide Fund for Nature. It aims to help ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

The TRAFFIC Network works in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

TRAFFIC Dispatches is published by TRAFFIC International to keep the Network's partners and supporters informed about our activities and accomplishments.

* WWF is known as World Wildlife Fund in Canada and the USA.



TRAFFIC hosts CITES Enforcement Training Workshop in Taipei

by Joyce Wu, Research Officer and Rita Chang, Administrative Officer, TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei

Taiwan plays an important part in the global trade in plants. According to international trade data for the period 1992 to 1997, Taiwan ranked fifth in overall imports of medicinal and aromatic plants after Hong Kong, Japan, USA, and Germany. Taiwan is also an important exporter of plants such as artificially propagated orchids, with export volumes rivaling those of Thailand, the world's leading orchid exporter.

In order to strengthen awareness of plant conservation and trade issues among the relevant government agencies, TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei hosted a three-day workshop on *CITES Enforcement Training Workshop – Plants*, from 27-29 September 2000, that was sponsored by Council of Agriculture (COA). More than fifty delegates from various government authorities participated, including delegates from the Board of Foreign Trade, Customs, the Quarantine Bureau, COA, and plant research institutes. Trainers included

experts from Taiwan as well as their colleagues from UK Customs (*see box article, right*), the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, UK and TRAFFIC International.

The workshop, which was the fifth in a series of international CITES workshops held in Taiwan since 1995, focused on licensing and trade controls for plants, plant specimen identification, trade trends, and countering illegal trade. Providing useful tools to front-line enforcement staff was a principal objective of the workshop. In addition to lectures, the workshop also included practical exercises for participants to test their skills and to reinforce the knowledge provided in the lecture setting.

Overall, feedback from the participants was positive. Customs stated its intention to incorporate plant trade control issues in future training for Customs officers and the COA are planning to hold a similar workshop focusing on CITES-listed fauna next year.

A trainer's perspective of the Workshop

You can never be certain of the success of any training workshop let alone one that is designed for a country with a very different culture and language; there are just too many unknowns. So how did I think it went? Well, good organisation is always a critical factor and, in TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei, I can honestly say it couldn't have been bettered.

From the day we arrived to the day we left, their whole team worked tremendously hard late into the evenings to ensure that every small detail for the seminar was covered. This included a lot of last minute translation, obtaining of vast amounts of specimens and props for exercises and even acting (very realistically, I might add) as plant smugglers in the final exercise.

Active participation by the students is also crucial and a good judge on whether the trainers are getting their message across. In my fairly extensive experience of international training I can honestly say that I have never come across a more receptive group. They asked many searching questions throughout, performed enthusiastically in all the exercises, achieving high marks, and showed a general willingness to talk about problems they encountered in this area of work.

Of course, overall success can only be measured by how well the training is put into practice and whether the political will is there to ensure that enforcement of CITES is taken seriously. Only time will determine the first point. However from the high level discussions that took place with Deputy Director General of Customs Chen Mao-ting, there was a definite willingness shown to have closer working relationship with TRAFFIC Taipei. This can only bode well for the future.

Overall it was a very rewarding experience and I congratulate TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei for producing such a well-run event.

Charles Mackay MBE
Senior Officer,
CITES Enforcement Team
Her Majesty's Customs and Excise
Heathrow Airport, UK.



Crawford Allan/TRAFFIC International

Group exercises are the key to good workshops - they break up the tutorials and give the delegates the opportunity to participate and share their experience. In the Taipei workshop this brought together representatives from a wide variety of agencies, working together to tackle stimulating problems set out in the varied exercises. In the picture, the delegates attempt to determine if the samples before them are of legal origin, based upon the scenario information supplied with each specimen.

Over 20 organisations declare support for the conservation of natural medicinal resources

by Teresa Mulliken, Research & Network Development Manager, TRAFFIC International and
Susanne Honnef, Medicine and Plants Officer, TRAFFIC Europe-Germany

Joint Declaration for the Health of People and Nature

We, the signatories,
declare herewith
our joint interest
in the conservation of natural
medicinal resources:

Our future commitment to
the health of people and nature
shall entail an increasing
contribution to the conservation
of natural medicinal resources
and shall not contribute to the
overexploitation or endangerment
of these resources.

To realise this, we will ...

...address the current lack of
information on the trade
in medicinal materials and
pharmaceuticals of plant and
animal origin by collecting and
exchanging such information.

...to the best of our knowledge
and ability, support the trade
and use of products and raw
materials of plant and
animal origin that will not
threaten the natural
populations in the wild.

...aim for close co-operation
between all stakeholders who
share an ecological, social or
economic interest in
the conservation of natural
medicinal resources.

...participate actively in the
development and implementation
of strategies that contribute
to the sustainable utilisation of
natural plant and animal resources.

Over 80 members of the commercial, conservation, government, health care and insurance sectors gathered at EXPO 2000 in Hannover, Germany on 13 October to participate in the symposium 'Medicinal Utilisation of Wild Species'. Convened by TRAFFIC Europe-Germany and WWF Germany, the symposium combined presentations and discussion on the use, trade and conservation issues affecting medicinal plant populations, and the people dependent on them for healthcare and livelihoods.

A key theme throughout the day was the need to address conservation concerns in a multi-disciplinary and collaborative manner. Over 20 participants demonstrated their support for such collaboration by signing a *'Joint Declaration for the Health of People and Nature'*. Initial signatories included representatives of the phyto-pharmaceutical industry in Germany, practitioners' associations, the International Council for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, WWF, IUCN and TRAFFIC. WWF Germany will serve as the depository for the Joint Declaration and, with TRAFFIC, will work to encourage and monitor its transformation from words into actions.

Each of the symposium's nine speakers highlighted specific characteristics and problems related to medicinal plant use and trade. Topics covered included a review of global, European and German medicinal plant use and trade and the related threats to medicinal plant species, and the need for more effective trade monitoring and conservation action. The importance of securing critical habitats for medicinal plants and other wild species was also brought forward. Such an approach is being pursued under WWF's "Global 200" campaign.

The importance of fully respecting benefit sharing and intellectual property rights associated with the use of medicinal plants was also stressed.



Miriam van Gool /
TRAFFIC/WWF Netherlands

Panelists in the final session of the
symposium at EXPO 2000.

Dr Uschi Eid, Parliamentary Secretary of the German Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), drew the attention to this issue and work supported by BMZ with regard to medicinal plants (see *TRAFFIC Dispatches* Number 12). A more holistic approach to healthcare was proposed, and an example given of how the medicinal plant industry can operate in a manner that ensures both environmental conservation and the quality of medicinal plant products. The closing presentation drew attention to the need for multi-sector partnerships in addressing conservation and other issues.

Although a wealth of information was provided, in his summary of the day's presentations, Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC International, commented that the symposium raised nearly as many questions as it answered. "There are no simple means to address the interwoven issues of biodiversity conservation, benefit sharing, property rights and demands from local users, the health and commercial sectors. It is essential that different sectors follow up the results of this symposium and work together to address what will continue to be an urgent and complex set of conservation and development priorities."

*For more information contact
TRAFFIC Europe-Germany. For
contact details see page 12.*

Studying the information needs of medicinal plant stakeholders in Europe

by Rolie Srivastava, Project Consultant, TRAFFIC Europe

In 1999 it was estimated that the world market for herbal remedies was worth approximately US\$20 billion with Europe leading at US\$7 billion, followed by Asia (US\$5.1), North America (US\$3.8) and Japan (US\$2.2 billion). Over the next two years, this market will continue to grow at a rate of approx. 8-10% per year according to the International Council for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

The growing demand and use of medicinal and aromatic plants threatens the resource base of many plants if they are continually extracted at unsustainable levels. One possible initiative, which could help to address this problem, would be to increase information exchange between different medicinal plant stakeholders.

For example, information on appropriate cultivation and harvesting methods could be shared with the industry sector to assist them in becoming more responsible partners in the medicinal and aromatic plant trade.

At the moment, relevant knowledge in Europe is scattered, difficult to access, and not geared towards long term conservation of wild plants. TRAFFIC Europe is addressing this information gap by conducting a feasibility study on the 'Establishment of a European Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Information Centre'. This study aims to assess the information needs of key medicinal plant stakeholders and to develop operational scenarios for the near future.

When established, the benefits of a European Medicinal Plant Information Centre could be far reaching. The centre could nurture a variety of activities including:

- acting as a resource and information centre for all stakeholders;
- collecting and disseminating medicinal plant conservation information;

- identifying information needs/gaps;
- providing information on regulations and policies for conservation and trade;
- promoting better practices in protecting and using medicinal plant resources; and
- providing updated and reliable data for the establishment of sound regulatory and management schemes for species traded commercially.

The feasibility study will be completed by December 2000 and TRAFFIC Europe plans to convene a meeting with key stakeholders early next year to discuss the scenarios and the next steps for establishing an information centre.

Herbal Medicine Industry and conservationists meet in UK

As the European feasibility study continues, a separate but complementary initiative between a UK based herbal manufacturing company, Herbal Apothecary, and WWF-UK was launched in May this year.

Herbal Apothecary is committed to producing herbal products while encouraging ethical and sustainable approaches to growing and purchasing plant and herb material (www.herbalapothecary.net).

Herbal Apothecary together with WWF-UK organised an exploratory meeting between 20 key conservation groups and representatives from the herbal industry in the UK to discuss practical strategies for working together.

Presentations were given both by conservation groups, such as IUCN Medicinal Plants Specialists Group, Fauna and Flora International, and TRAFFIC Europe. British Herbal Medicine Association, Soil Association, National Institute of



Dagmar Lange

Owing to habitat loss, there has been a decline in the number of many orchid populations throughout Europe. Today, Orchids are protected in most European countries and the family Orchidaceae is listed in Appendix II of CITES. Left: *Barlia robertiana*.

Medical Herbalists and Medicinal Plants for Chinese Medicine among others were representing the industry.

The meeting also indicated a definite need and keen interest on both sides to work together on developing sustainable conservation strategies for medicinal and aromatic plants.

The meeting highlighted a need to share information between manufacturers, traders and conservation organisations, as well as to identify sustainable sources and a certification program.

These needs would invariably fall under the objectives of a European medicinal and aromatic plants information centre, if one was to be created. Another important point raised by the industry was the immediate need to promote self-regulation.

For more information please contact the TRAFFIC Europe office. For contact details see page 12.

Mahogany matters

TRAFFIC completes a market survey in the USA

The USA consumes more timber per capita than any other country in the world. Logs, lumber and other soft and hardwood products are imported to the country in amounts worth at least US\$13 billion annually. A small portion of the timber trade in the country is the one of American mahogany harvested in Latin America. However, the most traded species of the three American mahogany species, Big-leafed Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla* constitutes a small, but very lucrative portion of timber trade, worth US\$56 million annually. Today the existence of Big-leafed Mahogany is threatened by an intensive and often illegal harvest that is driven by increasing demand from consumers in the USA and elsewhere.

Unless there is significant change, current harvest rates of Big-leafed Mahogany may make it yet another endangered and commercially exhausted species. The fate of Caribbean mahogany *Swietenia*

mahogani was a clear warning. Once it was heavily traded but is today extensively depleted.

In September 2000 TRAFFIC North America released a report titled “Mahogany Matters: The U.S. Market

for Big-Leafed Mahogany and its Implications for the Conservation of the Species” by Christopher S. Robbins. It reviews the scope and scale of the demand for big-leafed mahogany in the USA, as well as the conservation implications of such demand.

The report also includes an exhaustive analysis of global trade data along with a survey of mahogany importers, offering alternative options for improving species conservation. Big-leafed mahogany is exported from at least 14 Latin American countries and more than 120,000 cubic meters of the species enters international trade annually. Because of this international trade, it has also become a vital cornerstone to many of the national economies of Latin America.

Consumer countries

Historically, the dominant markets for big-leafed mahogany have been Europe and North America. In recent years the USA has been by far the biggest consumer. In 1998, the USA imported 60 percent (75.5 cubic meters) and France 25 percent (31.6 cubic meters) of the big-leafed mahogany trade. Other importing countries in 1998 (in order of volume) included Canada, UK, Dominican Republic, Spain, Germany, Netherlands and, to lesser extent, several other European, Latin



Margaret Stern

More than 200 species of tropical hardwoods are imported into the USA from Africa, Asia, Oceania, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Mahogany, and particularly American mahogany, *Swietenia* spp. is considered one of most valuable and versatile tropical hardwoods. It is widely used by the furniture manufacturing industry in the USA. Left: Big-leafed Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla* waiting to be shipped at Espinoza Sawmill in Madonado, Madre de Dios, Peru.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) trademark certifies that wood comes from forests that are managed in accordance with internationally endorsed principles and are harvested in an ecologically and socially responsible manner.



American and Caribbean countries.

Within the USA, the study shows that about 40 percent of big-leafed mahogany imports are destined for North Carolina, the furniture manufacturing centre of the USA, followed by Mississippi, Florida, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and California.

A declining resource

The study reveals many indications of increasingly tight supplies of big-leafed mahogany within its range States. Mahogany has already been depleted in the Caribbean and Central America, moving the core of the harvest to the denser, tropical forests of South America - some of these areas being among the most biologically diverse regions of the world.

The study shows that Brazil, the biggest mahogany producer of the region, has decreased its export quotas in recent years, showing signs of increased concerns on exploitation and exportation also by government regulators. Still, despite the tighter controls, Brazilian mahogany continue to amount to half of all the mahogany trade destined for the leading consumer country outside Latin America, the USA. In Peru, there are indications that forests might be exploited rather than managed, as the distances from mahogany forests to mills continue to increase.

Furthermore, retail prices of mahogany are escalating rapidly, being 25 percent higher today than a decade ago. A reliance on substitute species, like African mahogany *Khaya* spp., is also growing.

Concerns about excessive levels of legal harvest are intensified even more by illegal exploitation of the species in the region, especially in Bolivia, Brazil and Peru. This illegal trade underscores the enforcement and management challenges which government officials are faced with in the range States.

Steps forward

To overcome the current unsatisfactory trends in the mahogany trade, Latin America has improved national legislation for mahogany, invested in forest certification, convened regional management workshops and imposed logging pauses. Further, to date, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Brazil and Mexico have included mahogany populations in Appendix III of CITES. The re-establishment of a working group on mahogany at CITES COP11 in April 2000 has also prompted new challenges for future considerations of the harvest of and trade in the species.

The study urges the consumer States, headed by the USA, to support this development in the range States. It is crucial for consumers to demand for such mahogany products to carry the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) trademark. This trademark certifies that wood comes from forests that are managed in accordance with internationally endorsed principles and are harvested in an ecologically and socially responsible manner. Even though there are only two companies that are known to import solely FSC-certified big-leafed mahogany, the recent surveys and trends suggest that certified wood products are gaining increasing popularity in the USA.

The report also urges the USA government to increase import tariffs on minimally processed mahogany from Latin America that currently is exempt. On the other hand, it also urges that the duties on products of non-threatened tree species should be lowered or renounced. The report concludes that harvesting of and trade in big-leafed mahogany should continue to provide revenues for the local economies, only in a more methodological fashion by ensuring a long-term supply and the survival of threatened species.

For more information, contact TRAFFIC North America. For contact details see page 12.

Recent publications

Mahogany Matters: The US Market for Big-Leafed Mahogany and its Implications for the Conservation of the Species. October 2000. TRAFFIC North America.

Asian Turtle Trade: Proceedings of a Workshop on Conservation and Trade of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in Asia. Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 1 - 4 December 1999. 164pp. Chelonian Research Monographs in association with Wildlife Conservation Society, TRAFFIC, World Wildlife Fund, Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Number 2 - August 2000.

Heart of the Matter: Agarwood Use and Trade and CITES Implementation for 'Aquilaria Malaccensis'. 52pp. August 2000. A TRAFFIC Network Report.

Food for Thought: The Utilization of Wild Meat in Eastern and Southern Africa. Trade Review. 264pp. July 2000. TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - Kenya.

*Evaluation of the Trade of Sea Cucumber *Isostichopus fuscus* in the Galapagos Islands During 1999.* 19pp. July 2000. TRAFFIC South America.

Wings of Desire: The Insect Trade in Germany, with an Emphasis of Butterflies (published in German). 62pp. May 2000. TRAFFIC Europe-Germany.

Far from a Cure: The Tiger Trade Revisited. 100pp. March 2000. *Species in Danger* series, TRAFFIC International.

TRAFFIC features at natural health trade fair in Colombia

by Ximena Buitron, Programme Officer, TRAFFIC South America

TRAFFIC brought the conservation message to the medicinal plant industry at Colombia's first-ever natural health trade fair Exponat 2000, held in late September in Colombia. About 80 representatives representing industry and trade took part in the fair, including companies from Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala and South Korea. The fair was sponsored by National Nutritional Food Association, USA; Natural Products Association, Mexico; BIONATURA, Brazil; FENAT as well as PROEXPORT, Colombia.

TRAFFIC was invited to participate and featured its trade-related work on medicinal plants and derived products. TRAFFIC's booth on conservation issues in the midst of commercial fair was a positive surprise for many, generating curiosity, interest and support. With the theme 'Securing the future of medicinal plant resources', the booth

highlighted the importance of taking care of the natural resources from which many of the products on sale at the fair were derived.

The three-day fair attracted 7000 visitors, with over 300 people requesting information from the TRAFFIC booth each day. Publicity for the booth was generated a few days prior to the fair at a related workshop on sustainable use of and trade in medicinal plants which was co-hosted by TRAFFIC South America

Interest from representatives from the commercial sector and the general public was keen, with visitors requesting various TRAFFIC publications and seeking advice on specific issues. There were also many inquiries on the legal requirements related to the import or export medicinal plants and derivatives, as well as requirements for starting business in the industry.

Many of the products on display

were produced in Colombia but raw materials used were partly of foreign origin. In most cases these raw materials were imported from Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru and Chile in South America, as well as Asia and Europe. Some products from the USA, India and Japan were also displayed.

...continues on page 11

About 1000 people visited TRAFFIC's booth 'Securing the future of medicinal plant resources' during the fair.



Exponat 2000

More endangered freshwater turtle species

The number of critically endangered freshwater turtles has more than doubled in just the last four years, according to a report released on October 3rd by TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), WWF and other conservation groups. The report, consisting of proceedings from the Workshop on Trade in Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in Asia, documents the threats facing the species and recommends actions to address the growing crisis. The workshop, held last year in Cambodia, brought together over 40 regional turtle experts from 16 countries, primarily within East, South and Southeast Asia.

The enormous demand for turtles and tortoises affects nearly all species around the world, but especially turtles and tortoises found in Asia. Softshell turtles are especially popular as a

luxury food in Asia, fetching prices that may be six times the price of lamb or chicken. In addition, turtle shell is traded to supply the traditional Chinese medicine industry. The turtle jelly made from the shell is claimed to have cancer-curing properties, and is consumed as a general health tonic.

The publication of the proceedings coincided with the release of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which listed 24 turtle species worldwide as critically endangered, compared to ten species in the last assessment in 1996. According to the proceedings, the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, as well as the Asian Turtle Trade Working Group, consider 66 of the 90 species of Asian freshwater turtles and tortoises as threatened. Half (45) are endangered, including 18 critically endangered species. One is already extinct: the



Peter Paul van Dijk / TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

Hieremys annandalii

Yunnan box turtle *Cuora yunnanensis*.

The workshop and proceedings present information on the status of more than 80 individual species; trade routes; types of demand; legislative and enforcement frameworks; and national and regional threats to turtle populations posed by the trade. According to the workshop participants, a thorough review and improvement of national legislation is needed urgently for effective protection of turtles in the region.

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TRAFFIC launches into the Heart of the Matter

by Angela Barden, Research Officer, TRAFFIC International

TRAFFIC first began investigating the trade in agarwood in 1994. As explained in *Dispatches* Number 13, agarwood is just one of several names used to describe the fragrant, resinous and valuable heartwood produced by *Aquilaria* species, a genus of trees native to the Indomalaysian region. In August 2000, TRAFFIC launched its latest report on the tree, *Heart of the matter: Agarwood Use and Trade and CITES Implementation for Aquilaria malaccensis*.

The report focuses on the harvest and trade controls for *A. malaccensis* in key range countries, reviews available information on the wider trade in agarwood and recommends actions required to tackle issues such as unsustainable harvesting and illegal trade.

The launch of *Heart of the Matter* in Kuala Lumpur was organised to coincide with the XXI Congress of the International Union of Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO). There was strong participation from the TRAFFIC Network, with talks given by the Directors of TRAFFIC India and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, staff from TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and TRAFFIC International, as well

as the TRAFFIC's Executive Director. A representative of the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia also gave a presentation, and provided an update on their research into the artificial production of agarwood.

Attended by approximately forty people, the subsequent discussions benefited greatly from the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. These included representatives of Malaysia's Government from the Forestry Department, CITES authorities and the Customs & Excise Department, as well as those from the trade, timber certification, research, educational, conservation and development sectors.

It was evident from both *Heart of the Matter* and the launch discussions, that there is an urgent need for better information on which to base decisions for managing the resource and regulating the trade.

Particular areas highlighted for further research include the biology, status, identification of harvest and trade volumes of *Aquilaria* species in trade, the potential of cultivation and artificially enhancing agarwood production in contributing to sustainable management, and benefit flows resulting from harvests and

trade. In recognition of the need for status and distribution data, the Malaysian Forestry Department announced at the launch that it will include *A. malaccensis* in future forest surveys and review the issuance of harvesting licenses.

Agarwood has been used and traded for thousands of years with demand remaining strong today. *Heart of the Matter* resulted from research prompted by CITES Parties. At their meeting earlier this year, CITES Parties once again expressed concern and agreed that the CITES Plants Committee should continue to review the trade of *Aquilaria* species. Parties specifically called for particular issues to be addressed, including resolving the difficulty in differentiating between species in trade, and whether more *Aquilaria* species should be included in CITES Appendix II. *Heart of the Matter* encourages support for this process and the wider research mentioned above. To this end, TRAFFIC is seeking to convene a workshop involving the wide variety of stakeholders concerned with *Aquilaria* species to facilitate cooperation and begin identifying practical solutions to problems such as over-exploitation.

TRAFFIC will continue to conduct research to document more about the trade in agarwood. For example, once funding has been secured TRAFFIC Oceania will be investigating the booming agarwood trade in Papua New Guinea. TRAFFIC will also be encouraging information exchange and the development of practical guidelines for sustainable harvest. Collaboration is at the heart of the matter, if we are to secure the future of *Aquilaria* species.

Copies of Heart of the Matter can be obtained from your nearest TRAFFIC office or can be downloaded in PDF format from <http://www.traffic.org/news/agarwood>



Aquilaria trees are indiscriminately felled in search of the highly prized 'black gold' resulting in the drastic decline of wild populations. Left: *Aquilaria malaccensis*. Right: Agarwood perfume and chips.



Peter Paul van Dijk / TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

...continued from page 1

systems, preserving genetic diversity, sustainably utilising species, and working towards realistic, lasting solutions.

This component of TRAFFIC's programme focuses on trade that may threaten the integrity of priority ecoregions of high biodiversity value or significance.

TRAFFIC will focus on researching and understanding wildlife trade processes acting on specific ecological landscapes, identifying threats and root causes to biodiversity loss, and promoting appropriate solutions.

To this end, TRAFFIC will be developing and strengthening partnerships with governments, industry, conservation organisations and other stakeholders involved in ecosystem-based conservation efforts in priority ecoregions.

Through our analyses we will establish baseline information on trade in wild resources/species in priority ecoregions, and assess and interpret levels of threat to biodiversity in priority ecoregions that are caused by wildlife trade.

TRAFFIC will be raising awareness about these threats, and will work towards enhancing the implementation of regulatory and other measures that can be used to reduce these threats.

Over the next three years, TRAFFIC will be focusing on coastal forests and marine areas of East Africa, the Eastern Arc Mountains and Miombo Woodlands of Africa, the Lower Mekong River of Southeast Asia, the vast Russian Far East, the Chihuahuan Desert of North America,

the Amazon Basin, and the Guyana Shield of northern South America.

3. Ensuring the security of wildlife resources of particular value for food and medicine, and to support other human needs.

With the world's human population expected to exceed 8 billion within the next 25 years, the security of wild resources used to supply basic human needs is at risk.

The demand for wild-sourced foods, medicines, fuelwood and timber is ever increasing, yet sound management of wild resources and sustainable harvesting is sporadic at best. The TRAFFIC Network seeks to ensure that wild resources valued for basic human needs are not threatened by unsustainable trade.

Towards this objective, TRAFFIC will be highlighting priority taxa of particular value for food, medicine and other human needs whose security may be threatened by unsustainable trade.

TRAFFIC will be increasing awareness of conservation issues among resource stakeholders and promoting dialogue between them.

Our work will contribute towards the development of national and regional management plans and regulatory measures for trade in wild resources, and improve participation in these plans.

Regional programmes will promote sustainable practices at the industry level, and encourage the development of guidelines, codes of practice and certification schemes for

sustainable practices at the industry level, for wild resources in trade.

Some offices will be preparing case studies on the adoption of alternatives and substitutes for threatened wild animal and plant resources, and on the implementation of proposed solutions that are expected to result in sustainable use of wild resources.

Over the next three years TRAFFIC will focus on trade in certain wild resources, primarily marine fisheries, freshwater fisheries, wood products and charcoal, medicinal and aromatic plants, bushmeat, wild bulbs, and traditional medicine.

4. Supporting the development and application of international agreements and policy approaches that prevent negative conservation impacts of wildlife trade and encourage that wildlife trade is at sustainable levels.

International co-operation in the regulation and management of use of wild resources is essential. There are approximately 200 multilateral environmental agreements, of which a number include provisions that regulate harvesting and/or trade in wild species.

Over the next three years TRAFFIC will be supporting the development of multilateral environmental agreements that concern wildlife trade, and guide/influence their evolution. We aim to build capacity at regional and national levels to enhance implementation and enforcement of these agreements, and we aim to contribute to the development, implementation and enforcement of the national wildlife laws that are the 'teeth' of these agreements.

TRAFFIC will also monitor the application of certification and accreditation schemes for wildlife products, and encourage international development, finance and trade mechanisms that complement efforts to ensure wildlife trade does not exceed sustainable levels.

Over the next three years, the TRAFFIC Network will mainly direct its efforts towards CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and various regional fisheries and timber trade agreements.



Over the next three years TRAFFIC aims to increase knowledge and awareness about trade in threatened species and the direct and indirect impacts of this trade on wild populations and on biodiversity conservation. Left: One of TRAFFIC's priority species, sturgeon (*A. Stellatus*) being fished at River Danube, Romania.

... Exponat 2000 - continued from page 8

Among the most commonly exhibited products at the fair were extracts from mallow, arnica cream and calendula, as well as products containing eucalyptus, "marañón", "zarzaparilla" (*Smilax*), and artichoke. These are used as natural health supplements and harmony complexes. Information was distributed at the fair by companies on the use of some species such as *Echinacea angustifolia*, *Hydrastis canadensis*, *Thuja occidentalis*, *Aloe vera*, *Symphytum officinale* and marine algae.

Products made from dragon's blood *Croton* spp. and cat's claw *Uncaria tomentosa*, originating from Peru and Ecuador, were also present. Both of these species are potentially threatened in these countries due to overexploitation and trade. Products made from Asian Ginseng *Panax ginseng*, a medicinal plant that is also potentially threatened, was also widely featured at the fair, the raw material originating mostly from Japan and South Korea.

Exponat 2000 was an important avenue for highlighting the impor-

tance of securing the future of medicinal plant resources, bringing to the attention of the commercial sector urgent concerns about the impacts not only on trade, but also to health care systems and wild populations. However, it also proved to be an excellent opportunity for strengthening links with the industry in South America and beyond. Hopefully, it is an important step in developing working synergies between the two sectors - industry and conservation.

For more information on Exponat 2000 or the workshop on sustainable use of and trade in medicinal plants held in Colombia, contact TRAFFIC South America. For contact details see page 12.

Asian Box Turtles
Cuora amboinensis at
exporter location in
Medan, Indonesia
awaiting international
export to the food and
TCM markets of
East Asia.



Chris R. Shepherd / TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

...Freshwater turtles - continued from page 8

The report also calls for prompt enforcement of all local, state and national regulations and legislation concerning the conservation of turtles. More research needs to be done on the trade and greater public awareness efforts need to be made to highlight the threats facing these species.

"Asian Turtle Trade: Proceedings of a Workshop on Conservation and Trade of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in Asia" (Chelonian Research Monographs, Number 2, 2000) is published by the Chelonian Research Foundation, in association with WCS, TRAFFIC, WWF, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Gardens and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Copies are available from the Chelonian Research Foundation (www.chelonian.org)

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TRAFFIC DISPATCHES

Number 16 March 2001

Industrial fisheries crisis in the western Bering Sea

by Nina Marshall, Assistant Director, TRAFFIC Europe

The Bering Sea is the greatest sea basin in the northern Pacific Ocean and it was also identified as one of WWF's Global 200 ecoregions, a science-based ranking of the Earth's most biologically outstanding habitats. The Bering Sea ecoregion is bounded by Russia on its western shores, the Bering Strait which leads northward into the Chukchi Sea, and Alaska and the Aleutian Islands to the east and south, respectively.

This large body of water is biologically one of the most productive seas in the world, and has a diverse and rich supply of fauna and flora, including considerable commercial biological resources such as fish, invertebrates and sea mammals. The Bering Sea is of paramount

Trawler
in the
mist,
Russian
waters
of the
Bering
Sea.



Alexey Vaisman / TRAFFIC Europe-Russia

importance to the USA and Russia as it accounts for a significant proportion of these nations' fishery landings.

Approximately 20% of Russia's marine landings come from the western Bering Sea. Exports of marine products caught in the western Bering Sea have risen in recent years; for the four-year period 1995 to 1998, exports of marine products from Kamchatka Customs totalled 374,000 tonnes, valued at over USD 437 million.

Lucrative fisheries
exploited by many

In recent years, fishing in the western Bering Sea has become fiercely competitive, with Russian, American, Japanese, Chinese and Korean fishing fleets, among others, scrambling to catch the Bering Sea's lucrative marine commodities.

Reports of undocumented, unregulated and illegal fishing are frequent.

Recent estimates of losses resulting from illegal fishing activity in Russian waters vary widely, but what is evident is the magnitude of illegal fisheries, which is estimated to be worth between one to five billion USD annually. These estimates point to the chaotic nature of fisheries in the region and the impossible challenge of managing marine resources when harvest levels are unknown and are very likely to be unsustainable.

Management and regulation in the Bering Sea ecosystem are essential, but often difficult when resource stewardship is shared between nations, and exploitation is undertaken by many. The situation is further complicated by poor socio-economic conditions in Russia, which have contributed to intensified fishing in the western Bering Sea. Political change has resulted in reduced regulation that in the current climate has stimulated unregulated and illegal fishing

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- *Decline of European Eel*
- *Significant Trade Review of sturgeon and paddlefish*

CITES Workshop on 11 Megabiodiversity Exporters: A personal perspective

by Crawford Allan, Global Enforcement Assistance Co-ordinator, TRAFFIC International

Q. What are the implementation needs of the top eleven CITES exporting states that are also among the most biodiverse in the world?

Q. How can the experiences of these Parties to CITES be shared, compared and learnt from?

Q. Will the knowledge and expertise from the CITES Secretariat, the Commission of the European Union and TRAFFIC help to facilitate dialogue, draw out common issues and assist in developing sound recommendations?

These were the critical questions that I asked myself as I jumped on the train to Brussels on 29 January 2001, to be an observer at a workshop facilitated by the CITES Secretariat and funded by the EU Commission. To be honest, from the outset I was not sure if the questions would be

answered but when I stepped back onto the train five days later I had time to reflect and realised that a major event had happened. I will now attempt to explain why.

The delegates were from South and Central America - Guyana, Suriname, Nicaragua (Colombia as observer), Africa - Benin, Guinea, Madagascar, United Republic of Tanzania (South Africa as a positive case study country) and Southeast Asia - Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam. They had been invited to make presentations and prepare papers about the challenges they face in their countries in implementing the CITES treaty. The other participants would then make comments and suggestions and discuss this in the context of their own experience.

This part of the workshop took nearly twice as long as had been

allocated on the agenda. One would think it was a bad thing to over run so much but this was the exception to the rule. It may sound like a cliché but in fact it was a pleasure to witness a real coming together of different countries that shared common problems and learnt from each others ideas on how to solve them.

The dialogue flowed freely, interspersed with comments and direction from the convenors, including the Secretary General of the CITES Secretariat as Chair. We were all learning a great deal. It was a surprise that these countries were so

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TRAFFIC staff news

Welcome

Craig Kirkpatrick has started his work as the new Director of TRAFFIC East Asia in February 2001. Craig joins TRAFFIC with wide experience working in wildlife conservation in China. Most recently Craig has worked in The Nature Conservancy as Biodiversity Specialist for the Yunnan Great Rivers Project.

*

Teresa Mulliken is back in TRAFFIC International after her sabbatical year spent studying. As the Co-ordinator of Research and Policy, Teresa will be providing direction and guidance to TRAFFIC Network research and policy initiatives.

Goodbye

TRAFFIC's Programme Director, *Stephen Nash* will leave TRAFFIC International in April 2001 to take up a new challenge at CITES Secretariat in Switzerland as the Chief of the Capacity Building Unit.

Director *Tom De Meulenaer* is leaving TRAFFIC Europe in April 2001 to commence work as the Fauna Officer of the CITES Secretariat in Switzerland.

Jonathan Vea, Programme Officer left TRAFFIC Oceania in January 2001.

Administrative Officer *Mary Hansford* will leave TRAFFIC International in the end of March 2001.

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TRAFFIC is a joint programme of IUCN-The World Conservation Union and WWF*-World Wide Fund for Nature. It aims to help ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

The TRAFFIC Network works in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

TRAFFIC Dispatches is published by TRAFFIC International to keep the Network's partners and supporters informed about our activities and accomplishments.

* WWF is known as World Wildlife Fund in Canada and the USA.



TRAFFIC examines musk deer farming in China

by Rob Parry-Jones, Senior Programme Officer, TRAFFIC East Asia

Musk deer (*Moschus* spp.) have been hunted for many centuries for musk - used predominantly in traditional forms of medicine, but also in the perfume industry.

Records of the use of musk in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) date back to the Han Dynasty (200 BC - 200 AD). Musk has a wide range of uses, including stimulation of circulation of *qi* ('life force') and blood as well as being a catalyst for other medicinal materials.

Musk deer are native to Asia, and are distributed from the Arctic Circle to the Hindu Kush/Himalayan region of Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan and India in the south, and east to Viet Nam.

Despite national laws in nearly all range States protecting musk deer and international trade regulated by CITES, populations of musk deer continue to decline throughout their range. Illegal hunting and trade of musk for use in traditional medicines poses the biggest threat to musk deer, although habitat destruction is also serious concern.

China's populations of musk deer are listed as Class II protected species under China's Wild Animal Protection Law (1988), and hunting of musk deer in China has been banned since 1989. However, in reality enforcement remains problematic and population estimates for China indicate an alarming decline from over three million in the 1950s to between 200,000 and 300,000 in the 1990s.

China continues to export hundreds of thousands of medicinal preparations purporting to contain musk every year, although the majority of these most likely contain synthetic musk. However, some TCM companies continue to illegally obtain genuine musk for use in certain medicinal preparations.

Captive breeding of musk deer has been suggested by some as a means of meeting demand for musk whilst also alleviating pressure on wild musk

deer. TRAFFIC East Asia recently examined the captive breeding of musk deer in China to assess whether it was a viable conservation tool for wild populations of musk deer. This project was supported by WWF-UK.

Despite improved techniques, musk deer are extremely difficult to raise in captivity and only male musk deer produce musk. Demand in China alone is estimated to be annually in the region of 1000 kg of musk and to produce this amount, approximately 84,000 captive-bred male musk deer would be required.

Although operational since the late 1950s, China's current captive population is approximately 1,400 of which only about 450 are male musk deer, producing a total of about 6kg of musk per year. This clearly does not present a viable means of meeting China's demand for musk. However, with careful management, captive breeding operations could serve as a genetic 'safety' net for wild populations providing that illegal hunting is also brought under control.

Enforcement of China's impressive 'paper' regulations is clearly needed and could be facilitated through better coordination between musk deer breeders, wildlife management authorities and medicinal authorities.

Accurate labelling of medicines is also an urgent requirement, as it would enable consumers to make informed choices when purchasing medicines, as well as facilitating regulation of threatened species in trade.

TRAFFIC East Asia's principal recommendation is the establishment of a cross-sectoral coordinating body on wildlife conservation and traditional health care to facilitate understanding and enforcement of the legislation and regulations protecting musk deer in China.

For more information, contact TRAFFIC East Asia. For contact details see page 16.

Photos: TRAFFIC East Asia



Captive breeding compound, Sichuan Institute of Musk Deer Breeding.



Legally acquired musk pods of a Hong Kong trader.



Musk deer in the Musk Deer Captive Breeding Research Group of East China Normal University, Shanghai Chongmingdao Musk Deer Farm.

TRAFFIC leads efforts to improve management of rhino horn stocks in Africa

by Simon Milledge, Senior Programme Officer, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

Today legal stocks of rhinoceros horn are found throughout the world. This is mainly accumulated through trade control and anti-poaching efforts carried out in range states, consumer markets and trade entrepôts. In some regions, the stocks are growing quickly, the greatest increase being in east and southern Africa. There is also evidence that some horn quietly, but illegally, filters from such stocks into the hands of blackmarket traders and markets for rhino horn. In the absence of transparent and accountable tracking systems, such instances are rarely discovered, much less deterred. To improve the current situation, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa (TESA) has undertaken the first systematic effort to identify and track these stocks around the globe.



Simon Milledge, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

Northern
white rhino
Ceratotherium
simum cottoni,
Garamba
National Park,
Democratic
Republic of
Congo.

In 1998, TESA started to document worldwide legal stocks of rhinoceros horn and other products, as part of a suite of rhino conservation projects funded by WWF Netherlands. Run from the TESA office in Tanzania, the project also provides, where appropriate, technical advice on how marking, registration and tracking systems can be improved in compliance with CITES directives.

The eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES last April revised the Resolution Conf. 9.14 (Rev.) “*Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceros*” which now requires the identification, marking, registering and reporting of horn stocks to the CITES Secretariat.

Further knowledge about rhino horn stocks can also assist the understanding of rhino horn trade dynamics, and could potentially play a useful role in helping to develop credible models of rhino horn consumption and legal production in the future.

Individual accumulation rates vary greatly in east and southern Africa

TESA’s *Rhino Horn and Product Database* currently stores stock information for both government and private sources in a total of 54

countries. One of the best data sets collected to date is for rhino range States in east and southern Africa where over 12,000 kg have been documented, of which almost 1,000 kg is privately-held. But these figures are expected to increase significantly once some outstanding stocks are added to the total. In this region, there is close correlation between government stocks and current rhino populations, with the largest stocks unsurprisingly occurring in rhino strongholds such as South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Rhino horn stocks in east and southern Africa are accumulating at the fastest rate in the world. However, individual accumulation rates vary greatly, depending on a number of factors including recovery rates from natural deaths, poaching levels, illegal seizure rates, frequency of dehorning operations, stock security and whether destruction is practised or not.

For example, Botswana's rhino population has increased by 41% between 1993 and 2000 with horn stocks increasing at a rate of 38%, mostly collected from natural deaths and some seizures. On the other hand, Zimbabwe's horn stock, currently one of the largest in Africa, grew by the same rate between 1992 and 2000, although the wild population experienced overall decline during this period. The increase in Zimbabwe's stock was largely attributed to high rates of seizures and large-scale dehorning exercises in the early and mid-1990s followed by successively greater quantities of horns collected from natural deaths as the country's rhino populations recovered.

Different stock accumulation scenarios are found in South Africa (where large numbers of hunting trophies are exported), in United Republic of Tanzania (which traditionally served as a regional trade route and entrepôt), and in Zambia and Kenya (where all government-held rhino horn stocks were destroyed in the early 1990s). Developing this greater understanding of horn accumulation dynamics is helpful when trying to study and predict legal and illegal rhino horn trade dynamics.

More standard marking and registering procedures needed

Another issue which has become clear through the project is that

UK
seizure
of 127
rhino horns
in 1996.



Crawford Allin, TRAFFIC International

procedures for marking and registering rhino horn vary enormously. These range from basic manual ledgers to sophisticated computerised tracking systems forming an auditable trail from the field to the main storage vault.

Clearly, the necessity for more advanced procedures increases with the volume of horn accumulating, but at the very simplest level a standardised system is required. The best systems feature standard weighing on approved scales, standard registers, marking systems, tags, serial numbers, invoices and issue vouchers. However, usage is far from universal in all countries or provinces.

Efficient tracking mechanisms are further necessary to enable checks to be made on who, when, where and how horn was collected and moved to the head office. This is essential to avoid loss or exchange of horns at any point in process, and to enable reconciliation of written records and physical checks. This project is providing recommendations and technical assistance on a country-by-country basis to improve marking and registration systems.

With growing numbers of rhinos in their hands, the private sector in South Africa remains one of the largest untracked sources of rhino horn. The lack of nationally-mandated horn registration procedures means that many horns remain unaccounted for, providing a potential route for

lucrative illegal trade.

TESA is advocating the need for a national legal mechanism that requires the full and timely registration of all private stocks as a means to improve accountability and transparency in that country. Stock monitoring is vital in all countries to track and secure such a valuable commodity against illegal market forces.

Towards closer collaboration with SADC

In addition to the ongoing collection of stock information from around the world, TESA recognises that it is vital that stock monitoring measures are improved before horn volumes get too large to handle. With present accumulation rates, this could happen in some countries within the next few years.

TESA's efforts this year will therefore be focussing on promoting specific improvements to marking and registration of rhino horn stocks in east and southern Africa.

This will be realised through collaboration with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Rhino Programme. Not only are most of Africa's rhinos found in SADC countries, but SADC provides a strong framework for implementing the changes needed to improve management of rhino horn and product stocks.

South Pacific medicinal plants exposed to bio-prospecting

Traditional medicine often a preferred alternative with local communities

by James Compton, Senior Programme Officer, TRAFFIC Oceania



Kava *Piper methysticum* leaves



Kava *Piper methysticum* drink



Nonu (Indian Mulberry) *Morinda citrifolia* leaves



Nonu *Morinda citrifolia* fruit

Photos: James Compton / TRAFFIC Oceania

Medicinal plants and traditional medical systems throughout the South Pacific play an essential role in treating ailments at the local community level. Research coordinated by TRAFFIC Oceania, in conjunction with the WWF South Pacific Programme (WWF-SPP), found that even when Western medicine was available, local people continued to use traditional medicine as a supplementary treatment – and often as a preferred alternative.

Although there is little evidence of organised international trade in medicinal plants from the Oceania region, indigenous control of existing plant genetic resources remains under threat from unauthorised bio-prospecting.

The report, *An Overview of Conservation and Trade of Medicinal Plants in the South Pacific* draws together information from nine developing countries and territories in the region: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, (Western) Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. The study was supported by the Rufford Foundation.

All the countries covered by the study are signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which enshrines equitable benefit sharing and protection of indigenous knowledge and genetic resources. Despite this, traditional medicinal systems in the region remain open to exploitation by bio-prospectors. Of the countries surveyed, only Samoa has national-level regulations to address these issues.

The complexity of this problem is highlighted by a recent case concerning the Samoan medicinal plant Mamala *Homolanthus acuminatus*, from which the United States National Cancer Institute isolated the drug Prostratin for potential use in combating HIV. The medicinal plant material was collected without prior agreement with the Samoan Government (although this was done in 1989, before the CBD came into force). Last year, with assistance from WWF-SPP, the country put in place bioprospecting regulations, which have since empowered Samoan government agencies in their active policing of “research activities” and collection of biological samples by overseas interests.

To redress the legislative shortcomings throughout the region, WWF-SPP has been working with lawyers from the London-based Foundation for International Environmental

Law and Development (FIELD), the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and national environment representatives. So far, this collective has assisted both the Cook Islands and Vanuatu to draft relevant guidelines. Fiji, while having drafted a Sustainable Development Bill that covers bio-prospecting concerns, has yet to ratify the bill in Parliament.

The report indicated that, despite countries in the South Pacific consisting primarily of island ecosystems, medicinal plants used in the region are not characterised by any high degree of endemism. Many of these plants are non-native species that have been introduced from elsewhere. While many national-level studies exist on the medicinal qualities of plants, information on the conservation status of plants in use by traditional medical practitioners is limited. Environmental statistics on the region indicate that a large number of general plant species are under threat from habitat degradation and loss – factors that adversely affect medicinal plant collection and use at the local level.

Based on a 1999 case study conducted in Fiji during this project, trade in medicinal plants occurs primarily from healer to patient without wholesale movement of component plants or selling through markets. Two plant species that are found in international trade, Kava *Piper methysticum* and Nonu (Indian Mulberry) *Morinda citrifolia* are grown from cultivated stock or, in the case of the latter, commonly found in secondary forests.

TRAFFIC Oceania will use the findings of this report to direct further regional work in this sector, including the provision of advice to Pacific Island countries on regulatory frameworks and precautionary measures.

For more information contact TRAFFIC Oceania Regional office. For contact details see page 16.

TRAFFIC and ecoregion conservation

Distinct habitats and their characteristic wildlife populations, ecological dynamics and environmental conditions can be grouped into bio-geographic units termed 'ecoregions'. Addressing conservation issues at an ecoregional level makes good sense for biological reasons, where wild populations, key sites, migration corridors, ecological processes and so on are conserved as a whole, and across the artificial barriers of political boundaries. Focusing conservation efforts on outstanding ecoregions representative of all major habitat types is a strategy gaining widespread support. The TRAFFIC Network, in its ambitious new ten-year strategic plan, is working to support ecoregion conservation efforts and has selected this as one of its four main programme elements.

Ignoring national boundaries is not easy, but solving conservation problems and managing and conserving biodiversity at an ecoregional level is a strategy that is gaining in influence and practical application worldwide.

The challenges of addressing biodiversity conservation at this level are many, and actions require close co-operation and co-ordination at international and local levels, which can be difficult to achieve.

From TRAFFIC's point of view, working at this level links biodiversity conservation efforts with identifying and understanding threats to biodiversity, and working collaboratively towards multi-sector, long-term solutions that address human impacts, use, and sustainability.

Our main focus is researching and addressing wildlife trade that may threaten the integrity of priority ecoregions of high

biodiversity value or significance. This involves understanding wildlife trade processes acting on specific ecological landscapes, identifying the real threats and root causes to biodiversity loss; and promoting appropriate solutions to those who can make a difference.

We seek to encourage partnerships with governments, industry, conservation organisations and other stakeholders involved in ecoregion-based conservation efforts.

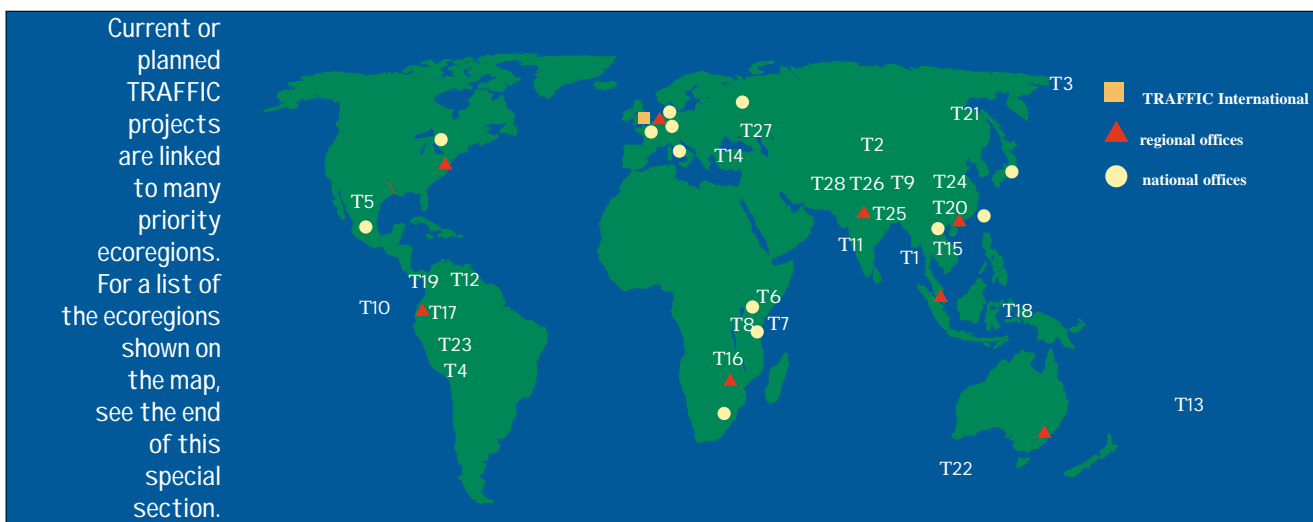
Our research provides baseline data on trade in wild resources/species in priority ecoregions, and this helps assess and interpret levels of threat caused by wildlife trade to biodiversity in these ecoregions.

Through our communications work we seek to increase awareness in government, industry and the general public concerning threats to biodiversity caused by wildlife trade. At the practical level, we are working to enhance the

implementation of regulatory and other measures used to reduce these threats.

Trade is a good example where threats to ecoregions are not necessarily coming from within the ecoregion itself. While local demand can have an impact on species populations and the environment, very often it is the demand from other places that is the real driving force. Such demand may be driven by urban markets in the same country or consumers in countries on the other side of the globe. Examples of this include demand for fisheries products, tropical timber, reptile skins, medicinal and decorative plants, and live animals for pets.

As a global Network, TRAFFIC is able to apply its expertise at all levels of the trade, involving both producers and consumers, wherever they may be – providing a unique perspective on what is today an effective conservation approach.



Tiger Land – the Russian Far East

The forests of the eastern part of Russia are among the largest and best preserved in the northern hemisphere, and its coastal and freshwater ecosystems may well be the richest and most productive in the world. The southern portion, where sub-tropical Asian wilderness meets the frozen forests of Siberia, is known as the Russian Far East (RFE). It is a land of salmon streams, pristine seashores, natural hot springs, and vast stretches of untouched temperate forest. The RFE is home to animals such as Amur Tigers and Bears, and plants such as Siberian cedar and Asian ginseng.

The geo-political position of the RFE – bordering China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea – is as unique as its biodiversity. The opening up of the former USSR in the early 90s resulted in an unprecedented rush for the natural resources of the RFE, including its forests, fisheries, minerals, oil and gas. Poaching of rare species for Asian wildlife medicinal and food markets, widespread hunting for trophies and subsistence, over-fishing, and ruthless exploitation of the forestry resources intensified.

To tackle this crisis, effective measures have to be promoted and implemented that can lead to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in the RFE, and this is what TRAFFIC Europe (TEUR) aims at and contributes to. The Russian and indigenous peoples inhabiting Tiger Land have an opportunity to create an environmentally sustainable economy that can protect ecologically important lands, restore damaged landscapes, and use natural resources within ecological limits for the benefit of local communities. But this will take time, political and public support, commitment, and collaboration.

TEUR has been active in this ecoregion since 1997, investigating the trade in tiger products, musk, and ginseng among others. TEUR's aim for future work is to pursue areas where it has been

most effective – assisting with CITES implementation, maintaining dialogue with enforcement officers and management authorities, and facilitating co-operation with colleagues in cross-border zones and neighbouring countries of the RFE.

Furthermore, TEUR will produce an updated overview of wildlife trade in the RFE mapping out recent developments in the ecoregion and obtaining good base line



R. Melisch/WWF-UK

Tiger Land - The Russian Far East

information for future conservation efforts. Other activities include surveying the region's fur trade, helping to improve regional Musk deer management, and articulating and implementing workable solutions for conserving rare plant resources that are harvested in the RFE.

Linking unique Woodlands with infrastructure development - the Miombo Ecoregion

One of TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa's (TESA) priority ecoregions is the Zambezian Miombo/Mopane/Savanna Woodlands, otherwise known as the Miombo ecoregion. Covering an estimated one million square miles encompassing large parts of twelve nations (Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), these dry Caesalpinoid woodland systems harbour a unique flora and fauna, with more than half of its 8,500 plant species found nowhere else on earth. Large-scale conversion of the Miombo ecoregion to agricultural land is occurring, and large numbers of people in the region depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.

Isolated from the major consuming and export market in Dar es Salaam due to poor infrastructure, southern Tanzania, particularly the Kilwa and Lindi districts, harbours one of the largest natural stands of Miombo woodlands in Africa. However, this may all be about to change with the advent of a new bridge across the Rufiji River, which will open up an unimpeded coastal transport route. Previously, the seasonal flooding of the Rufiji almost completely prevented overland transport of timber and other cargo across its banks. Even in the dry season, very little timber got ferried across the river northwards, and the long, circuitous roads charting inland routes to Dar added too much additional cost. Now, the completion of the bridge, scheduled for June 2001, will create a continual link between Dar es Salaam and southern Tanzania.

Once the bridge is open for business, broader plans for road, power and communication developments will necessarily follow. From a conservation perspective, there is little doubt that the exploitation of natural resources, particularly timber, will increase enormously as a result. Altering the face of southern Tanzania in this manner will produce impacts on an ecoregional scale, and ultimately have spin-off repercussions in neighbouring parts of Mozambique and Malawi.

While there may be no stopping these events in their own right, the challenge is to seize the moment and commence a programme to measure the impact of development on biodiversity and natural resource use. With 'fast track' funding from WWF's Miombo ecoregion programme, TRAFFIC researchers are now undertaking a five-month reconnaissance to produce vital baseline data on the scale of current timber and other resource exploitation in southern Tanzania before the Rufiji bridge is completed.

This effort constitutes the initial phase of a larger effort to document timber exploitation in the region over the next few years. Through a WWF-UK GAA funding approach, TESA hopes to commence an ongoing, long-term monitoring programme once the bridge becomes operational. Understanding the situation on the ground at this critical juncture will allow for future assessments that measure the impact of increased accessibility to Miombo woodlands in a general climate of high market demand and inefficient control mechanisms. In this way, TESA hopes to make a solid contribution to WWF's Miombo ecoregion programme and help to mitigate unsustainable exploitative activities on the natural resource base using credible scientific data from its monitoring programme.

A new bridge being built across Rufiji River in Miombo Woodlands.



Sam Kasulwa /
WWF Tanzania Programme Office

Southeast Asia's 'Mother River' – the Mekong

The Mekong River catchment area covers more than 800,000 square kilometres and the river itself is more than 4,200 kilometres long, making it the world's 12th longest. Emanating from headwaters on the Tibetan Plateau, it winds southward through Yunnan China into Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia, being fed by thousands of major and minor tributaries along the way before crossing Vietnam and emptying into the South China Sea. It also traverses some of Earth's most spectacular biological and cultural landscapes.

Although the Mekong region continues to maintain a high degree of biodiversity, habitat degradation during the past 20 years has threatened the survival of many species and even the extinction of some. These impacts continue on a wide scale, both geographically and in terms of the number of species affected. Construction of hydroelectric power dams and a range of other developments have had a significant negative impact on aquatic and wetlands ecosystems, as well as the biodiversity of the region. Critical habitats have begun to disappear, and a much larger area is being degraded at a rapid pace, which is alarming in terms of its impact on rare and endangered species. Many species, a number of them endemic, are on the brink of extinction or have become extinct already, e.g. Eld's deer (*Cervus eldi*). Hundreds of others remain threatened.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (TSEA) in collaboration with other organisations is developing activities that will contribute to efforts aimed at mitigating the impacts of development and ensuring the conservation of biodiversity in the Mekong region. TSEA is developing a project that will increase knowledge and awareness about wildlife trade impacts

and threats in the region. It will also assist in bringing together governments, government agencies, NGOs, and local communities of the lower Mekong countries to improve dialogue with one another. This is especially important since both local and national developments have an impact on the Mekong region beyond national boundaries. Since wildlife trade crosses borders, international cooperation



TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

Mother River - the Mekong

and increased protection for each nation's wildlife resources is needed to better pursue conservation efforts and prevent illegal trade that threatens the richness of this diverse ecoregion.

Living desert – the Chihuahuan Desert Ecoregion

The Chihuahuan Desert is perhaps the most biologically diverse desert ecosystem in the world. It is particularly known for its botanical bounty as it is home to approximately 23 percent of the planet's known cacti species, many of which are found nowhere else in the wild. Cacti unique to this ecoregion display remarkable morphology and are known for their miniature size and low-growing characteristics, making them irresistible to some collectors.

Thousands of reptiles, primarily lizards and snakes, many of which are endemic, are also collected from the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion each year to supply the enormous demand for these species.

With support from WWF US, TRAFFIC North America (TNAM) has identified both cacti and reptiles as particularly in need of a study to quantify their exploitation and trade. The threat posed by such exploitation can then be assessed and necessary steps identified to ensure the long-term sustainability of these valuable resources.

Cacti

All cacti are regulated by CITES, with some taxa prohibited from trade. Mexico, where 70 percent of the 800 to 1500 known cacti species occur naturally, prohibits the exportation of wild live cacti and their seeds. The country has placed additional strict measures on collecting, possessing and commercializing endangered, endemic and unique fauna and flora, including cacti.

Despite Mexico's ban, the country has been the target of foreign collectors searching for rare and new species of cacti. Newly discovered and endangered Mexican cacti have appeared in European mail-order catalogues. An unfortunate side effect of overzealous collection of cacti is the decline in wild populations of some taxa. IUCN considers 217 cactus species endangered in Mexico, owing largely to continued looting of rare cacti for sale in local, domestic and foreign markets.

TNA is conducting an initial review of the collection, commercialization and conservation of cacti in the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion. This project will provide conservationists with the information needed to undertake further work on the extent and biological impacts of trade on species, their wild populations and habitats in this region.

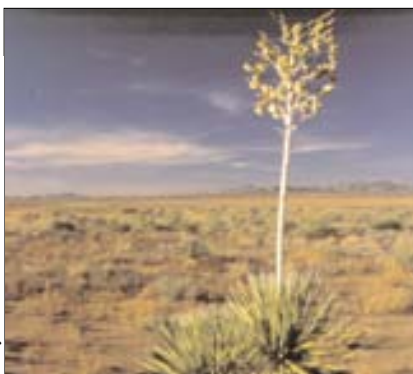
Reptiles

Though there are many factors affecting reptile populations in the Chihuahuan Desert, such as habitat destruction, harvest for trade is seen as one of the primary threats. Among the most sought after taxa are Gila Monsters and Beaded Lizards, the world's only two venomous lizards, which are listed on CITES Appendix II and recognized as Vulnerable by the IUCN. Other taxa frequently harvested for the trade include Horned Lizards, Collared lizards, Rosy Boas, Kingsnakes and Rattlesnakes.

Despite a large and growing demand for reptiles from the Chihuahuan Desert, there is little regulation of harvest and trade within this region in both the United States and Mexico, with little focus on the protection of these species by wildlife law enforcement agencies.

The project undertaken by TNAM will provide well-documented, comprehensive data and information on the status of these reptile species and the impacts of harvest and trade on the long-term sustainability of current populations. Our results will allow conservationists and state and federal governments to be proactive in their efforts to further protect these species.

Living desert - the Chihuahuan



Gerry Ellis / WWF-US

TRAFFIC's ecoregional world

Ecoregions linked to current or planned projects of the TRAFFIC Network :

- T1. Andaman Islands and Sea – TRAFFIC India
- T2. Alta Sayan Region – TRAFFIC Europe
- T3. Bering Sea – TRAFFIC Europe
- T4. Central Andean Yungas – TRAFFIC South America
- T5. Chihuahuan Desert – TRAFFIC North America
- T6. East African Coastal Forests – TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa
- T7. East African Marine – TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa
- T8. Eastern Arc Montane Forests – TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa
- T9. Eastern Himalayas – TRAFFIC India
- T10. Galapagos Islands – TRAFFIC South America
- T11. Ghats Ecoregion – TRAFFIC India
- T12. Guianan Shield – TRAFFIC South America
- T13. Marine ecoregions, other – TRAFFIC Oceania
- T14. Mediterranean Woodlands and Shrublands - TRAFFIC Europe
- T15. Mekong River Basin – TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
- T16. Miombo Woodlands – TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa
- T17. Napo Moist Forests – TRAFFIC South America
- T18. Niugini Forests - TRAFFIC Oceania
- T19. Northern Andes - TRAFFIC South America
- T20. Northern Indochina Subtropical Moist Forests – TRAFFIC East Asia
- T21. Russian Far East – TRAFFIC Europe
- T22. Southern Oceans– TRAFFIC Oceania
- T23. Southwest Amazonia – TRAFFIC South America
- T24. Southwest Temperate Forests of China – TRAFFIC East Asia
- T25. Sunderbans – TRAFFIC India
- T26. Tibetan Plateau – TRAFFIC India
- T27. Volga Delta & Caspian Sea – TRAFFIC Europe
- T28. Western Himalayas – TRAFFIC India

All material published in "TRAFFIC and ecoregions" special section originates from staff of the respective TRAFFIC regional programmes. For further information regarding ongoing ecoregional work and future plans, please contact the respective regional office directly. For contact details, see latest copy of Dispatches, our website www.traffic.org or contact TRAFFIC International, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, tel. +44 (0)1223 277427, fax +44 (0)1223 277237, email: traffic@trafficint.org.

TRAFFIC is a joint programme of IUCN–The World Conservation Union and WWF*–World Wide Fund for Nature.

TRAFFIC



IUCN
The World Conservation Union

* WWF is known as World Wildlife Fund in Canada and the USA.



Alexey Vaisman/
TRAFFIC Europe-Russia

Biologically one of the most productive seas in the world - the Bering Sea ecoregion

TRAFFIC will be publishing a report *Trawling in the Mist: Industrial Fisheries in the Western Bering Sea* by Alexey Vaisman of TRAFFIC Europe-Russia, as part of TRAFFIC's *Species in Danger* (SID) series by mid-2001. It is hoped that the information contained in this report will contribute to the overall body of knowledge pertaining to Bering Sea fisheries, and, most importantly, will assist fisheries managers to achieve the goal of sustainable utilisation of marine resources in this vital ecoregion.

The Bering Sea is the greatest sea basin in the northern Pacific Ocean and identified among the 61 marine ecoregions included in WWF's Global 200 ecoregions. This large body of water is biologically one of the most productive seas in the world, and has a diverse and rich supply of fauna and flora, including considerable commercial biological resources such as fish, invertebrates and sea mammals.

Recent estimates of losses resulting from illegal fishing activity in Russia all point to the chaotic nature of fisheries in the region and the impossible challenge of managing marine resources when off-take levels are unknown and are very likely to be unsustainable.

With support from WWF-US TRAFFIC conducted a six-month review in 1999/2000 of industrial fisheries in the region, with a focus on activities off the Kamchatka peninsula. The project revealed that Kamchatka's fishing sector is in a crisis situation characterised by a sharp drop in production potential, and a deteriorating financial return. This situation has encouraged the illegal harvesting of marine biological resources.

Based on the findings of this study, strategies and recommendations to address unsustainable and illegal harvest and trade in marine resources were developed.

For more information on the study see cover story (Dispatches #16). For future updates on the report, see our website www.traffic.org or contact your nearest TRAFFIC office.

Medicinal Plant News

BMZ-funded workshop held in Hong Kong

A one-day stakeholder workshop entitled *Medicinal Plant Trade and Sustainable Use* was held in November 2000 to discuss the role of Hong Kong in the medicinal plant trade. The event was organised by TRAFFIC East Asia under the auspices of a project supported by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ).

Participants included members of the local trader associations as well as representatives from the Hong Kong CITES Management Authority, the Department of Health, and Hong Kong Chinese University's School of Chinese Medicine.

The final report, *The Role of Hong Kong in the Regional Medicinal Plant Trade in East Asia* (in Chinese) will be made available to all participants and other identified stakeholders in the region.

The purpose of the workshop was to obtain information from the traders to complement documented trade and customs data collected and analysed by TRAFFIC East Asia. The workshop also aimed to involve stakeholders in the research and to alert them to possible future regulatory developments. The results of the process are, for TRAFFIC East Asia, more accurate information on the trade and, for other stakeholders, increased understanding of the relationship between conservation, CITES, and trade in medicinal plants.

-- Samuel Lee, Programme Officer,
TRAFFIC East Asia

Proceedings of EXPO 2000 Symposium now available

The proceedings of the symposium *Medicinal Utilisation of Wild Species* that was convened by TRAFFIC Europe-Germany and WWF Germany in October 2000 are now available. For full copies and further information contact *Susanne Honnef* at TRAFFIC Europe-Germany.

Medicinal Plant Action Plan underway in Colombia

The outputs of a workshop *Sustainable Use of and Trade in Medicinal Plants in Colombia* co-organised by TRAFFIC South America, are now to be used as a basis for establishing an Action Plan to regulate the medicinal plant trade in Colombia.

The proceedings of the workshop released last month reveal increasing consumption of plants of Colombian origin, in an environment where the official trade regulation levels are clearly low.

For more information, contact TRAFFIC South America office.

Cultivation initiative becomes a success story in India

A small function was organised at the Village Soda-Raipur Block in a remote area of Dehradun district on 25 January 2001, when farmers who had participated in TRAFFIC-India's pilot project of medicinal plant cultivation in their marginal lands, were remunerated for their crops.

The farmers had taken up 13 medicinal plant species for cultivation, out of which a crop of Konch (*Mucuna pruriens*) was harvested and sold to the traders under a 'buy back' arrangement.

The efforts of TRAFFIC-India and WWF-India in initiating the project were lauded and support for other similar initiatives was highlighted by the Chief Secretary of Uttaranchal, *Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh*.

Mr. Toliya, the Principal Secretary, Forests, also welcomed the initiative of TRAFFIC-India and Vaidya Chandra Prakash Cancer Research Foundation is taking up this work in the interior villages.

Dr. S.K. Mukherjee, Director, Wildlife Institute of India offered to host a stakeholders meeting on medicinal plants conservation in Uttaranchal in order to maintain the momentum built up by this pilot project.

-- *Rahul Dutta*, Information Officer,
TRAFFIC India

Commonwealth regional workshop in South Africa

A paper *Threatened medicinal plants in East and Southern Africa* was presented by *Nina Marshall*, Assistant Director of TRAFFIC Europe in a workshop organised by *The Export and Industrial Development Division (EIDD) of the Commonwealth Secretariat* on medicinal herbs and their extracts, held last December in Cape Town.

For more information contact TRAFFIC Europe or TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-South Africa office.



Rahul Dutta / TRAFFIC India

Farmers with their konch crop at the 'buy back' function in Dehradun.

Recent publications

Regulation of Collection, Transit and Trade of Medicinal Plants and other Non Timber Forest Products in India. 529pp. November 2000. TRAFFIC/WWF India.

CITES Listed Medicinal Plants of India. An Identification Manual. 85pp. November 2000. TRAFFIC/WWF India.

Cultivation of Medicinal Plants of India. A Reference Book. 161pp. November 2000. TRAFFIC/WWF India.

All three reports were released at India's fifth and final stakeholder meeting of the medicinal plant project funded by BMZ.

European Eel: Decline of a highly migratory fish

by Stéphane Ringuet, Programme Officer, TRAFFIC Europe-France and
Caroline Raymakers, Senior Research Officer, TRAFFIC Europe

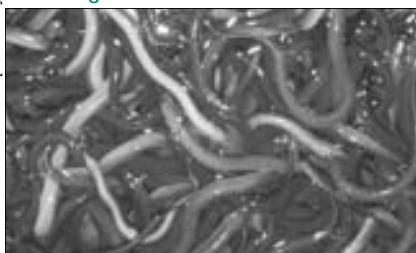
Populations of European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* fisheries have dropped drastically in the past ten years. According to United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) data, the annual catch of the European Eel decreased by over 40%, from 1988 to 1998 with only 7.546 tonnes of eels harvested in 1998. The decline of this unique species that reproduces in the Sargasso Sea and colonises fresh, brackish and coastal waters throughout Europe as well as North and West Africa, is especially worrying since eels are important to many aquatic systems. They are particularly vulnerable due to their long and complex biological cycle, about which much is still unknown. In addition, as many as 25,000 people in rural Asia and Europe depend on the species for their livelihoods.

In an effort to better understand this relatively recent decline, TRAFFIC Europe-France has in the past few months compiled information on European Eel fisheries, trade and conservation measures in France and Europe as well as at the international level. The study also highlights the relationship between European Eel management and the fisheries of other eel species.

It has been suggested that changes in ocean currents might be affecting transatlantic migration of leptocephali (eel larvae) which then contributes to the decline in wild populations. Loss of available river habitats, land-based pollution, as well as alien parasitism, all advance the decline of the species. Also, dams that limit the migration of eels (in “silver eel” stage) back to the sea, and possibly the subsequent reproduction and survival of early larvae together with over-fishing at local rivers and estuaries are thought to contribute to the decline.

Eels for sale on a food market
in Guangzhou, China.

R. Melisch/TRAFFIC Europe-Germany



However, the study found that trade can also play a major role in the future of eel populations. Towards the end of the 1990s, Japanese Eel populations collapsed as a result to the growing demand of the species in the Japanese food market. This contributed greatly to demand of European glass eel (one of the early stages of development of eels) in Asia, encouraging over-fishing and poaching in Europe, with prices per kilogram suddenly surging from USD88 to USD440. In France, which was the first country in Europe to export live glass eels, as much as 80% of commercial glass eels came from illegal fishing in mid-1990s.

During the same time span (1988-98), the world's aquaculture production of eels doubled from 98,000t to 217,000t, of which 95% was produced in Asian farms. As Europe has increasingly supplied the Asian eel farms with necessary glass eels, the study confirmed that Asia has gradually become more dependent on wild-caught eels of Europe. Eels are mostly caught young in Western Europe and then exported to Asian eel farms in China, South Korea and Japan and then sold and consumed mainly in Japan.

In 1997, for example France exported more than 266t of European Eels to destinations outside EU (amounting to 55% of all EU eel

exports outside Europe that year). With regard to the number of fish caught, this represents a vast amount of eels as 1 tonne of European glass eels can represent as many as 2.5 million glass eels caught in the wild. Eels from Western Europe are also used to restock both Central and Northern European rivers and farming facilities.

This ongoing study is the first attempt to compile information on European eels, such as current management goals of European eel producers as well as international trade and control measures. Recently, the commercial aspects of eel fisheries have also been highlighted in discussions between the FAO Working Group on European Eel of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee (EIFAC) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and it is anticipated that further discussions about these issues will follow.

The next step of the TRAFFIC study is to clarify the full impact European eels have on the international eel trade and also to establish an action plan that would hopefully secure the future of this unique species.

This work is to be supported under the TRAFFIC fisheries programme supported by David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

CITES Significant Trade Review process on sturgeon and paddlefish underway

by Caroline Raymakers, Senior Research Officer, TRAFFIC Europe

The entire Order Acipenseriformes, 27 species of sturgeon and paddlefish, has been included in the CITES Appendices since June 1997. The vulnerability of these fish lies essentially in their late maturity, sometimes 25 years, and in the fact that their survival and reproduction depends on a wide range of habitats. They spend the longest part of their lives in coastal brackish and marine waters where they feed and migrate in large rivers to reach their spawning grounds.

In April 2000, at the 11th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (COP 11), 25 species of Acipenseriformes listed in Appendix II were included in the Significant Trade Review. This decision was official recognition of the on-going and increasing problems facing sturgeon and paddlefish fisheries around the world. Experts believe that annual caviar export quotas set by the range States are not based on sound and updated biological and market data.

TRAFFIC received a grant from the CITES Secretariat to undertake the Significant Trade Review of 10 species, 9 sturgeon and one paddlefish, that are most targeted by commercial fisheries and international trade. The Review was based on an assessment of the implementation of CITES listing of Acipenseriformes in 1998 and was carried-out in consultation with 17 countries, including two that are not Parties to CITES. Additionally, the IUCN Species Survival Commission provided input from the experts of its Sturgeon Specialist Group.

In December 2000, at the 16th meeting of CITES Animals Committee, the members of the Committee proposed drastic action that was in line with the recommendations prepared by TRAFFIC: Six species were classified as category 1 species; species for which the provisions of CITES are not

implemented properly by range States (e.g. Caspian Sea, Danube River and Amur River basins) and international trade may therefore be detrimental to the survival of wild populations. The four remaining species were classified to category 2; species for which not enough information had been provided by range States to conclude if the Convention is implemented in a way that ensures that international trade is not detrimental to the species.

In February 2001, a list of detailed recommendations and questions about fisheries management and trade control measures tailored to the country's situation was sent by CITES Secretariat to each Party. For most range States, the major concern is the uncertain basis for establishment of the annual catch and export quotas of sturgeon and sturgeon products. The countries are expected to answer before the end of May 2001, or a maximum 90 days after the recommendations were received.

If Parties do not react, or if their response is considered unsatisfactory by the CITES Secretariat, the CITES Standing Committee at its meeting in June 2001 has authority to recommend that CITES Parties do not accept any shipment of particular species of sturgeon or paddlefish from countries of concern. In short, if range States do not take action to improve their sturgeon fisheries management and trade controls, they may face a CITES prohibition on exports of products and specimens of these species before the end of August 2001.



Caroline Raymakers / TRAFFIC Europe

Caviar Labelling

Resolution Conf. 11.13 *Universal labelling system for the identification of caviar*, was adopted at COP 11 and a working group was formed to look and clarify various concerns related to the resolution. The report submitted by the working group to the members of the Animals Committee in December highlighted among others, that the intent of the Resolution is to apply only to commercial shipments and not to personal effects.

At present there is no universal labelling system for identification of caviar to indicate if products from wild and captive-bred sources have been legally obtained and traded. The outcome of the Animals Committee meeting draws clear guidelines for countries and the private sector to implement and enforce efficient labelling of caviar for better trade controls. This will greatly assist efforts to ensure that consumers are not buying caviar outside the legal trade channels.

... continued from page 1

activities, both of which undermine current efforts aimed at achieving sustainable fisheries harvest and trade.

TRAFFIC study to better understand the impact of exploitation

In an effort to better understand the impact of current exploitation of marine resources in the western Bering Sea, TRAFFIC conducted a six-month review of industrial fisheries in the region, with a focus on activities off the Kamchatka peninsula. The research was supported by funding from the WWF-US. Based on the findings of this study, strategies and recommendations to address unsustainable and illegal harvest and trade in marine resources were also developed.

In 1999/2000, TRAFFIC collected harvest and trade statistics on key marine species caught in the western Bering Sea, and specifically looked at 23 species in nine resource groups: pollack, cod, herring, rockfish, halibut, flounder, crab, shrimp and squid.

Information was collected on biological characteristics of the species, stocks, quotas and harvest levels, fishing gears, trade, and trends. Agencies and individuals involved in stock assessment, quota setting,

monitoring and regulation were interviewed during this project, in particular to gain an understanding of the illegal activities occurring in the fisheries sector in the western Bering Sea.

Lack of management encouraging illegal harvesting and other activities

The project revealed that Kamchatka's fishing sector, as in the rest of Russia, is in a crisis situation characterised by a sharp drop in production potential, and a deteriorating financial status. This situation has encouraged the illegal harvesting of marine biological resources.

The existence of illicit activities, including catching, processing and storage of fish in excess of quotas allocated per species, is significant at all levels and scales - from sailors on small isolated fishing vessels to organised fleets of large industrial fishing boats.

The total number of infractions detected by the Kamchatka Basin Regional Fisheries Inspectorate from 1993 to 1998 was 191 (on average 32 per year), but in 1999 when control patrols were intensified, the figure rose to 209, with 152 of these infractions committed by Russian vessels.

The most widespread violations include distortion of data by fishermen on the volume and size of fish caught as well as on the species composition of the catch. Other violations include distortion of data by processors on the volume and quality of fisheries products that are processed on board, fishing in prohibited areas, and selling unreported catch without paying customs duties, either at sea or in foreign markets.

Towards sustainable utilisation

This project is nearing completion, and a report containing its results, *Trawling in the Mist: Industrial Fisheries in the Western Bering Sea* by Alexey Vaisman of TRAFFIC Europe-Russia, will be published in TRAFFIC's *Species in Danger* series by mid-2001. Publication costs are to be met from TRAFFIC's fisheries programme supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

It is hoped that the information contained in this report will contribute to the knowledge pertaining to Bering Sea fisheries, and, most importantly, will assist fisheries managers to achieve the goal of sustainable utilisation of marine resources in this vital ecoregion.

For future updates on the report, see our website www.traffic.org or contact your nearest TRAFFIC office.

Unloading a catch of Alaska pollack on the deck of a Russian fishery vessel.



Recent reports in the *Species in Danger* series

Far from A Cure: The Tiger Trade Revisited. Kirstin Nowell.
March 2000. 100pp.

*

Slipping the net: Spain's compliance with ICCAT recommendations for Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna. Caroline Raymakers, Jacqui Lynham.
November 1999. 58pp.

*

Searching for a Cure: Conservation of medicinal wildlife resources in East and Southern Africa. Nina T. Marshall. September 1998. 112pp.

... continued from page 2

forthright in explaining their difficulties and this was the key to the success of the workshop.

South Africa explained how it had dealt with the problems of large-scale exports from a megabiodiverse nation and the systems they had developed that had worked well for them. My TRAFFIC colleagues from Tanzania and Brussels joined me to observe the workshop and share our experiences and ideas on good CITES implementation and the common issues that these countries shared in

meeting their CITES obligations. The EU Commission provided a presentation on how the EU as a major 'customer' for wildlife from these countries had imposed stricter domestic measures and how and why these have applied. This information was vital to help exporting nations understand the perspective of consumer states.

From all of these discussions we tabulated the common themes and associated issues and used these as the basis for drawing up recommendations for change and a series of action

points. Time was running out but all of the discussions were covered in the section on solutions. The Secretariat is now working on producing a report of the meeting with an emphasis on these solutions.

I cannot say what will be in the report but I doubt the words will be able to impart the feeling of value and excitement about what the future could bring, amongst people who clearly did care about their jobs and about what CITES means and can potentially achieve. Week-long discussions about how to implement an international treaty in developing countries may not sound too enthralling. However, I will always remember that the debate was mostly lively, sometimes humorous but always engrossing. And it had a tone of urgency and importance for the Parties that were brought from the South to the North, to meet each other.

The Secretary General of the CITES Secretariat *Willem Wijnstekers* (second from left) chaired the five-day workshop.



Crawford Allan / TRAFFIC International

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Ion Fund
IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Office
IUCN - The World Conservation Union
IUCN Mozambique Country Office
IUCN - Species Survival Commission
IUCN/SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group
The John Ellerman Foundation
Johnson & Johnson
Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden
Kenya Wildlife Service

Leuser Development Programme
Margaret Cullinan Wray and Charitable Lead Annuity Trust
Marine Leadership Council
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Ministerium für Umwelt und Forsten - Rheinland-Pfalz
Ministry of Environment & Forests, India
Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
Ministry of Tourism and National Parks, Malawi
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TRAFFIC DISPATCHES

Number 17 July 2001

Reviews on whale meat trade controls in Japan, South Korea and Norway released

On 23 July 2001, coinciding with the opening of the 53rd meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) held in London, TRAFFIC released three reports based on its continued efforts to review whale meat trade controls in Japan, South Korea and Norway. These reports provide the latest TRAFFIC information available on trade controls in the respective countries.

The studies noted the significant progress made by Norway and Japan in implementing domestic management systems to regulate trade in whale products, and especially in the establishment of DNA registers of whales legally caught in their waters.

The three studies titled *"Monitoring progress in Norway's development of a DNA register for its domestic management system for whale meat"* (July 2001), *"A Survey of the Commercial Trade in Whale Meat Products in Japan"* (June 2000) and *"A Survey of Whale Meat Markets Along South Korea's Coast"* (June 2000) were funded by WWF.

In late 1999, with the co-operation of the relevant government authorities, TRAFFIC commenced a study aimed to gain understanding of the trade control measures introduced in Norway and verify the accuracy of the DNA register system employed. DNA samples are reported to be taken by government inspectors from each specimen as soon as whales are caught, and a specialised laboratory has been commissioned to analyse samples and produce a DNA fingerprint for each individual whale. Norway has established a DNA register of all minke whales legally caught for the 1997 season onwards.

During its review, TRAFFIC secured DNA profiles from a selection of samples on the Norwegian market and in June 2000 presented the results to the Norwegian government for matching with the register. However, this matching remains unresolved over a year later and TRAFFIC is awaiting further information from the Norwegian authorities.



Caroline Raymakers / TRAFFIC Europe

Whale meat on sale in Norway.

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In Japan, samples for genetic analysis are reported to be collected from every specimen of minke whale harvested as part of Japan's scientific whaling operations in the Antarctic and North Pacific regions. Government notifications also request collection of samples from specimens of baleen whales and Sperm Whales stranded or caught as bycatch in national waters.

TRAFFIC's review of the measures adopted identified shortcomings in the domestic management system's ability to distinguish between legal and illegal whale meat in the marketplace as inclusion of samples from frozen stocks, incidental catch and strandings in the register is not yet mandatory.

However, TRAFFIC notes with satisfaction recent revisions to whaling regulations in Japan which now require mandatory reporting of the bycatch of large whales in trap net fisheries (including biological and catch information), provision of DNA samples for analysis, and reporting of DNA results to the government. TRAFFIC fully supports the establishment of a comprehensive DNA register within Japan encompassing not only "by-products"

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New Federal Wildlife bill sets standards for wildlife protection in Australia

A new wildlife trade law that was passed through both houses of parliament in Canberra, on Friday, 29 June 2001 sets new standards for wildlife protection in Australia.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Wildlife Protection) Bill 2001* integrates the existing Act dealing with wildlife trade* within the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The new bill will drastically increase the Federal Government's capacity to enforce wildlife protection laws, making it easier to prosecute illegal importing of endangered

species such as exotic birds, whale bone products and rhino and tiger parts.

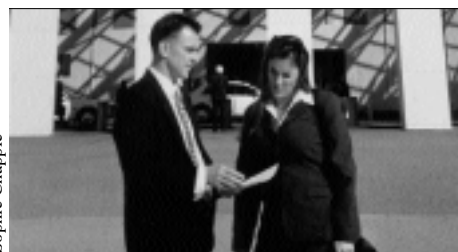
Overall effectiveness of the legislation, however, will depend on key points of government support, such as adequate funding and resources, in terms of both expertise and personnel, to implement and enforce the legislation; appropriately strong regulations to be finalised in the drafting process; and the review of the National Exotic Birds Registration Scheme (NEBRS) which will be conducted by TRAFFIC Oceania prior to the legislation coming into force in December 2001.

TRAFFIC Oceania, together with WWF Australia and Humane Society International suggested a number of amendments to the bill which were supported by all political parties.

These included among others requirements to consider recovery plans before giving export permits relating to threatened species, and restricting registered scientific exchanges to non-commercial exchanges.

For more information, please contact Director Glenn Sant at TRAFFIC Oceania. For contact details, see page 12.

*Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982



Glenn Sant, Director, TRAFFIC Oceania discusses the Bill with another conservationist outside Australia's Parliament House shortly after the Bill was tabled on 24 May 2001.

Sophie Chapple

TRAFFIC staff news

Welcome

Ernie Cooper has started his work as the new TRAFFIC North America Representative in Canada in June 2001. Ernie comes to TRAFFIC after a long career with Environment Canada as a Wildlife Inspector based in Vancouver.

*

Dr. Fumihito Muto started as the new Regional Fisheries Officer in TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan in April 2001. Dr. Muto has trained in fisheries science at the Hokkaido University. He will be working on regional fisheries issues in Japan, and elsewhere in the region.

*

Kelly Trentham started her work as the new Office Manager at TRAFFIC International in April 2001.

*

Karin Berkhoudt has joined TRAFFIC-Europe Regional Office as the new Programme Officer in May 2001.

Akiko Ishihara from TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan has commenced her maternity leave on 16 July 2001 during which Shoko Kameoka will be working full-time at Japan office.

Goodbye

Nina Marshall has left her position as the Assistant Director in TRAFFIC Europe Regional office in May 2001 to take up a new challenge at the Conservation International in Washington as the Grant Director for Africa.

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TRAFFIC is a joint programme of IUCN-The World Conservation Union and WWF, the conservation organization. It aims to help ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

The TRAFFIC Network works in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

TRAFFIC Dispatches is published by TRAFFIC International to keep the Network's partners and supporters informed about our activities and accomplishments.



CITES legislation gets underway in Viet Nam

by Julie Thomson, National Representative, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Viet Nam

Like its neighbours, Viet Nam has a long history of trade in wild species. The trade is known to have had localised impacts on abundance of some species but it was not until Viet Nam embarked upon its highly successful policy of economic restructuring in the early 1980s that the trade began affecting wildlife from neighbouring states. This factor, alongside China's dramatic economic growth and historical trade ties between the two countries, have resulted in Viet Nam emerging as a significant player in the wildlife trade at the regional level.

At the international level, Viet Nam acts as a source area especially for reptiles and small to medium sized mammals. Viet Nam is also a nation that consumes wild species, in particular, bears and reptiles in large quantities. It also acts as a transit route to international markets, such as China, for species that are legally and illegally harvested from its neighbouring countries, namely Laos and Cambodia.

Since acceding to CITES in 1994, the Vietnamese government has striven to address illegal wildlife trade but has so far lacked the capacity to effectively implement and enforce the Convention. The findings of the CITES Secretariat from the last phase of the CITES National Legislation project, presented at the 11th Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP11) last year, noted that implementation of CITES legislation in Viet Nam was far from sufficient. To improve the situation, the Parties requested Viet Nam to adopt adequate legislation before 31 October 2001 (under Decision 11.15). In the conclusions, it was noted that should Viet Nam fail to adopt the legislation, it could risk facing sanctions on trade in CITES-listed species.

In response, the Vietnamese government established a CITES Legislation Working Group in September last year and invited TRAFFIC to provide technical assistance to the group. Members of the Working Group represented six

ministries and four scientific institutions of the country.

In early April 2001, draft CITES legislation was completed and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), IUCN, WWF and TRAFFIC were asked to review it. It is expected that a revised draft will be submitted to the Prime Minister of Viet Nam for ratification before September 2001. After ratification, the legislation will provide for better implementation of CITES by clearly designating Viet Nam's CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, clarifying CITES-listed species and those protected by Viet Nam's

domestic legislation and establishing penalties for violation of the Convention.

The legislation will come just in time to acknowledge the importance of CITES, before the 17th Annual CITES Animals Committee meeting convenes in Ha Noi in July-August 2001 and, even more importantly, before the CITES deadline for adequate legislation to be in place expires in October 2001.

The Rufford Foundation and WWF-US have generously supported TRAFFIC Southeast Asia – Viet Nam's work on this issue.

National tourist awareness campaign on wildlife trade and CITES launched

On 15 June 2001 the Vietnamese government in collaboration with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia – Viet Nam launched a national tourist awareness campaign on wildlife trade and CITES.

Over the last several years, Viet Nam has increasingly become a popular destination for foreign tourists. Renowned for its rich cultural and ecological heritage, over two million tourists visited Viet Nam in 2000. This is an increase of nearly 20% from the previous year and further rises are expected as the government makes good of its promise "Viet Nam: Destination for the New

Millennium."

As the number of tourists to Viet Nam has grown, so too have pressures on the nation's wild animal and plant species. Unwittingly, many tourists are buying souvenirs or products derived from threatened wild animals and plants harvested illegally from Viet Nam and its neighbours.

Often these products are sold openly, with no indication that their sale is illegal under Viet Nam's domestic law or that they may require CITES permits for export. For a country that has lost over 60 % of its forest cover in the last fifty years and whose species are quickly disappearing

continued on page 5...



Two bill-boards, in English and Vietnamese, will be displayed at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City in the end of July 2001.

Eastern Europe has a lion's share of the Eurasian trophy hunting tourism

by Roland Melisch, National Representative, TRAFFIC Europe-Germany

There have been increasing attempts in recent years to integrate trophy hunting as a conservation tool into wildlife management programmes, the goal being the sustainable use of wildlife. During these years, trophy hunting's potential impact on these conservation efforts has been debated. To gain a better understanding of demand for, products from and supply of trophy hunting, TRAFFIC Europe initiated in 1998 a review of the Eurasian trophy hunting market with support from WWF and the European Commission. The study is now nearing completion and will be published in the coming months.

The TRAFFIC Europe Regional report "*The Lion's Share of the Hunt*" by Doris Hofer and other contributors, aims to provide a basic overview of the Eurasian tourist hunting market. The scope of the study extends to 18 countries in Europe (EU countries, Malta, Norway, Switzerland) regarded primarily as demand countries, and 38 countries in Eurasia (covering regions and countries such as Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia and the Near East, Himalaya, Mongolia, and China) regarded as supply, or destination, countries.

Within the Eurasian market overview, a survey was co-supported

by the German Hunters Association (DJV) and WWF-Germany in order to better understand German hunters' tourist hunting demand, frequency and preferences.

Abundant species of Eastern Europe attract many EU hunters

The study shows that a lion's share of the Eurasian tourist hunting market is hunting by EU hunters in Eastern Europe for abundant species. Hunting in Eastern Europe entails low risk in terms of hunting success, organisation, or security, and its cost is comparable to an average holiday. More than half

of the German tourist hunters spend between EUR1250 (US\$1100) and EUR3000 (US\$2600) per expedition. The average price of a foreign hunt is about EUR2000 (US\$1700). For Eurasian destinations the fee is slightly less.

From time to time, about 20 – 30 % of European hunters travel abroad for hunting. They are mainly from Germany, Austria, the Benelux countries, Italy, and Spain. Destination preferences differ from country to country. German and Italian hunters travel to a wide range of European destinations, Spanish tourist hunters prefer North America, and Benelux hunters are much more oriented towards Africa. In general, the majority of tourist hunters visit destinations that are relatively close to home.

The main Eurasian conservation hot-spots like the Caucasus, the Altai and Tien Shan Mountains, and the Russian Far East imply higher costs and long distance travelling and thus attract only a minority of the foreign hunting industry.

Ungulates and birds the preferred game for many

The game species preferred by German and Spanish hunters abroad are ungulates, mainly Red Deer, Roe Deer, Wild Boar and, to a lesser extent, antelope, gazelle, wild sheep and goats. Some 45% of German tourist hunters have hunted for small game and waterfowl at some point in the past. Almost a fifth of German hunters have hunted for big game carnivores. Italian tourist hunters prefer bird hunting abroad.

A review of print and internet advertisements, catalogues and price lists reveals that at least 29 ungulate and 15 carnivore species are offered in Europe for tourist hunting in the supply countries surveyed during this project. For Eurasian destinations, these indicate a preference by tourist



Most of the CITES-listed trophy items imported from Eurasia to Europe and North America between 1990-96 were Brown Bears *Ursus arctos* (1135). The total number of registered CITES-listed imports during the period was 1924.

Timber
wolf,
*Canis
lupus*



PJ Banks/WWF-UK

hunters for Moose, Roe Deer, Red Deer, Mouflon, and Wild Boar.

An analysis of reported imports of Eurasian taxa listed under CITES from the years 1990 -1996 revealed that 912 trophy items were registered as imports into the European demand countries, as compared to 1012 which were registered as imports into Canada and the US. During this period, for both of these main demand regions (Europe and North America), the largest part of CITES-listed trophy item imports from Eurasia between 1990 and 1996 were formed by Brown Bear *Ursus arctos* (1135), Argali *Ovis ammon* (421), and Wolf *Canis lupus* (178).

Minimal economic incentives on national level

While Hungary or Poland can supply 10 000 – 20 000 hunts per year, the Central Asian countries or China currently reach a limit within the hundreds. Even within the main supply countries, the economic contribution of foreign hunting is extremely limited on a national level (e.g. in Hungary: 0.0005% of the GNP).

Based on available data gathered during this study, it can be estimated that European hunters generate around EUR50 million (US\$43million) annually, which remains in the Eurasian supply countries. Information about the use and re-investment of this revenue into wildlife management or conservation is largely unavailable.

More co-operation and information sharing needed

This analysis provides the first market overview of its kind for Eurasian trophy-hunted species. It shows that European hunters travelling to the East for foreign hunts are attracted by abundant species and reject destinations that have a "bad image" in terms of hunting success,

security, organisation, or value for money.

Species listed by CITES only attract a small share of European tourist hunters. With the methodology used during this report, it was not possible to assess any illegal activities, such as hunting in excess of local quotas or using illegal methods of hunting.

However, despite sharing a common regulation implementing CITES in the EU, the survey indicated differences in the strictness of handling practices in trophy importing procedures from country to country. A better information sharing system between EU countries is necessary, and would be best addressed at the relevant EU-CITES management group.

The benefits shared between wildlife management systems, local communities, and the foreign trophy hunting demand remain difficult to assess. Whereas on a general level the activities of the Eurasian trophy hunting industry do not seem to have any large impact on a destination country's economy, benefits may well arise on a more regional or local level. Hence, granting financial support to the management of the few threatened species targeted by trophy hunters should be encouraged.

Within the European demand countries, very little information is available explaining revenue systems in Eurasian countries as compared with, for example, destination countries in Southern Africa or North America.

To compile adequate information regarding the conservation benefits involved, more information sharing is needed between hunting associations, the tourist hunting industry, wildlife management decision-makers as well as conservation organisations in both the government and NGO sector.

For more information, please contact TRAFFIC Europe-Germany. For contact details, see page 12.

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due to the demands of a thriving illegal international trade, the additional pressures brought on by foreign tourists may eventually drive some species to the brink of extinction.

In response to this situation, TRAFFIC and the Forest Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development have joined forces to produce and distribute awareness materials for tourists and the general public on wildlife products to avoid purchasing in Viet Nam.

The materials include multi-lingual brochures in Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese and English languages, as well as posters, and billboards encouraging legal and sustainable purchasing habits. Thousands of brochures and hundreds of posters have already been distributed to popular tourist hotels, restaurants, tour operators, and provincial Forest Protection Departments across the country. The billboards will be installed in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City's international airports sometime in late July and early August.

Production of the tourist awareness materials was made possible through a grant to TRAFFIC Southeast Asia – Viet Nam by the British Embassy in Ha Noi.

Toothfish study out in mid-August

A TRAFFIC Network study "Patagonian Toothfish: Are Conservation and Trade Measures Working?" on the status of the trade in Patagonian Toothfish *Dissostichus eleginoides* will be released on 14 August, 2001. On the date, a limited number of off-prints of the study will be available. The article is part of the next issue of *TRAFFIC Bulletin Vol.19 No.1*, that will be coming out in early Autumn.

For more information, see www.traffic.org on the day of the release or contact TRAFFIC Oceania. For contact details, see page 12.



Nature conservation legislation reviewed in South Africa

by Markus Burgener, Programme Officer, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa – South Africa

The alignment of provincial nature conservation legislation in South Africa has been identified as an area of critical importance in attempts of ensuring effective regulation of the wildlife trade. Currently wildlife trade in the country is regulated in terms of a highly fragmented *potpourri* of provincial Ordinances, Acts, Decrees and Proclamations, which are, in numerous aspects, inconsistent, incomplete, outdated and overly complex. A recent TRAFFIC report is now set to serve as a tool in efforts to update the currently insufficient legislation.



Two separate initiatives, namely the South African CITES Implementation Project (SACIP) and the Law Reform Programme (DLRP) of South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) are currently addressing this unruly situation. The ultimate aim of these initiatives, both managed by DEAT, is the development of national biodiversity conservation legislation. The legislation will include provisions specific to CITES as well as general trade provisions for all species.

A recently published report '*Towards a Sustainable Wildlife Trade: An Analysis of Nature Conservation Legislation in South Africa with Particular Reference to the Wildlife Trade*' by the Institute of Criminology of the University of Cape Town (UCT) in association with TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa - South Africa has been produced to serve as a tool in the development of this legislation. The project was financially supported by the United Nations Foundation.

The report is one of the key outputs of a collaborative research project that was initiated after a workshop convened in 1999 by UCT, brought together a broad group of leading figures in the national conservation field.

The report provides a detailed description of the existing legislative, policy and institutional environment

related to South Africa's wildlife trade. Specific themes that are either being inadequately addressed by legislation or are not being addressed at all are also outlined and discussed.

At the present time there are, for example, a number of inconsistencies in permitting procedures, sanction provisions, legal definitions, and the conservation status of many indigenous species. This confusing legislative structure makes it extremely difficult for conservation authorities already facing budgetary and capacity constraints, to carry out their work effectively and efficiently.

Provincial restructuring in 1994, combined with a failure to repeal nature conservation legislation of the former Independent States and Self-governing Territories, has intensified an already fragmented legal environment.

But problems are not only created through inconsistencies between various Ordinances and Acts. The existing legislation is for the most part outdated and there are, for instance, no provisions dealing with the involvement of communities in regulating wildlife trade or the use of incentives to encourage persons involved in the trade to utilise natural resources in a sustainable manner. Nor does the existing system allow national monitoring and oversight of the extent, and nature, of wildlife trade.

The report provides also a series of recommendations and alignment options mainly to assist provincial and national authorities in amending, developing and drafting the legislation. Key recommendations include among others the following:

- ♦ Biodiversity utilisation, including wildlife trade, can be most effectively and holistically addressed through national legislation. Therefore alignment with both national and provincial laws should take place within national legislation, particularly with respect to definitions, alien organisms, permitting procedures, sanctions, schedule amendment procedures and the inclusion of wildlife welfare provisions.

- ♦ National nature conservation legislation should also incorporate creative tools and strategies in achieving sustainable legal wildlife trade (for instance, through the use of incentives and the involvement of communities in biodiversity management).

- ♦ Legislation of the former homelands should be repealed as these Acts and Ordinances are outdated and create unnecessary implementation problems for conservation authorities.

For more information and complete recommendations, please contact TESA-South Africa office. For contact details, see page 12. A full copy of the report in PDF format can also be downloaded from TRAFFIC

Next steps towards better collaboration in CITES enforcement work in Egypt

by Stephanie Pendry, UK Enforcement Assistance Officer, TRAFFIC International

Egypt is facing a number of wildlife trade challenges, such as trade in ivory, tortoises, *Uromastyx* lizards, snakes and raptors. The Egyptian authorities know of these issues, are making steps to improve the situation in Egypt, and are clearly committed to enforcing CITES. However, Customs awareness of wildlife issues is in general still low, and there are few resources available for CITES law enforcement in the country.

In response to a request from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for assistance in training on CITES enforcement, a workshop was held in Cairo in March 2001. Her Majesty's Customs and Excise CITES Team from the UK and TRAFFIC International provided the training for the workshop that was organised by the UK Embassy in Cairo. The Environment Project Fund of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK (FCO) funded the workshop.

One of the main aims of the three-day workshop was to increase co-ordination and collaboration between all pertinent enforcement agencies and government departments. This especially in a situation where the implementation and enforcement of CITES in Egypt falls within the remit of 7 Ministries (Interior, Defence, Tourism, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Environment). The overall responsibility for CITES lies with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation. In addition, there are three CITES

Scientific Authorities in the country for Animals, Plants and Marine species.

A total of 40 participants attended the workshop from all Ministries and government agencies involved in CITES. Training was given on a range of enforcement issues, including permit completion, examination of shipments, profiling and targeting, confiscations, smuggling and identification. A series of exercises such as permit checking and species identification gave the participants the opportunity to put into practice what they were learning.

In the last two years, the Egyptian enforcement agencies have made a concerted effort to improve their CITES role and are still in the early stages of developing their capacity. Much effort is concentrated at Cairo Airport, and the work of the Environment Police based at the Airport (who work closely with Customs) is particularly impressive. As this centre of expertise at the Airport is developed the expertise can be devolved to other border points.

One of the major challenges facing the authorities is the number of different Ministries involved and their respective roles in CITES enforcement. The workshop was the first step on the ladder to achieving a greater level of communication between all parties involved in CITES enforcement and it is hoped that this type of collaboration will continue and grow in the future.

Compromise agreement on Caspian Sea caviar lauded

Three caviar-producing states have agreed to halt sturgeon fishing in the Caspian Sea for the remainder of the year and have committed themselves to a series of urgent measures aimed at addressing alarm over plummeting sturgeon stocks. Progress on these measures must be made within the next six months if these countries wish to avoid an international ban on caviar exports next year. The agreement was announced on 21 June 2001, at the end of a meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES.

Four Caspian Sea range states - Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan - faced the prospect of a full suspension of their caviar exports if the committee was not satisfied with their response to concerns raised by the CITES Standing Committee earlier in 2001. However, these countries have already reduced their combined export quotas on Caspian species by more than 50 per cent since 1998. Hence, a ban of caviar exports alone might not effectively address critical problems such as rapidly rising domestic trade, poaching and illegal trade.

Instead, TRAFFIC called for countries to undertake specific measures on sturgeon fisheries, including concerted efforts for the establishment of co-ordinated catch and export quotas; trans-border anti-poaching units; a comprehensive assessment and effective control of

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Charles Mackay / Her Majesty's Customs and Excise



Participants identifying animal skins (of jaguar, leopard and rock python) during the ID exercise.



Boris Mashkov

Multi-language publications to support conservation activities in East Asia

by Marcus Phipps, Deputy Regional Director, TRAFFIC East Asia

The importance of communications as a 'key' to success is a commonly heard refrain and one that TRAFFIC East Asia has taken to heart in working within its region. Much of TRAFFIC's early research in the region pointed to the necessity of communicating with stakeholder groups in their native languages, particularly in the traditional medicine communities.

TRAFFIC East Asia has committed significant resources to doing just that in a region which is both an important consumer and producer of a wide range of wildlife products. TRAFFIC offices in the region produce newsletters in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, maintain Japanese and Chinese-language web-sites*, and produce a range of reports in relevant languages.

The TRAFFIC Network's authoritative report *Far from a Cure: The Tiger Trade Revisited* (2000) highlighted the need to continue to raise conservation awareness in consuming markets and to build the capacity of wildlife trade monitoring and enforcement officials to discriminate between real and fake Tiger parts and products. With support from WWF-Japan and WWF-UK, TRAFFIC East Asia recently has published a Japanese-language edition of *Far from a Cure*. With additional support from WWF-US, TRAFFIC East Asia is planning to produce the report's executive summary in Korean and Chinese. A Chinese-language guide to identifying Tiger parts in trade is also under development for distribution to enforcement officials in China.

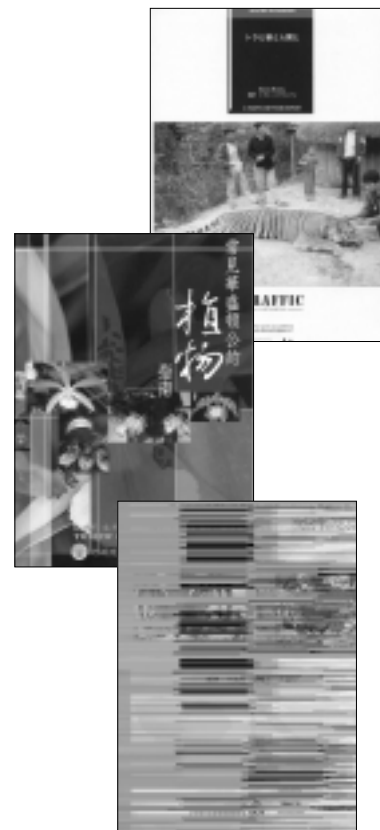
TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei has recently produced a full-colour Chinese-language *Guide to CITES Plants in Trade* (2001). Published with funding from Taiwan's Council of Agriculture and incorporating TRAFFIC research supported primarily by Germany's Federal

Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development, the guide is designed for use by Customs and other enforcement officers. It includes a general introduction to CITES and plants, to terminology used to describe flora specimens and parts, and more detailed descriptions of CITES-listed ornamental and medicinal plants frequently seen in trade. The guide also provides a template for the future development of similar identification materials for use in the East Asian region.

The Chinese language *Proceedings to the First Annual Symposium on Endangered Species Used in Traditional East Asian Medicine: Substitutes for Tiger Bone and Musk* (2001) were published with support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund. With topics ranging from the status of species in the wild through to forensic authentication of samples and clinical trials for substitutes, these proceedings have proved to be one of TRAFFIC East Asia's most challenging Chinese-language publications to date.

A number of other TRAFFIC East Asia publications are currently in press or distribution including the bilingual report *Musk Deer Farming as a Conservation Tool in China* (Chinese and English) and the *Proceedings to the Third International Symposium on the Trade in Bear Parts* (English).

TRAFFIC East Asia uses a range of approaches in its efforts to support the conservation of wildlife



resources used in the region. These include working to increasing awareness among government and industry of conservation issues pertaining to wildlife in trade; building capacity in government and industry to enforce and implement regulatory measures; promoting policies and management measures to address trade in threatened species; and developing a constructive dialogue between the conservation and other stakeholder communities.

TRAFFIC East Asia's multi-language publications are central to supporting these activities and to supporting overall efforts for biodiversity conservation in East Asia.

**For the TRAFFIC Chinese language web site, please see www.wow.org.tw and for the TRAFFIC Japanese language web site please see www.twics.com/~trafficj.*

Common ground found at the first CITES wider Caribbean hawksbill turtle dialogue meeting

by Adrian Reuter, National Representative, TRAFFIC North America - Mexico

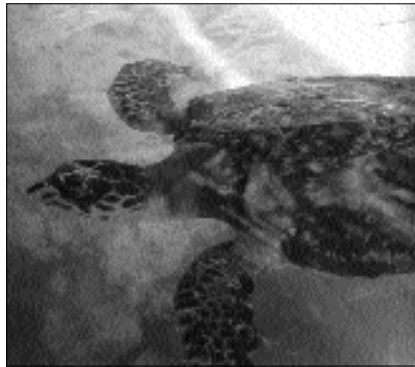
With the participation of 34 range states and territories, the first dialogue meeting on Caribbean Hawksbill turtles took place in Mexico City, 15-17 May, 2001.

This meeting was the result of a proposal brought up and accepted during the 11th CITES CoP to facilitate communication and information exchange between interested parties in areas such as biology, population status, migratory routes and trade.

The dialogue, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, was facilitated by the CITES Secretariat and IUCN (with the collaboration of TRAFFIC) and chaired by Diana Ponce Nava, Sub-attorney of the Environmental Enforcement Agency (PROFEPA) in Mexico.

Common topics of concern such as the standardisation of monitoring protocols, conservation impacts of different management programmes and policies and the need to establish a regional strategy and management plan in the wider Caribbean, were addressed and discussed. In order to facilitate the commitment of governments to implement the conservation management recommendations which resulted from this dialogue, a draft Resolution will be proposed for adoption at the next COP in November 2002.

One of the working documents presented during the meeting was TRAFFIC's "*Status of Hawksbill Turtle Trade: A review of the regional wider Caribbean and global trade including domestic and non-shell products*" which contained data on 11 states and territories. It was extracted from wider TRAFFIC report on marine turtles in the Northern Caribbean that was funded by the Rufford Foundation, WWF-US and WWF-Latin America and Caribbean Programme. The presentation and document were well received, and



Hawksbill turtle
Eretmochelys imbricata

there were comments from different parties mentioning its objectivity, and the need to request TRAFFIC's assistance on the development of a region-wide trade study and to work with TRAFFIC in monitoring illegal trade.

Given the considerable and commendable progress achieved in resolving issues of common interest during this meeting, the delegates agreed that further Dialogues should be held and the Government of the United Kingdom offered to host the next meeting in April or May 2002 in one of its Territories in the region.

It is hoped that TRAFFIC's reports and all the issues discussed during the meeting will serve as the basis for future collaborative approaches towards the conservation and management of hawksbill turtles in the region.

TRAFFIC's working document presented at the meeting was extracted from a TRAFFIC North America report "Swimming Against the Tide: Recent surveys of exploitation, trade and management of marine turtles in the Northern Caribbean" by Elizabeth Fleming. For full copies of the report, please contact TRAFFIC North America. For contact details, see page 12.

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domestic markets, including strict implementation and enforcement of existing national legislation; full implementation of the Universal Labeling System for the identification of caviar; and independent assessments of sturgeon stocks by international teams of experts from inter-governmental organisations such as the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the IUCN/SSC Sturgeon Specialist Group.

Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan agreed to, within the next six months, conduct a comprehensive survey of sturgeon stocks, set joint catch and export quotas, and assess the illegal trade and enforcement needs, with assistance of international agencies such as the CITES Secretariat, Interpol and World Customs Organization. By June 2002, the countries are also committed to developing a regional fisheries management system, significantly enhance efforts to combat illegal harvesting, regulate domestic trade and implement a caviar labeling system.

TRAFFIC applauds the countries concerned and the CITES Standing Committee for coming to an agreement that will give the nations of the Caspian Sea the opportunity to undertake these crucial initiatives, while ensuring that conservation action is taken immediately.

Turkmenistan, by failing to attend the meeting still risks immediate suspension of the international trade unless it complies with the commitments now made by the other three Caspian Sea range states.

According to CITES Secretariat, Iran, the fifth Caspian Sea state, already has a functioning sturgeon management system, and is not subject to the concerns raised by CITES. It has nevertheless great interest in efforts to improve the regional management of the Caspian Sea fisheries.

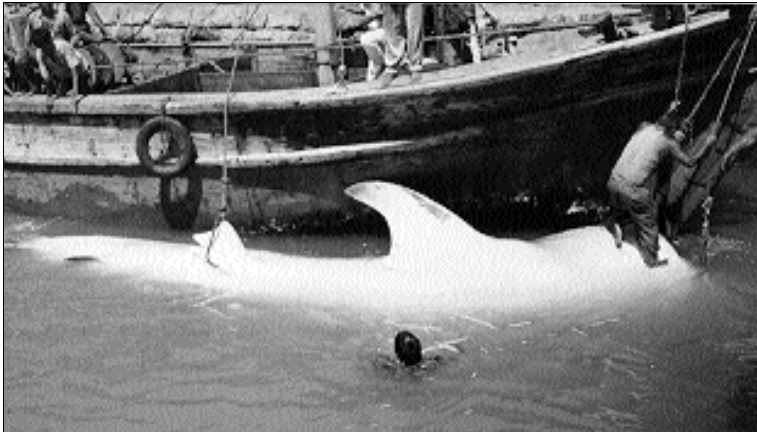
For more information, see TRAFFIC website at www.traffic.org.



Caroline Raymakers / TRAFFIC Europe

Whale Sharks – the Gentle Giants of the Sea

by Rahul Dutta, Information Officer, TRAFFIC India



Whale shark fishing off the Gujarat coast.

Veraval, a small coastal town in Gujarat, a western state of India, suddenly came into the limelight earlier this year, when a massive trade in Whale Sharks (*Rhinocodon typus*) was revealed showing excessive exploitation of a vulnerable species that could be facing extinction unless urgent measures for better management are introduced.

A TRAFFIC-India report titled *Gentle Giants of the Sea* by Fahmeeda Hanfee was released on 11 April 2001. The study consisted of literature reviews as well as interviews with various fisheries experts, research institutes and local fishermen. The report showed that Whale Sharks that were once considered commercially unimportant, have gradually become the victims of extremely lucrative, targeted fishing.

A preliminary survey of the trade

in shark and shark products had already been carried out by TRAFFIC-India over 1996-1997. This study found that in Gujarat, Whale Shark fishing had gathered considerable prominence in recent times. With very little information on the species as well as on the trade, TRAFFIC-India then initiated a field survey to study the impact of the trade along Gujarat's coastline, which is the longest among Indian states, stretching to some 1,640 km.

The study revealed that Whale Sharks, which occur in the fishing areas off Veraval during March-June, are harvested for its meat, fins, liver, skin and cartilage. Demand for Whale Shark liver seems to have already existed in the 1950s, primarily to extract oil which was then used for waterproofing boats. However, until the beginning of 1990s, the Whale Shark never caught much attention as a profitable catch. By 1992, however,

it was hunted for almost all its parts.

The price of each fish depends on the size and weight and ranges from between INR40,000 (US\$850) to INR150,000 (US\$3200). It was also found that the boom in Whale Shark fishing in India resulted partly from bans imposed elsewhere on Whale Shark fishery (such as in the Philippines and Maldives).

The report urges greater international collaboration in research and information gathering on India's Whale Shark stocks and its basic biology. It also calls for alternative sources of revenue for fishes on the coast of India. For example, 'dive tourism' is considered to have good potential for revenue generation for local fishers as an alternative income to returns from the Whale Shark fishery.

The report concludes that national and international protection needs to be urgently provided and that the Whale Shark be listed in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and CITES Appendix-II.

In a recent development that is welcomed by TRAFFIC and in line with the above recommendation, the Government of India included Whale Sharks in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 on 28 May, 2001. This provides Whale Shark with the highest protection under the national law of India and makes its fishing and trade in its all forms illegal.

continued from page 1...

from scientific whaling, but also imported products, incidental catch and strandings, and frozen meat stocks.

Further clarity about the Japanese market should be enabled by the recent revision of the Law Concerning Standardisation and Proper Labeling of Agricultural and Forestry Products to include a labeling requirement that requires the identification of product contents and origin for fresh and processed foods, including whale meat

and whale meat products, requiring the common name of the species as well as its origin be declared on packaging for whale meat and processed whale products.

The information from the studies will inform discussions in IWC and CITES both of which have important and complementary roles to fulfill in whale discussions: IWC is responsible for the management and harvesting of great whales, and CITES is responsible for ensuring that

international trade in whale products does not threaten the conservation status of whale species. The twelfth CoP to CITES will convene in November 2002 and discussions regarding the Great Whales and their trade conservation status, are likely to continue.

For more information and full copies of the three whale reports, please see the TRAFFIC web site at www.traffic.org/iwc.

Programme targets: 20 priority issues set for 2001-2004

TRAFFIC's recently developed Network Programme Strategy defines high-level conservation goals and specific global targets that represent highlights of TRAFFIC's conservation work and typify our work as a worldwide network. It is also a tool to promote more effective collaboration between TRAFFIC's regional programmes around some common concerns, making use of TRAFFIC's greatest strength - its global network. The 20 priority issues confirmed at the TRAFFIC Network meeting held in May 2001 in Hong Kong are:

TRADE AND THREATENED SPECIES

Objective:

Wildlife trade does not result in the endangerment of any wild animal and plant species.

Target issues:

1. Elephants
2. Asian Big Cats
3. Rhinoceroses
4. Tibetan Antelope "Chiru"
5. Musk deer
6. Asian Freshwater Turtles
7. Marine Turtles
8. Sturgeons
9. Sharks
10. Agarwood
11. Mahogany
12. Threatened Orchids

TRADE AND PRIORITY ECOREGIONS

Objective:

Wildlife trade does not threaten the integrity of priority ecoregions.

Target issues:

13. Ecoregion conservation and wildlife trade

TRADE AND RESOURCE SECURITY

Objective:

The security of wildlife resources of particular value for food and medicine, and those that support other vital human needs, is not threatened.

Target issues:

14. Wildlife Meat
15. Marine fisheries
16. Medicinal Plants
17. Timber

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS WILDLIFE TRADE PROBLEMS

Objective:

International agreements and policy approaches preventing negative conservation impacts of wildlife trade and ensuring trade does not exceed sustainable levels are developed and supported.

Target issues:

18. Informing and Assisting CITES Mechanisms
19. Effective Regulation of the International Wildlife Trade
20. International institutions addressing wildlife trade issues

For more information about TRAFFIC's Programme, see Dispatches No.15 and for a full list of targets and outputs, please contact TRAFFIC International. For contact details, see page 12.

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US State Department
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WWF Australia
WWF Belgium
WWF Biodiversity Support Programme
WWF Canada
WWF Coordination Office-Zambia
WWF East African Marine Ecoregion
Programme
WWF East Africa Regional Programme
Office
WWF Endangered Seas Campaign
WWF France
WWF Germany
WWF Hong Kong
WWF International
WWF Italy
WWF Japan
WWF Large Herbivore Initiative for Europe
WWF Latin America-Caribbean Programme
WWF Netherlands
WWF New Zealand
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WWF Southern Africa Regional Programme
Office
WWF Sweden
WWF Switzerland
WWF Tanzania Programme Office
WWF Tiger Conservation Programme
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TRAFFIC *DISPATCHES*

Number 18 November 2001

25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

by Steven Broad, Executive Director, TRAFFIC International

This special issue of *TRAFFIC Dispatches* marks the passing of 25 years of conservation action by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. It provides an opportunity to look back at TRAFFIC's development from a single UK-based office in the late-1970s to today's global network and presents some basic facts about the nature and extent of trade in wild animals and plants and its relationship with the conservation of nature. The anniversary also presents a good opportunity to look to the future.

At sustainable levels and sensitive to the integrity of ecological systems, wildlife trade can make a significant contribution to human needs, support local and national economies and help to motivate commitments to the conservation of wild species and their habitats. However, although there is no doubt that significant financial benefit currently derives from this multi-billion dollar trade, it is also undeniable that its historical conservation impacts have been chiefly negative. This complex and evolving trade still poses a major challenge to conservation of biological diversity today, directly, through over-exploitation or indirectly, through impacts such as by-catch of non-target species and

introduction of invasive species.

Despite the considerable progress made under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and national conservation initiatives, this challenge remains substantial. In many parts of the world, laws and management measures remain weak, poorly communicated and just as poorly implemented and enforced. The globalisation of world trade, creation of common markets and advances in technology all add further complications to this already difficult task.

Looking ahead, two important observations play a prominent role in shaping TRAFFIC's future response to this challenge. First, it is clear that international wildlife trade is only a small percentage of the world's commercial consumptive use of wild animals and plants. The majority of the wildlife goods produced are consumed in the country where they originate, as food, medicine, industrial materials and for ornamental purposes. Even for products such as mahogany and caviar, national consumption within some producer countries far exceeds the more visible export trade. Second, the regulatory response to wildlife trade problems that has dominated



conservation action over the past century, cannot succeed without equal attention to the human needs, economic incentives and consumer perceptions that influence supply, demand and society's commitment to pursuing conservation goals.

TRAFFIC will continue work with a wide range of collaborators to inform, support and promote actions to address wildlife trade concerns. Fundamentally, the success of such actions will depend on the involvement of people with a vested interest, whether those communities local to any particular resource, regulators, businesses, or final consumers of wildlife goods. This task remains formidable, not least because it vies for attention in a labyrinth of environmental, development and security challenges faced by societies today. Nevertheless, solutions are within reach and TRAFFIC is committed to building on its experience so far to play a strong role in ensuring that wildlife trade 25 years from now is not as great a conservation concern as it is today.

INSIDE:

- *Directing TRAFFIC*
- *Some milestones over the years*
- *What is Wildlife trade? An Introduction*
- *Thanking our supporters*

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 - TRAFFIC South America*
 - TRAFFIC Southeast Asia*



TRAFFIC staff at the 17th Network meeting in May 2001, Hong Kong.

DIRECTING TRAFFIC

Sara Oldfield



John A. Burton, off duty, around 1981/82.



TRAFFIC International launched the TRAFFIC Network website in November 1997.

Today, an average of 12,000 visitors per day visit www.traffic.org.

In July 1999, TRAFFIC International became a UK Registered Charity. This gives the office a strong legal base in the UK and allows TRAFFIC International to seek funds from a range of new sources.

To help meet the clear need to monitor wildlife trade, especially following the founding of CITES, the IUCN Survival Service Commission (SSC) established in 1976 a UK-based IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC group of volunteer experts to gather and analyse wildlife trade data and identify illegal trade. John Burton was appointed its chairman and realising that the monitoring of trade in wildlife needed more than part-time research, John set about raising funds and assembling staff.

After its first two to three years' in operation, TRAFFIC described itself as "gradually becoming known [having] dealt with a number of enquiries from both government agencies and NGOs from various parts of the world." It regarded itself "primarily as a data bank" without the facilities to follow up its research, but the present-day close relationship between TRAFFIC and CITES had already been established.

In 1979, to distinguish the headquarters from other offices in the emergent TRAFFIC network, the original TRAFFIC office now took on the name TRAFFIC International and Tim Inskipp briefly became the Director. In 1980 the office moved to Cambridge and the following year TRAFFIC International changed its name again, this time to the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit (WTMU), working as part of the emerging IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre. TRAFFIC's overall operating budget was now more than ten times the humble £2500 five years previously.

Shortly after the move to Cambridge, John Burton resigned as Chairman of the IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC Group, which as a result ceased to function. The post of head of WTMU, until this point never officially designated was filled in May 1982 by Chris Huxley. Chris stayed just over a year with WTMU before moving to CITES Secretariat. He was succeeded by Jonathan Barzdo, who by now had a seven-year association with TRAFFIC.

During Jonathan's tenure (1983-90), the network and the demands on its co-ordinating office grew. The number of full-time WTMU staff almost doubled within the first year of Jonathan's arrival. Managing and co-ordinating the network became a full-time occupation in its own right, so the name and function of "TRAFFIC International" was formally reinstated in WTMU in the late 1980s.

When Jørgen Thomsen took up the job of Director of TRAFFIC International in 1990, TRAFFIC began to operate independently of WTMU. For the first time in years, the Director of TRAFFIC International could concentrate solely on TRAFFIC matters. During the six years of Jørgen's directorship, the network again expanded both geographically and in terms of the range of work it undertook. Reflecting this, TRAFFIC's purpose had been re-evaluated and redefined as part of a thorough review of TRAFFIC's aims and structure undertaken in 1993. No longer "primarily a data bank", its objective was now much more ambitious - "To help ensure that wildlife trade is at sustainable levels and in accordance with domestic and international laws and agreements". With this in mind, TRAFFIC's activities diversified to address such complex resource issues as medicinal trade in wildlife, timber trade and fisheries.

Fortunately for TRAFFIC, Jørgen had a natural successor in the person of Steven Broad who has been with TRAFFIC almost continuously since September 1983. A living repository of TRAFFIC-related knowledge, Steven stepped into the role of directorship in 1996 and now leads a Network of over 90 members of staff working in 22 countries.

TRAFFIC International, and therefore TRAFFIC as a whole, has seen enormous and continual changes in the course of the past 25 years. *Plus ça change*, one might say - TRAFFIC was, and still is, a group of specialists in wildlife trade. Its official statement of purpose has been redrafted following each of three major strategic planning exercises (1987, 1993 and 2000) to maintain accuracy and effectiveness, while re-evaluation of activities and goals take place on a continual basis. What has never changed is its focus on ensuring that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. In short, the foresight, wisdom and energy of TRAFFIC's founders and of those responsible for it since have ensured that TRAFFIC's relevance has never subsided.

SOME MILESTONES OVER THE YEARS

1970s

TRAFFIC is established as a specialist group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission in 1976 chaired from the UK. The first TRAFFIC International office and TRAFFIC USA are established in 1979.

*

In 1977, the entire *Rhinocerotidae* family, all Caribbean Marine Turtles species and all subspecies of Tiger are included in CITES Appendix I with the exception of Siberian Tiger which is included ten years later, in 1987.

*

In 1978 TRAFFIC completes a major study of trade in seal products.

Concerns from a series of “tests” of wildlife trade controls at UK ports of entry are presented.

*

In 1979, Musk deer *Moschus moschiferus* populations of Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan are included in Appendix I of CITES. All other populations of musk deer are listed in CITES Appendix II.

TRAFFIC research results on trade in skins of wild cats provoke intense discussions at the 2nd meeting of the CITES Parties in Costa Rica.

International trade in shahtoosh is prohibited under CITES. Domestic trade is also banned within many countries, including China and India. The notable exception is the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, which is where chiru wool is woven into shahtoosh shawls and scarves.

TRAFFIC staff compile a first comprehensive overview of research and experience to date in “International trade in wildlife” by Tim Inskipp and Sue Wells, published by Earthscan in 1979.

TRAFFIC Bulletin, the only international journal devoted exclusively to the wildlife trade issues, is launched in January 1979.

1980s

TRAFFIC offices established: UK (1980), East Africa (1980-82), Germany (1981), Japan (1982), Australia (1984), Netherlands (1984), Belgium (1984), Austria (1986-1990), Italy (1986) and France (1987), TRAFFIC South America regional office established in 1985 and TRAFFIC Oceania established in 1987.

In 1982, International Whaling Commission (IWC) adopts a moratorium on commercial whaling.

*

In 1983-84 TRAFFIC Bulletin includes results of major studies on Indian bird trade; elephant ivory trade, European seal skin trade and reptile skin trade, produced by the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit (WTMU), then the co-ordinating office of the TRAFFIC network.

*



Simon Milledge / TRAFFIC



Vincent Y. Chen / TRAFFIC

In 1985, the TRAFFIC Committee as the network's governing body is established and its first meeting is held in Argentina.

*

In 1986 all baleen whales are listed in CITES Appendix I (exempt are West Greenland population of the Minke Whale and the Sperm Whale).

From 1986-88 an extensive review of the implementation of EU wildlife trade regulation is undertaken by TRAFFIC. This leads ultimately to the emergence of a new EU law which is considered one of the most comprehensive in the world.

1986-88 Major areas of research for the TRAFFIC network included trade in elephant ivory, live birds, spotted cat skins, reptile skins, cacti and marine turtle products.

In 1987, the TRAFFIC Committee agrees the TRAFFIC Network's first strategic plan, setting ambitious goals for development of new regional programmes.

*

In 1989 the African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* is listed in CITES Appendix I.

*

1990s

TRAFFIC offices established: TRAFFIC Europe (1990), TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (1991), TRAFFIC India (1991), South Africa (1992), Taipei (1992), Tanzania (1992), Kenya (1996), TRAFFIC East Asia (1994), Russia (1995), Canada (1998), TRAFFIC South America (1999). TRAFFIC North America evolves into regional TRAFFIC North America office (1998), TRAFFIC South America re-opens after a four year closure 1999).

In 1992, TRAFFIC develops the Bad Ivory Database System (BIDS) to hold records of ivory seizures and confiscations that have occurred anywhere in the world since 1989.

1992- A comprehensive report on international live bird trade (Perceptions, conservation and management of wild birds in trade) plays a major role in shaping major producer and consumer government policies through 1990s.

*

In 1993, TRAFFIC's second strategic plan is introduced, providing a new governance system and new organisational goals.

Publication of a review of European medicinal plant trade heralds a new trend of TRAFFIC turning its attention to the "tiger" of the plant world and launches a series of medicinal plant projects to assess the impact of this trade on both wild plant populations and local health care systems.

The largest seizure of Tiger bones ever recorded is made in India, following an investigation by TRAFFIC. Authorities seize 283kg Tiger bones, 8 Tiger skins and 60 Leopard *Panthera pardus* skins from a Tibetan refugee, who had been allegedly smuggling wildlife articles, including Tiger bones, to Tibet for many years.

TRAFFIC surveys on trade in Southeast Asian Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles are initiated, later revealing that the pattern of exploitation has shifted from domestic consumption to international trade, primarily to East Asia.

*

In 1994 a TRAFFIC report '*Killed For A Cure: A Review of the Worldwide Trade in Tiger Bone*', becomes the leading reference for those in the conservation community seeking to understand the trade in tigers.

The CITES Parties recognise TRAFFIC's BIDS as "the appropriate instrument for measuring the pattern and scale of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products".

*

In 1995, the London Metropolitan Police seizes several hundred traditional Chinese medicines purporting to contain endangered species (such as tiger bone, rhinoceros horn, Saiga Antelope horn, pangolin and tortoise shell) from a warehouse in west London. The UK seizure is part of an ongoing, multi-agency initiative, code named Operation Charm, to stop the trade in medicines containing endangered species in the UK

This initiative is in response to an undercover TRAFFIC investigation on the illegal trade in these medicines in 1994.

Following research on Agarwood trade by TRAFFIC India, *A. malaccensis* is listed in CITES Appendix II.

Costa Rica lists Big-leafed mahogany in CITES Appendix III. Honduran and Caribbean Mahogany are already considered commercially extinct.

TRAFFIC co-hosts a ground-breaking forum between traditional Chinese medicine user groups and wildlife conservationists in Hong Kong to discuss the use of endangered species in TCM.

*

In 1996, the TRAFFIC network's comprehensive research on shark fisheries and trade around the world is published in a report, *An Overview of World Trade in Sharks and Other Cartilaginous Fisheries*.

TRAFFIC researchers in India assist in investigations that lead to arrests and two seizures of ivory and shahtoosh shawls, the shahtoosh seizure being the first of its kind in India.

TRAFFIC publishes a comprehensive review of the caviar trade from the Caspian Sea leading to listing of all sturgeon species in the CITES Appendices a year later.

*

In 1997, TRAFFIC adopts a new programme strategy for 1997-2000, focusing its work on fisheries, medicinals and timber trade together with support to effective implementation of CITES.

TRAFFIC reviews rhinoceros trade control legislation, and related conservation activities in 14 range States and 18 consumer States presenting the results to CITES CoP10.

TRAFFIC hosts an international symposium on traditional Chinese medicine in Australia, and another symposium later the same year on the use of substitutes for Tiger bone and musk deer in traditional East Asian medicine in Hong Kong.

Following a tip-off from TRAFFIC, law enforcement officials seize 140 shawls in one of Hong Kong's top hotels. The



Michael Song / TRAFFIC

dealer is fined with the highest financial penalty ever for a single charge of violating Hong Kong's Animal and Plants Ordinance. This case sets an important precedent in Hong Kong as this is the first successful prosecution based on the use of forensic identification techniques to prove the wool in question came from the Tibetan Antelope - a method recognized as reliable by the court.

The African Elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe are downlisted to Appendix II and allowing a one-off experimental trade of ivory, which takes place in 1999.

*

In 1998, a refined version of BIDS is developed into ETIS (Elephant Trade Information System) which is the designated system in CITES to monitor illegal trade in ivory and elephant products.

*

Following TRAFFIC research on medicines claiming to contain Tiger and rhinoceros ingredients that are readily available for sale in Canada and the USA, the US Congress passes Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act.

Network-wide medicinal plant work is initiated through a grant from Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

During the same year two comprehensive reports on medicinal wildlife resources in Europe and East/Southern Africa are published.

TRAFFIC releases a study on Ginseng that reveals that America's favourite "pick-me-up" herb, could quickly become over-picked.

By Hook or By Crook, the definitive reference manual on illegal wildlife trade and prosecution in the UK is published, with assistance from TRAFFIC International.



The same year a report on consumer attitudes toward traditional Chinese medicine and endangered species in Hong Kong and the United States is jointly published by TRAFFIC East Asia and North America.

Explosive growth in US live reptile trade becomes evident through studies carried out by TRAFFIC. The study shows that between 1983 and 1992, US trade in live reptiles increased nearly twentyfold.

*

In 1999, celebrities join in call to end shahtoosh trade as TRAFFIC releases a report entitled *Fashion Statement Spells Death for Tibetan Antelope*. The report summarizes the latest information about an illicit trade that drives large-scale poaching on the high-desert plateaux of China to supply the finest of wools to the rich, famous and fashionable around the world. TRAFFIC's informants say that socialites in France, Italy, Spain and Hong Kong are among the most voracious consumers.

A report *Conserving Musk Deer - The Uses of Musk and Europe's Role in its Trade* by TRAFFIC Europe, documents how 52 countries participate in the trade. Russia acts as a major world supplier of raw musk, while European countries such as France, Germany and Switzerland are significant importers. Germany and Switzerland are suppliers of raw musk mainly from the former Soviet Union and Russia to Hong Kong, South Korea and other destinations.

The Third International Symposium on Trade in Bear Parts is co-organised by TRAFFIC in South Korea. More than 100 stakeholders come together and conclude that Asian bear species are still in serious trouble in the wild, demand for gall bladders of wild bears for use as medicine remains a threat to the survival of Asian bear species, and all sides - including traditional medicine communities - wish to work together to solve these problems and conserve bears in the wild. The proceedings of the symposium are published by TRAFFIC in 2001.

TRAFFIC reports that Sea cucumbers in the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador continue to be illegally fished, posing a threat to local sea cucumber populations and threatening to affect the unique ecosystem of the Galapagos Islands.

TRAFFIC, WWF and The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), bring together 40 regional turtle experts from 16 countries, primarily within East Southeast Asia, to discuss the problem of trade in Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in Asia at a workshop held in Cambodia.

*

2000

TRAFFIC offices established: Mexico (2000), Viet Nam office evolves into a sub-regional Indochina office (2001).

In 2000, TRAFFIC's strategic plan for 2000-2010 is adopted by the TRAFFIC Committee, establishing new programme priorities addressing trade in threatened species, priority ecoregions, resource security and supporting international co-operation efforts.

TRAFFIC releases a report *Heart of the matter: Agarwood Use and Trade and CITES Implementation for Aquilaria malaccensis* after being contracted by the CITES Secretariat to undertake a review of the species.

In March 2000 the *Species in Danger* report *Far From A Cure: The Tiger Trade Revisited* examines the tiger trade in the late 1990s and reveals that tiger parts in traditional Asian medicine continues to be a threat to wild tigers.

The importance of effective enforcement is highlighted when one of the largest seizures in recent times, a raid at Khaga, in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, results in the recovery of four tiger, 70 leopard and 221 blackbuck skins, and 18,000 leopard nails. The seizure and subsequent arrests are the result of the support provided through the informer network set up by TRAFFIC India's Enforcement Assistance Unit.

All species of Asian box turtles *Cuora* spp. are listed in CITES Appendix II.

In 2001, a report by TRAFFIC North America, *'Swimming Against The Tide,'* reviews the exploitation, trade and management of marine turtles in 11 countries and territories in the Northern Caribbean. The report is released on the eve of the First CITES Wider Caribbean Hawksbill Turtle Dialogue Meeting.

A report on monitoring progress in Norway's development of a DNA register for its domestic management system for whale meat is published, together with a survey of the commercial trade in whale meat products in Japan carried out the previous year; and with a survey of whale meat markets along South Korea's coast also undertaken the previous year.

A study on Musk farming in China is completed by TRAFFIC showing that at present, captive breeding of musk deer is not viable means of meeting China's demand for musk but that captive breeding operations could serve as a 'genetic' safety net for wild populations providing that illegal hunting is also brought under control.

A review of Big-leafed Mahogany Appendix III implementation is undertaken by TRAFFIC at the request of the CITES Secretariat, the results of which are tabled during the October 2001 meeting of the CITES Mahogany Working Group. The Group is also directed to report on its findings and to provide recommendations for consideration at CoP 12 taking place in 2002 in Santiago, Chile.

The conservation status of the Patagonian and Antarctic Toothfish come under scrutiny by TRAFFIC and concerns are raised as to the adequacy of management of these species. There are concerns regarding the status of Patagonian Toothfish stocks due to the level of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in recent years. Also, inconsistencies in the reporting of trade in Antarctic Toothfish were found, suggesting that actual catches are well in excess of the recorded catch by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

TRAFFIC thank our supporters for their contributions to our work in the past 25 years

1970's

TRAFFIC's funding history has always been diverse - a sure sign of the strength of feeling about the need for proactive monitoring of wildlife trade. At TRAFFIC's founding in the late 1970's, it was the RSPCA, the World Federation for the Protection of Animals (WFPA) and the Fauna Protection Society (FPS) who supported the first TRAFFIC office in London and WWF-US who began to fund TRAFFIC work in the USA. In these early days the annual budget of TRAFFIC International was less than £2,500, but the challenge to raise funds was as critical as it is today.

1980's

TRAFFIC's funding developed considerably on several fronts. At the start of the decade, the CITES Secretariat provided support, as TRAFFIC worked to assist the implementation of the Convention. In the mid 1980's, to reflect the considerable growth of TRAFFIC during these years, WWF and IUCN came together to form the TRAFFIC Committee. This led to both organisations supporting TRAFFIC financially and since then, WWF and IUCN have been two of TRAFFIC's main donors, and have regularly invested in TRAFFIC's work, through both core and project funds.

During the 1980's TRAFFIC's multi-faceted role began to emerge and so too, TRAFFIC's funding base began to diversify, with new donors such as Greenpeace funding an investigations project, the Fund for Animals Australia funding TRAFFIC Australia, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species funding the *TRAFFIC Bulletin* and the European Commission supporting work by TRAFFIC Europe.

A TRAFFIC online donation facility has been launched on the 27th of November as a part of the 25th Anniversary Special Section at www.traffic.org

1990's

The 1990's saw the whole conservation movement mature and expand quite considerably. Government investment in conservation efforts increased: UK and Taiwan invested considerably in TRAFFIC's work to support regulation and enforcement. For TRAFFIC's offices around the world, this move was echoed, as other developed world governments invested in TRAFFIC's work in developing regions such as East/Southern Africa, Oceania and India.

TRAFFIC began to build partnerships with new donor groups, including foundations, companies and individuals. Over the course of the 1990's, TRAFFIC's annual income grew to a great deal more than the level of those early years, amounting to CHF7.4 million (USD 4.9 million) in FY1998-99.

2000 and beyond

The TRAFFIC Network now receives financial support from a wide range of sources. Our relationship with WWF and IUCN continues to be flexible, responding to conservation needs. Similarly, we still work closely with the CITES Secretariat providing technical expertise on a range of priority issues. A funding development strategy has been engaged to guide future efforts to increase support to the programme and to maximise the efficiency of fund management. These new directions have already seen considerable success, with TRAFFIC receiving funding for multi-regional programmes and not just individual projects. These recent relationships include BMZ (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung) funds for medicinal plants work and a grant from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation for international fisheries work.

TRAFFIC's overall programme growth continues, but it still faces serious challenges in striving to secure reliable sources of the flexible funds that are essential for risk management and maintaining strategic programme direction.

Donors during July - November 2001:

Action Aid Malawi
AGF Management Limited
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong
Association of Korean Oriental Medicine
AusAID
Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Belgian Government
Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Germany
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ), Germany
Caviar Petrossian
CITES Secretariat
The Commemorative Association for the Japan World Exposition
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Dept. of National Parks & Wildlife, Malawi
Dieckmann & Hansen Caviar, GmbH
Endangered Wildlife Trust
European Commission, Directorates General VIII & XI
EU Yan Sang Limited, Hong Kong
Exxon Corporation
Mr James Fairfax
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Green Trust
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IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Office
IUCN - The World Conservation Union
IUCN Mozambique Country Office
IUCN - Species Survival Commission
IUCN/SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group
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Ministry of Environment & Forests, India
Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea
Ministry of Tourism and National Parks, Malawi
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, USA
National Geographic Channel Asia
Natural Heritage Trust
Nautilus TV
Netherlands Government
New Horizons Computer Learning Centre
Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation (NORAD)
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
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Save the Tiger Fund, USA
Society for Wildlife and Nature
Southern Africa Wildlife College
Stevens Sharkey
Taiwan Council of Agriculture
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UK Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions
UK Department for International Development, Botswana Office
UNESCO
United World Chinese Commercial Bank
US Agency for International Development
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Information Service Programme, Development Office, South Africa
US National Marine Fisheries Service
US State Department
The Walt Disney Company Foundation
Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa
WWF Australia
WWF Belgium
WWF Biodiversity Support Programme
WWF Canada
WWF Coordination Office-Zambia
WWF East African Marine Ecoregion Programme
WWF East Africa Regional Programme Office
WWF Endangered Seas Campaign
WWF France
WWF Gabon Programme
WWF Germany
WWF Hong Kong
WWF International
WWF Italy
WWF Japan
WWF Large Herbivore Initiative for Europe
WWF Latin America-Caribbean Programme
WWF Netherlands
WWF New Zealand
WWF South Africa
WWF Southern Africa Regional Programme Office
WWF Sweden
WWF Switzerland
WWF Tanzania Programme Office
WWF Tiger Conservation Programme
WWF-UK
WWF-US

TRAFFIC East Asia



David Lawson / WWF-UK

The TRAFFIC East Asia regional office was established in 1994 in Hong Kong. The first Regional Director based in Hong Kong was Judy Mills, followed by a period in 2000 with Marcus Phipps as Acting Director. Today, lead by Craig Kirkpatrick, TRAFFIC East Asia, with 12 members of staff, and offices in place also in Japan and Taipei, covers eight countries and territories in the region.

TRAFFIC Japan was the first office to be established in the region in 1982. Led by Tom Milliken until 1991, it undertook numerous studies in Japan and the Asia region such as Japan's trade in psittacines, Asian arowana, bears, cactus, and live reptiles to name a few. Field research outside of Japan produced studies such as the South Korean rhino horn trade and the Indonesian sea turtle trade in 1988. Coinciding with the establishment of the

TRAFFIC Taipei office, a report on the trade in rhinoceros horn, in Taiwan area was published in 1992, followed by a study on rhinoceros horn trade in South Korea in 1994. The same year, the Species in Danger report on worldwide trade in tiger bone became the leading reference for those in the conservation community seeking to understand the trade in tigers. Another report on Tigers followed in 2000, and examined the tiger trade in the late 1990s.

The use of bears in medicinal products was studied in 1995 and in 1999 TRAFFIC East Asia co-hosted The Third International Symposium on the Trade of Bear Parts in the Republic of South Korea.

In 1997, TRAFFIC East Asia produced a review of the current ivory trade in the region documenting serious weaknesses that persist in the domestic ivory trade controls of several Asian countries and territories, including Japan. Similarly, inadequacies have been highlighted with respect to the regulation of whale meat trade in East Asia.

In 1998 a report on consumers attitudes toward Traditional Chinese Medicine and endangered species in Hong Kong and the United States were published and the

following year the the summary report on Tibetan Antelope saw the daylight.

Throughout the years, TRAFFIC has assisted governments in identifying and implementing adequate controls on wildlife trade in the region and. provided technical expertise to the governments during the strengthening of national wildlife legislation in Japan and Taiwan.

The development of a registration system for slipper orchid nurseries was established in Taiwan in the recent years with assistance from TRAFFIC, allowing for the verification of orchids as being artificially-propagated and nurseries to be inspected. It was modelled on an effective system in place in Thailand.

Since 1995, TRAFFIC East Asia has been actively contributing to traditional medicine-related activities in a number of roles. Today, TRAFFIC East Asia seeks not only to maintain its existing co-operative relationship with the traditional medicine communities, but also to move this relationship to an even higher level. The aim of outreach activities is to engage the traditional medicine community in the dialogue over conservation issues surrounding wildlife used in medicines.

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa



M Rautkari / WWF-UK

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa was established in 1991 with the opening of a regional office in Malawi by its first - and current - director Tom Milliken. This move effectively re-established a full-time TRAFFIC presence on the African continent after a decade's absence. (As early as 1980, a TRAFFIC office had briefly opened in Nairobi but, sadly, closed after the death of its director, Ted Norris.) The TRAFFIC programme covers 18 countries in the region. By 1995, the regional programme office was supported by three other offices in Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa.

TRAFFIC's first major work in Africa in 1993 looked at the decline of the Black Rhino in Zimbabwe and its implications for future rhino conservation. Since 1998, TESA started to document worldwide legal stocks of rhinoceros horn and other products,

and the Rhino Horn and Product Database currently stores stock information from a total of 54 countries.

African Elephants, perhaps the continent's most charismatic flagship species, have always been an important focus of TRAFFIC's work in Africa. TRAFFIC's expertise on elephant trade issues has resulted in it playing a leading role in various initiatives under the CITES Secretariat, the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group, the European Union and others to find solutions to many divisive issues. In 1992, TRAFFIC created the Bad Ivory Database System (BIDS) to hold records of ivory seizures which have occurred anywhere in the world since 1989. Today BIDS has evolved into the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS). The first major analytical report from ETIS will be ready for consideration at COP12 in 2002.

The trade in medicinal plants and animals has also been an important focus of TRAFFIC's work, as most Africans rely on traditional medicines as their primary source of health care. Another natural resource, wild meat, is also a valuable source of protein and income for many people in

Africa struggling for survival amidst endemic poverty and frequent famine.

In 1997, as a major contribution to the broader TRAFFIC Network initiative to assess the growing global trade in sharks, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa documented the status of shark fisheries in the region. TRAFFIC has examined the trade in other valuable marine taxa, completing an assessment of the trade in sea cucumbers, lobsters and shells, as well as Bluefin Tuna. More recently, TRAFFIC has received funds to undertake a major review of swordfish fisheries in the region.

TRAFFIC staff have played vital roles in helping national governments and law enforcement authorities to become more effective in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.

Overall, TRAFFIC has charted ten years of dynamic progress in the region and, with a dedicated staff and a clear programmatic vision, there is certainly more success to come. To give Africa the full treatment it deserves, however, the challenge remains to establish a complementary TRAFFIC programme for Western and Central Africa.

TRAFFIC Europe

TRAFFIC Europe, under Tom De Meulenaer, was formed in 1990 but evolved from several earlier national offices. TRAFFIC UK (1980, closed in 1982); TRAFFIC Germany (1981); TRAFFIC Netherlands (1984); TRAFFIC Belgium, (1984); TRAFFIC Austria, (1986, closed in 1990); TRAFFIC Italy (1986) and TRAFFIC France (1987). After the establishment of TRAFFIC Europe, a Russian National office was established in Moscow in 1995. These offices had worked collaboratively on projects such as the ivory trade in Europe and an assessment in the mid-1980s of CITES implementation in what is now the European Union.

TRAFFIC Europe's first regional projects concentrated on the plant trade; the tropical timber trade; eastern Europe; legislation; and the reptile skin trade. Several of these remain important themes of TRAFFIC Europe's work.

One of its first plant trade studies investigated wild plants traded in European horticultural outlets. This was followed by a survey of Europe's medicinal and aromatic plants in 1996, which identified between 1200-1300 native medicinal and aromatic plants used commercially, with the vast

majority still taken directly from the wild.

Recognising the problem of uncontrolled wildlife trade in the former Soviet Union resulting from the political changes of the 1980s, TRAFFIC Europe carried out a survey of this trade from 1994-1995. Since then, TRAFFIC work in the region has looked at trade in Saiga Antelope, hunting trophies, wild sheep and goats, caviar, birds of prey and fisheries. Russia is also a major supplier of musk and a TRAFFIC Europe-Germany report on Musk Deer documented how 52 countries participate in the trade.

In the area of EU legislation, TRAFFIC had been aware for years of the inadequate implementation of CITES by some Member States of the EU. In 1990, it examined three of the most serious offenders - Italy, Spain and Greece. A study on Greece documented widespread unregulated trade, including sales of cat furs, ivory and sea turtle items, and helped bring about Greece's accession to CITES in 1993. Italy's inadequate implementation led to CITES recommending Parties to cease wildlife trade with Italy in 1992. TRAFFIC Europe assisted the Government of Italy in overhauling its structures, legislation and penalties for

implementing CITES.

TRAFFIC Europe participated in the drafting of new EU wildlife trade legislation which came into force in 1997. Today, the wildlife trade regulation represents some of the most comprehensive wildlife trade legislation in existence to implement CITES.

Fisheries is another important component of TRAFFIC Europe's work and it conducted a review of shark fisheries of the north-east Atlantic and the Mediterranean, trade in sharks and shark products in Europe and related European regulations. More recent work examined bluefin tuna and Swordfish catches in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean, as well as the fishing industry in the Russian part of the Bering Sea.

Similarly, TRAFFIC Europe's sturgeon conservation efforts have been widely recognised and assisted in the adoption of CITES trade controls for all sturgeons and their products in international trade in 1988. With sturgeon coming under CITES Appendix II in 1997, TRAFFIC is working with governments, the caviar industry, consumers and specialists to ensure the effectiveness of the controls now in place.

TRAFFIC India



George Schaller

TRAFFIC India was established in 1992, with Ashok Kumar as its first Director and Manoj Misra succeeding him in 1996. Its broad goal was to monitor wildlife trade and other forms of utilisation of animals and plants and their derivatives in India.

At the time TRAFFIC India was established, no single agency had overall responsibility for monitoring wildlife trade and enforcement in India. One of TRAFFIC's first tasks was to assist in that co-ordination and help develop and maintain computerized databases of wildlife trade-related statistics. Today the computerised library of facts and figures is used to cross-reference wildlife trade activities, with the database on permits issued for wildlife trade alone including more than 10 000 entries.

In 1994, TRAFFIC India published a wildlife trade handbook for enforcement staff on the entire range of wildlife

threatened by trade, as well as the laws, regulations and treaties that protect this resource. A practical guide to wildlife trade monitoring, it proved to be a useful resource for wildlife and non-wildlife agencies in training and re-orientating new officers.

TRAFFIC India played a key role in the setting up of the National Co-ordination Committee of Enforcement Agencies for greater interaction and better exchange of information among the different agencies. Under its auspices, thirteen training workshops for staff of enforcement agencies were facilitated between 1996-1997 alone. During that same period, TRAFFIC India also assisted in numerous court cases involving illegal wildlife trade and contributed to the seizure of eight consignments of illegal wildlife.

Also, a national network of informers in India has been established in recent years by TRAFFIC, to support investigations and provide valuable intelligence information to the authorities. This also illustrates how government agencies can develop a working relationship of trust with NGOs, working in close collaboration on sensitive issues as intelligence exchange and criminal activities.

Trade monitoring on key species has also been a priority. In 1994, TRAFFIC India used the findings of research on the trade in Agarwood to assist the Indian Government draft a successful proposal for international trade in Agarwood to be regulated under CITES the next year.

Attention was also turned to the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, among the most endangered of India's wild species, with numbers remaining in the wild totalling less than estimates for either tigers or elephants.

Sharks were the focus of a number of studies, with a preliminary survey in Trade in Sharks and Shark Products in India being conducted in 1997 and, more recently, a report on India's Whale Shark Fishery, which was published in 2001.

Creating awareness among decision-makers and enforcement officers of the nature of the trade and the need for CITES enforcement has always been important in India. TRAFFIC India was at the forefront of an international campaign launched by TRAFFIC, WWF and the government of India in 1999, to raise awareness of the problems of illegal trade in shahtoosh shawls, made from the wool of the highly endangered Tibetan Antelope.

TRAFFIC North America



Mary Rice/WWF-UK

The TRAFFIC North America regional programme was established in 1998. However, its predecessor, the TRAFFIC USA national office was opened in 1979 as a programme office of WWF-US - making it the second oldest office in the TRAFFIC Network. Today, national offices in Canada and Mexico provide additional support to the regional programme. Former directors of TRAFFIC USA, in chronological order, have been Nicole Duplaix, Linda McMahan, Kathryn Fuller, Ginette Hemley and Gina DeFerrari. Under its current director, Simon Habel, TRAFFIC North America now covers a region that includes Canada, Mexico, United States, as well as the US Territories of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

TRAFFIC has over the years undertaken a number of projects to assess the impacts of trade on native North American species that enter world markets. For example, TRAFFIC USA conducted extensive research on the

Canadian and US trade of American Black Bear. TRAFFIC USA also co-hosted two international symposia on the trade of bear parts, in 1994 and 1997.

Traditional Chinese medicine is another important focus of TRAFFIC North America's work. In 1994 a report *Prescription for Extinction: Endangered Species and Patented Oriental Medicines in Trade*, quickly became an important reference work on patented Oriental medicines.

In 1998, TRAFFIC found that certain TCM products were more readily available in North America than in China. Later that year, the US Congress passed the Rhino and Tiger Product Labelling Act, significantly assisting enforcement authorities in taking action against the continuing US trade in tiger and rhinoceros products, such as medicines. TRAFFIC North America and WWF US had been working with Congress for nearly two years to pass the Act. Furthermore, in 1998 TRAFFIC North America (jointly with TRAFFIC East Asia) released a report featuring research into the attitudes of consumers toward traditional Chinese medicine.

The USA is one of the world's largest traders of live reptiles and in 1996 a TRAFFIC report on the role of the US in the

world live reptile trade urged for research to be stepped up and action taken to address a trade that is impacting some of the world's wild reptile populations.

Due to declines of sturgeon elsewhere caviar from sturgeon and paddlefish species in North America is increasingly entering world markets today. On this note, TRAFFIC North America co-hosted a symposium on its harvest and trade in 1998 and following on the results of that meeting, TRAFFIC North America will soon be releasing a report on the harvest, trade and management of paddlefish and sturgeon.

TRAFFIC North America also produced a compilation of shark fisheries and trade data and information in the Americas and in 1998, released the first volume of TRAFFIC's global study of shark fisheries and trade.

A report on the trade in big-leafed mahogany in 2000 included an exhaustive analysis of global trade data along with a survey of mahogany importers, indicating the major role US plays as an importer of the species. Earlier this year, a report by TRAFFIC North America reviewed the exploitation, trade and management of marine turtles in 11 countries and territories in the Northern Caribbean.

TRAFFIC Oceania



IUCN Shark Specialist Group

TRAFFIC Oceania was initially established as TRAFFIC Australia in 1984, expanding to become the regional office, TRAFFIC Oceania, in 1987. The first regional director was Frank Antram followed by Debra Callister in 1989 and Simon Habel in 1994. Today, TRAFFIC Oceania is led by Glenn Sant, covering an area of responsibility of 24 countries and territories in the Pacific.

TRAFFIC Oceania's earlier studies included a review on the collection and trade of Australian insects to Europe in the late 1980s. In 1991, an international trade review on Australian parrots was published, followed by a timber trade overview in 1992 of the Illegal Tropical Timber Trade in the Asia-Pacific. In the mid-1990s Australia's native wildlife trade, its scale, trends and impacts was examined.

One of TRAFFIC Oceania's first major marine studies was an examination of the trade in Marine Invertebrates of the South

Pacific in 1995. TRAFFIC Oceania is continuing to work on this issue and plans to complement its existing work with a focus on giant clams and corals in the near future.

In the Australian and New Zealand context, TRAFFIC Oceania is recognised as a leading conservation voice on fisheries issues and has been consistently invited to participate in high-level policy development and management forums over the years.

In relation to offshore fisheries, TRAFFIC Oceania has produced a number of significant reports including those on Southern bluefin tuna in 1997 and, more recently, on Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish.

TRAFFIC Oceania hosted one of the coordinators of the TRAFFIC network's worldwide review on shark fisheries and as part of it, produced an overview of the Oceania region's harvest, trade and management of sharks and other cartilaginous fish in 1996.

Alongside fisheries, timber is another important area of work for TRAFFIC Oceania. The Oceania region has a disproportionate share of the world's threatened tree species. While containing less than three percent of the world's forests, Oceania holds over nine percent of the

world's threatened trees. Over 200 are critically endangered and endangered tree species, and 11 species have already become extinct. Many endemic timber species in Oceania have a range smaller than 26 square kilometres and so are easily threatened by timber extraction.

TRAFFIC Oceania's recent pioneering initiative to work on Agarwood with WWF's South Pacific Programme in Papua New Guinea (PNG) has built effective links with government authorities that are involved in regulating not only Agarwood but also other threatened species of flora and fauna in PNG.

The issue of traditional Chinese medicines in trade was the focus of symposia organised by TRAFFIC Oceania in August 1997 in Sydney and March 1999 in Melbourne. More recently, TRAFFIC Oceania co-conducted a review of Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Wildlife Protection) Bill 2001.

In the future, TRAFFIC Oceania intends to continue its focus on fisheries and timber work in support of the key wildlife trade issues facing the region and is hoping to expand its ability to provide assistance at a national level to Pacific island countries.

TRAFFIC South America



WWF / Andre Bartschi

TRAFFIC South America was first established in Uruguay. Led by Juan Villalba-Macias, the office started its operation in 1985. In 1991 a national office was opened in Argentina, but closed soon again in 1993 after facing financial difficulties. The same met the regional office in 1995. Work on plant trade issues continued from 1996 in a project office hosted by IUCN, Quito. In 1999 the South America regional office was re-opened at the same location. Led by Bernardo Ortiz, TRAFFIC South America today has four staff members and operates through a network of consultants covering 12 countries.

The early work of South America examined the trade in psittacines (parrots and parakeets) and reptile skins, looked at the management of the wildlife resources in Argentina and assisted in enforcement work

that led to several seizures of illegal wildlife shipments.

Major recent work in TRAFFIC South America has examined the trade in Big-leaved Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla*. Today it is one of the most valuable tropical hardwoods in the international timber trade. At the CITES Mahogany Working Group meeting this year, TRAFFIC South America presented briefings that review legislation and harvest and trade controls in three key countries, as well as the role of CITES. TRAFFIC will continue to be an integral part of the dialogue and exchange of information between CITES authorities and other stakeholders to ensure better implementation of CITES in the future for the species.

Medicinal plants is another important area of work for TRAFFIC South America. With many local communities depending upon these plants for their healthcare, increasing harvest from the wild and current trade patterns of these resources can create a negative impact that threatens not only the sustainability of the species but also the health of the population. In order to address this challenge, TRAFFIC South America has been examining the harvest and trade

patterns, trade legislation in the region and recommendations for future developments. Various activities have recently been undertaken, including studies on harvest, use of and trade in medicinal plants in selection of countries in the region. TRAFFIC has also organised workshops on medicinal plants and trade, with scientific experts, local communities, traders private companies as well as the governmental sector participating.

A study on the Galapagos sea cucumber fishery carried out in 1999 revealed that the harvesting of sea cucumbers is lucrative business and that local authorities are constantly under pressure from fishermen to keep fishing seasons open. The report encourages the search for mechanisms that allow the use of the resource without leading to its extinction and the degradation of precious ecosystem of the Galapagos.

Recently, TRAFFIC South America also conducted research on the status of the trade in Patagonian toothfish in Chile, as part of a larger study carried out by the network.

TRAFFIC South America works closely with key institutions, and governments in its aims to ensure the continued existence of biological diversity and its productivity - now and for future generations.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia



Peter Paul van Dijk / TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia was established in 1991 based in Malaysia. A Viet Nam office first set up in 1999, became a sub-regional office for Indochina in 2001. The first regional director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia was Stephen Nash, followed by Steven Broad in 1993 and Chen Hin Keong in 1995. The TRAFFIC Southeast Asia programme covers eleven countries in the region.

Its first studies in 1992 looked at the songbird trade in Southeast Asia, as well as the Red and Blue Lory in 1993. Three heavily traded bird species were subsequently listed under CITES Appendix II as a result of the former work in 1997 and the latter was listed in appendix I in 1994.

Marine species also received attention early on, with a study on Coral Trade in 1992, Hawksbill Turtle trade in Viet Nam two years later, a study on Shark Fisheries

and the Trade in Sharks and Shark Products of Southeast Asia in 1996 and the trade in live coral fish for food in 1997.

Freshwater turtles were also an important area of study, and in 1999; TRAFFIC co-organised a workshop held in Cambodia, bringing together experts from 16 countries. The recommendations from the workshop were adopted almost wholly by CITES at the 11th COP the next year.

Over the last few years, TRAFFIC has been researching the *Jamu* medicine system in Malaysia and Indonesia. Some rare species were found to be in use as ingredients, without any management systems in place to ensure their sustainability.

Another important research in the region is the fragrant wood, agarwood. In August 2000, a report *Heart of the Matter* revealed that over 700 tonnes of agarwood was reported in international trade in 1997, and the survival of the species is being increasingly threatened by over-harvesting.

Progress has been made in CITES implementation in the region and continued dialogue with governments of these countries have led to the accession of Vietnam to CITES in 1994, Myanmar and

Cambodia becoming members of this Convention in 1997.

In addition, TRAFFIC and Viet Nam's Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2000. A CITES Legislation Working Group was established in Viet Nam and TRAFFIC was invited to provide technical assistance to the group. In early April 2001, draft CITES legislation was completed. After ratification, the legislation will provide for better implementation of CITES in the country.

All the countries in Southeast Asia still need to strictly enforce trade controls, improve anti-poaching capacity, develop specialised enforcement units for undercover investigations and provide incentives against unsustainable trade and harvest of their natural resources. Major illegal supplying markets still operate openly in many Southeast Asian countries. Much work has been done but the challenge of effective implementation remains daunting. Only through international co-operation can Southeast Asia conserve its unique natural heritage for future generations.

TRAFFIC STAFF NEWS

New post to boost timber work in the Network

Chen Hin Keong has taken up a new role within TRAFFIC as a Senior Forest Trade Advisor, the global focal point for activities related to trade in timber and other wood products. He will remain based in Malaysia though working as a part of TRAFFIC International team. From November 2001, the post of Director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia in which Chen provided leadership to the regional programme for six years, is vacant.

Other changes

Craig Hoover from TRAFFIC North America has been promoted from Senior Programme Officer to Deputy Director in October 2001.

Simon Milledge from TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-Tanzania office: Senior Programme Officer.

Christopher Robbins from TRAFFIC North America: Senior Programme Officer.

Sue Vivian from TRAFFIC International: Information & Publications Officer.

Joyce Wu from TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei: Research Officer.

Office moves

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia moved offices in September 2001. The new address is Unit 9-3A, 3rd Floor, Jalan SS23/11, Taman SEA, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

Tel: (603) 7880 3940
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TRAFFIC Europe moved offices in October 2001. The new address is Bd. Emile Jacqmain 90, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium.

Tel: (32) 2 343 8258
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E-mail: traffic@traffic-europe.com

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Viet Nam office became a sub-regional office for Indochina in November 2001.

Welcome

Shoko Kameoka joined TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan office as Programme Officer in July 2001.

*

Karin Burkhardt started her work as the Research Officer at TRAFFIC Europe in July 2001.

*

Suon Phalla joined TRAFFIC Southeast Asia - Indochina sub-regional office as the Cambodia based Programme Officer in August 2001.

*

Monica Anton joined TRAFFIC Europe to undertake work related to European Union Wildlife Trade Regulation in August 2001.

*

Dang Linh Huong started her work as the Administrative Assistant at TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Indochina office in November 2001.

*

Annick De Beukelaer joined TRAFFIC Europe regional office as the Administrative Officer in November 2001.

Goodbye

Marie-Veronique Ninassi left her position as the TRAFFIC Europe-France representative in July 2001.

*

Irene Bronlet, Administrative and Communications Officer left TRAFFIC Europe in October 2001.

*

Holly Reed, Senior Administrative Assistant left TRAFFIC North America in October 2001.

*

ON THE HORIZON

The Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP12) takes place in November next year, in Santiago Chile. Much remains to be done to build upon the successes of the last meeting in Nairobi in 2000, with many many problems remaining unresolved and new challenges having emerged.

During 2002, TRAFFIC also hopes to produce a new and comprehensive overview of global wildlife trade trends, including coverage of key commodities such as timber, fisheries, medicinal products, wild meat, live animals, ornamental plants and non-wood forest products.

TRAFFIC Dispatches

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

TRAFFIC Dispatches is published to keep partners and supporters informed about our activities and accomplishments.

TRAFFIC works in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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TRAFFIC DISPATCHES

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Good management practices sought for Queen Conch fishery

by Stephanie Theile, Research Officer, TRAFFIC Europe

TRAFFIC Europe has completed the first phase of a CITES Secretariat project that aims to develop a model management strategy for the Queen Conch *Strombus gigas*, an edible marine gastropod of the Caribbean region that has been listed in Appendix II of CITES since 1992.

The study found that the species continues to be one of the most important fishery resources in the wider Caribbean region, both with regard to annual landings and socio-economic value. Records available for the second half of the 1990s indicate that a total of up to 6300t of Queen Conch meat were landed annually; worth an estimated USD 60 million. This is equivalent to some 50 million individual animals, making *Strombus gigas* one of the most traded CITES species in terms of number in specimens. The overall harvest is likely to be significantly higher considering the large levels of illegal and unreported fishing.

In the first phase of the project, TRAFFIC Europe examined the current status of the Queen Conch fishery in order to identify good management practices, and to assess the feasibility of implementing such practices in place in other countries.

The Queen Conch occurs on sandy sea floors in clean, shallow waters throughout the wider Caribbean. It has been valued for its tasty meat for centuries. The

species' large, brightly-coloured shells are also used as curios and in jewellery, though this use is of secondary importance and generally considered a by-product of the meat trade. The Queen conch fishery has a long tradition in the region, but it was not until the late 1970s that the fishery saw a drastic increase. The expansion of the commercial harvest was largely to supply growing local populations, the expanding tourism industry and the increasing demand for the species' meat in foreign markets.

In 1995, the species was introduced into the CITES Significant Trade Review process following concerns about large volumes of meat reported in international trade and the insufficient implementation and enforcement of CITES by several range States. The review was undertaken by TRAFFIC and IUCN-SSC and it showed that several populations were severely affected by over-harvest for trade in meat. It was concluded that, although the overall survival of the species was not considered to be at risk, local Queen Conch populations and hence the commercial fisheries were certainly threatened. These results and the evidence of illegal trade in Queen Conch products demonstrated the need for more effective management programmes and trade controls. Consequently, one of the CITES Animals Committee's primary recommendation was to undertake efforts to



Stephanie Theile / TRAFFIC Europe

The Queen Conch *Strombus gigas* has been valued for its tasty meat for centuries.

develop a regional management strategy for the species.

In several countries, such as Jamaica, Honduras and the Dominican Republic, the Queen conch fishery has expanded over the past ten years and even developed into a large-scale commercial fishery with almost industrial characteristics.

Jamaica, Honduras and the Dominican Republic are the largest producers of Queen Conch meat, each country landing up to 1,000t of meat annually in the late 1990s. In general, the majority of these landings is destined for export, but local consumption can also be significant. The

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Silvia Marina Ribeiro Silva

Special section: Securing the future of medicinal plant resources

Brazil's medicinal plant trade - largely undocumented and unregulated

Many plant species valued in medicines are facing increasing pressure from unsustainable harvest in Brazil. According to a study released last month by TRAFFIC and Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) and carried out with support from BMZ (for full name see page 7), undocumented and therefore unregulated medicinal plant trade prevails throughout Brazil. Medicinal plants are highly valued in healthcare and used widely for therapeutic and religious purposes.

The study published in the joint report *Plantas Medicinais do Brasil: Aspectos Gerais sobre Legislação e Comércio* (Medicinal Plants of Brazil: General Aspects of Legislation and Trade), available in Spanish and Portuguese, shows that IBAMA has identified and

reported 119 species of native and exotic medicinal plants used and traded within and from Brazil and that to date only some 70 companies and individuals have registered with IBAMA as required in order to trade legally in the country. "This number is very few considering the growing population that depends heavily on medicinal plants for primary healthcare", said Ximena Buitrón, Programme Officer of TRAFFIC South America and co-author of the report. "Observations in local markets and stores show that many more species are traded on daily basis than those recorded officially."

More clarity in the legal instruments and recording systems for regulating harvest and trade in the medicinal plants is needed. The study is calling for better co-ordination and implementation of control systems by the authorities in order to

identify the full scale of the medicinal plant trade in the country.

The states of Paraná and São Paulo stand out as the largest exporters of medicinal plant materials, while the United States, followed by Germany are the largest importers of medicinal plants from Brazil.

The study recommends increased information exchange between IBAMA offices and other government offices. More research is also needed on trade dynamics and implementation of related laws and regulations in order to promote better management of trade and conservation of medicinal plants resources.

For more information, please contact TRAFFIC South America (contact details on page 16) or visit the TRAFFIC website at www.traffic.org.



Silvinia Marina Ribeiro Silva

Staff News

Appointment

Caroline Raymakers was appointed the new Director of TRAFFIC Europe in February 2002 having held this post for the past year. Before joining TRAFFIC Europe in 1996, Caroline worked for FAO and various NGOs, including WWF, particularly on marine conservation issues in Indonesia.

A new staff location within TESA-ZA

Programme Officer Markus Burgener of East/Southern Africa - South Africa office (TESA-ZA) has relocated to Cape Town in January 2002. Strategically, this move has been made as the city contains a broad spectrum of governmental and non-governmental institutions and individuals working on national and regional marine issues. Cape Town is strategically also important for lobbying at the parliamentary level on South African wildlife trade issues.

Welcome

Professor Xu Hongfa commenced his work as the new China Wildlife Trade Programme Co-ordinator in TRAFFIC East Asia based in Beijing (within WWF China office) in February 2002. Before joining TRAFFIC Professor Xu was the Dean of Chemistry and Life Science College at East China Normal University in Shanghai and currently maintains his position as Director of the Shanghai Wildlife Forensic Laboratory.

Mary Hansford returned to TRAFFIC International to take over the position of Office Manager after Kelly Trentham's departure in January 2002.

Tammy Tam started in her role as Accounts Officer at TRAFFIC International in January 2002.

Leigh Henry joined TRAFFIC North America as the new Programme Officer in December 2001.

Kim Davis started her job as the Fisheries Officer of TRAFFIC North America in November 2001.

Imel Adam started her work as the Administration Officer of TRAFFIC Europe in December 2001.

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Workshop to boost development of 'best-practices' guidelines to sport hunting industry in the SADC region

by Claire Patterson, Programme Officer, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-South Africa

'The sport hunting industry faces many pressing issues, such as the withdrawal of predator control quotas, the possible transference of management structures to community-based institutions, land tenure issues, and continuing problems with monitoring, administration and quota setting. Many countries are struggling with these issues in isolation but, in many cases, neighbouring countries have already found solutions which could be successfully implemented elsewhere'.

The above was the premise on which a wide range of stakeholders from seven southern African countries came together for a three-day workshop in Harare, Zimbabwe, in October 2001. Policies relating to trophy hunting (the hunting of animals for their trophies by foreign hunters), or lack of them, is of great interest in the region as many southern African countries generate considerable income from sport or trophy hunting. This income is often the primary source of financial support for community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) programmes.

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa convened the workshop under the auspices of the USAID-funded, IUCN Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) managed Networking and Capacity Building Programme (NETCAB).

The aims of the workshop were to: i) assess the industry from a regional perspective; ii) provide a forum for stakeholders to share their regional experiences; and, iii) develop 'best-practices' guidelines to assist in developing a transparent and fully accountable sport hunting industry in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.



Stakeholders from seven southern African countries participated in the workshop convened by TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa.

An overview of the status of the industry in Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania was presented. This was followed by technical presentations on pertinent issues such as information management; quota setting as a strategic tool; trophy quality monitoring; conservation and CBNRM; revenue optimization; hunt packaging; and, the role of sport hunting associations.

The workshop culminated in the identification of common challenges and priorities. It was recognized that capacity building at the local level is essential, particularly at community level. The empowerment of communities through wildlife ownership and use rights would assist in increasing true community involvement and confidence in sustainable use initiatives. The workshop strove to ensure that issues such as the issuance of permits, tender processes, access to information, monitoring, quota setting, ethics and commitment to conservation are all addressed in a transparent and accountable manner. Revenue maximization through professional marketing and diversification should also be investigated and implemented to support reinvestment in the management of the region's wildlife resources.

The delegates agreed that it is vital for the industry to establish 'one-voice' for the region. This is important for effectively dealing with the concerns of the anti-hunting lobbies and for working

on the key challenges. They asked for TRAFFIC to play role of a facilitator in the adoption of a regional sport hunting protocol, which would include 'best practices', guidelines and a regional standard of excellence. Following on from the workshop, TESA has received invitations from government authorities in Mozambique and Zambia to assist with the development of sport hunting policies in those countries and to build capacity for proper implementation.

TRAFFIC will produce a report later in 2002 detailing the way forward through the use of a 'best-practices' guideline model. To obtain a copy of the report, please contact TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa regional office (contact details on page 16), or visit the TRAFFIC website for future updates.

Correction

Images illustrating the article published in *Dispatches* Number 16 titled "South Pacific medicinal plants exposed to bio-prospecting" by James Compton were incorrectly credited. The correct credit for these images is "WWF South Pacific".

Identifying the problem: A new guide to help law enforcers check trade in traditional Asian medicines

Crawford Allan, Global Enforcement Assistance Co-ordinator. TRAFFIC International

You are a Customs Officer. You are inspecting the regular import shipments of Asian foods and goods at the docks. Quite often, you will find a ship container filled with dried seeds, herbs and packets of traditional medicines. You know that these commodities could include parts and derivatives of species that are regulated or prohibited from import under international wildlife trade laws, such as Tiger bone, rhino horn, bear bile or musk. How do you find out if, amongst the dozens of boxes, there are any items that may need CITES papers or are not permitted at all? You have no expertise in identifying these products and you cannot read the language on the packaging. Even worse, you do not have the budget to regularly have an expert or translator standing by, and you do not know of anyone locally who could assist. You have a few options:

- call in an expert (expensive – they may charge for their time and never want to arrive at the docks in the middle of the night in freezing temperatures);
- contact your colleague at another port who has some good experience of this for advice (impractical - she is three hundred miles away and is on holiday);
- do not inspect the shipment (unsatisfactory – you need to ensure that illegal items are not entering the country and inspections increase the detection rate); or
- attempt to sift through the items yourself (difficult - but there is an easy to use visual reference material that you can use as a guide).

If you are reading this you may not be a Customs Officer but putting ourselves in this scenario helps us realise the dilemmas that wildlife trade law enforcers face, particularly when attempting to inspect shipments of traditional Asian medicines. Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, CITES Enforcement Team at Heathrow Airport in partnership with TRAFFIC International have spent many years developing a "Traditional Asian Medicine Identification Guide for Law Enforcers" to

try to help law enforcers tackle the problem. Fortunately WWF UK, the CITES Secretariat, the UK Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime and Taiwan Council of Agriculture also recognised the need and value in this guide and provided funds for its printing costs.

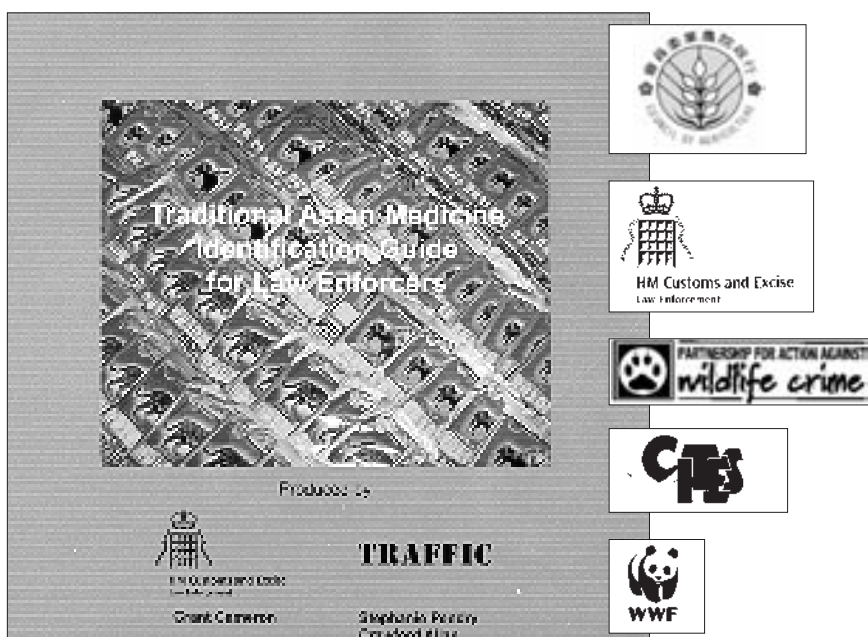
The guide includes approximately 430 full colour images of traditional Asian medicines that, according to their packaging, may contain species that are controlled in international trade. Each

medicine includes a written description that explains the alleged contents of the medicine. The medicines are indexed for quick reference, by key identifiers that are easy to recognise for the law enforcer.

There is also an explanation of how to 'read' the packaging and identify controlled species from the ingredients list. The guide is looseleaf (170 pages), for easier revision, addition of the enforcer's own notes, and is designed to be photocopied for wider and cheaper distribution. The main audience for the guide is law enforcers based in countries outside of Asia, which may have to deal with inspecting imports or domestic sale of traditional Asian medicines. It cannot replace the need for an expert in every case, but it certainly can assist in flagging potential problem shipments that may need more detailed inspection and allow other shipments to be cleared more quickly.

As the example above illustrates, the role of law enforcers in monitoring and enforcing trade laws is not straightforward. It is hoped that this guide will help enforcers to learn some identification skills and to make the inspection process easier. Ultimately, this will improve detection of illegal shipments containing endangered species utilised in traditional Asian medicines containing endangered species.

The Identification Guide will be out later this month. For more information, contact TRAFFIC International.



Forest trade programme to boost timber work

by Chen Hin Keong, Senior Forest Trade Advisor, TRAFFIC International

The rate of deforestation globally continues to decline by somewhere between 50,000 to 170,000 km² a year according to FAO. Human population and economic pressures are exerted throughout much of the forest lands. Various factors such as subsistence agriculture, plantation agriculture, large-scale cattle ranching, infrastructure development including hydroelectric power and road construction, industrialisation and human settlement contribute to deforestation. The remaining forests need to be managed sustainably and effectively to meet the demands placed on them.

Trade is a vital issue in the utilisation of our forest resources and plays a significant part in transferring and retaining the benefits from forest utilisation at local, national or international level. The dynamics of trade have to be understood and strategies to ensure sustainable utilisation of forests adopted accordingly.

Timber trade is a priority issue in TRAFFIC and to this end, a new post

leading the global forest and timber trade related work in the network has been established (Senior Forest Trade Advisor). TRAFFIC now faces many challenges in developing its distinctive vision of sustainable forest trade that contributes to conservation efforts with a special consideration also to human aspirations and needs.

In 1992 TRAFFIC published its seminal report on Illegal Tropical Timber Trade in Asia-Pacific. Since then, TRAFFIC regions have been working on forest-related activities over the years, playing a key role in species work like the mahogany and livelihood issues like the charcoal trade and the wood carving trade in East Africa. Currently forestry work is underway in Malaysia in a project that is set out to evaluate the Malaysian forestry sector and its success rate in implementing comparable systems in the country to that of CITES. This is valuable work in the CITES context if timber species gets listed under the Appendices in the future. (For

example, Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) is already in Appendix III).

The forestry strategy cannot be developed in a vacuum and closer links to the World Bank-WWF Forest Alliance and the IUCN Forest Conservation Advisory Group has been initiated and other links are being explored.

Gaining greater knowledge of different programmatic approaches and activities of such partner organisations is vital in TRAFFIC's efforts to develop a network-wide strategy for a forestry programme that is based on cooperation and collaboration with others working on forest conservation.

At the moment, funding is being sought for the global coordination and specific projects. Once the funding has been secured, TRAFFIC will be in an excellent position to meet its objective of ensuring that trade in wild plants is not a threat to the conservation of forests.

For more information, please contact Senior Forest Trade Advisor c/o TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (contact details on page 16).

Chen Hin Keong / TRAFFIC International

Towards harmonizing fisheries catch certification

by Anna Willock, Senior Fisheries Advisor, TRAFFIC Oceania

Early in 2002, TRAFFIC attended the 'Expert Consultation of the Regional Fisheries Management Bodies on the Harmonization of Catch Certification' as one of five independent experts. The meeting was hosted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and attended by representatives of a number of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs).

The purpose of the meeting was to examine the objectives and characteristics of the various catch certification and documentation schemes that RFMOs have introduced over the past eight years and consider ways in which these could be harmonised.

The common objective of all of the schemes implemented by RFMOs is to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activity for species under their mandate by requiring documentation to accompany the fish

products through international trade, thereby enabling the origin of the fish to be identified. In some cases, catches are certified from the point of harvest to the point of final importation while in others a document is only issued if and when the fish enters international trade. One of the key differences in the breadth of schemes adopted is that while some provide a basis for accepting or rejecting fish upon landing, others are implemented as an information-gathering exercise on which to base other measures for combating IUU fishing.

The growth in the use of catch certification and documentation schemes is an interesting phenomenon in fisheries conservation and management. It reflects the almost impossible task of monitoring catches at sea and the limited scope under international fisheries law to prevent fishing to continue outside the regulations established by RFMOs. This latter problem continues despite the entry into force last December of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, which obligates

ratifying and acceding countries not to undermine conservation measures established by RFMOs, due to the fact that only just in excess of thirty countries have ratified that Agreement. Catch certification and documentation schemes also begin to address the increasing requirements of countries to identify the origins of food products because of concerns over both the quality of those products and their sustainability.

From TRAFFIC's perspective, the Expert Consultation provided an excellent opportunity to engage more closely with RFMOs on the trade-related measures being developed for fisheries and provide input to the further development of such measures.

The recommendations of the Expert Consultation were presented to the Eighth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries' Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in mid-February, which TRAFFIC attended as part of the IUCN delegation, and will be passed on to the FAO Committee on Fisheries meeting in early 2003.

Processing
of freshly
landed
Queen
Conch meat
in Jamaica.
Experienced
cutters
can cut up
to 400kg
of meat
per day.
All Queen
Conch meat
processed
at this
plant is
destined
for export.



Stephanie Thiele / TRAFFIC Europe

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USA is the largest market for Queen Conch meat, importing between 2,000 to 2,500t per year, followed by the European Union, and, in particular, the French Overseas departments of Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Today, the ongoing exploitation has led to local stock declines and population depletions, especially in shallow water stocks. In some areas harvest consists largely of juveniles. In addition, new fishing grounds have been exploited at even faster rates and greater depths through the expanded use of modern dive gear. High levels of illegal fishing and poaching are becoming a growing concern and seriously undermine management efforts at national and regional level.

The study describes the efforts that a number of range States have undertaken to improve the species management in the region and to enhance trade controls during the recent years.

For example, several range States implemented management plans that included the use of harvest and export quotas, established no-take zones and closed seasons. However, such regulations often lack effective enforcement or a sound biological basis.

In several countries the persistent need for scientific data on the exploited stocks and lack of monitoring of population trends and fishing impacts, is of great concern, especially in some of the large exporting countries.

In addition, the non-harmonisation of specific regulations (such as closed seasons), at least at sub-regional level, creates difficulties, particularly in areas where poaching (especially by vessels in waters under the jurisdiction of other nations) is widespread.

Several regional institutions, and other regional bodies and experts such as the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, have undertaken significant efforts over the recent years to improve the management of the species and to harmonise existing management measures at regional level. It is hoped that efforts will continue and that they will be supported not only by range States, but also at the international level.

TRAFFIC will be undertaking a Significant Trade Review of the species in the coming months, following the decision of the CITES Animal Committee at its 17th meeting in August 2001 to reintroduce the species into the process. TRAFFIC will closely collaborate with IUCN-SSC, CITES and Fisheries authorities as well as relevant organisations in the region in this effort. It is hoped that the results of this review will further help range States to ensure that commercial harvest and trade in Queen Conch products is maintained at sustainable levels, benefiting the peoples' livelihoods as well as ensuring survival of the species.

A boost to improve application of wildlife trade laws in EU

In November 2001, for the first time since the European Union (EU) adopted its common regulation on wildlife trade in 1997, representatives of wildlife trade regulatory agencies, public prosecutors and NGOs, met to develop recommendations for improving its implementation.

A two-day workshop convened by IUCN Environmental Law Centre and TRAFFIC Europe brought together representatives of 12 EU member countries and 3 EU candidate countries to discuss legal and other obstacles to effective enforcement and implementation of legislation related to illegal trade in endangered wildlife species in the region. The workshop concluded with the development of preliminary recommendations by which EU Member Countries can move forward and tackle problems as well as challenges that lie before them, e.g. the establishment of enforcement networks and improved co-operation in the EU.

All 15 EU Member States have adopted legislation to implement the EU wildlife trade regulation and have varying levels of experience in enforcing these laws.

Co-ordination among agencies within a country, among EU Member States, and also between EU countries and others, was one of the meeting's strongest recommendations. The other was improving awareness of the importance of wildlife trade controls, and their value in achieving environmental goals.

Penalties which are a primary mechanisms by which wildlife trade can be efficiently enforced - for violations of individual wildlife trade laws vary considerably among the 15 Member States making the illegal trade of wildlife in the EU a calculable risk for a potential offender. In some Member States illegal trade in wildlife is not even considered a criminal offence and is treated under administrative law. Also, for example, in the UK wildlife smugglers can face seven years imprisonment whereas in Belgium the maximum penalty for infringement of CITES is three months. Earlier this year

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IUCN
The World Conservation Union

TRAFFIC

Securing the future of medicinal plant resources

Looking to the future

Countless plant species are relied upon as a primary source of medicine across the developing world, with traditional medicines made from wild species used as remedies for everything from the common cold to cancer. Industrial pharmaceuticals similarly depend in part on wild plants, as does the growing market for “natural medicines” and ‘herbal products’ in Europe and North America. Global reliance on medicinal plants drives a massive harvest and trade in wild plant materials, providing an important source of income as well as medicines. Over-harvest in the face of increasing demand and declining habitats is threatening species, healthcare practices and incomes. TRAFFIC has therefore placed a priority on documenting and addressing conservation and development concerns associated with the medicinal plant trade since the mid-1990s. TRAFFIC’s efforts received a major boost in 1998, thanks to a grant from the Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, BMZ (Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development) through a Funds in Trust agreement with WWF International. BMZ funds supported work in East Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, South America and internationally from 1998-2001, achieving important results and providing a strong foundation for further work during 2002 and beyond.

Building bridges and engaging stakeholders

The importance of medicinal plants to healthcare is increasingly acknowledged. Unfortunately, very little is actually known regarding the species used, where they originate, where they go, what volumes they are traded in, or whether they are being used sustainably. The various medicinal plant ‘stakeholders’, may have partial knowledge of the status or trade of a particular species, but are unlikely to understand the complete picture. This lack of knowledge is a potential ‘prescription for extinction’, to use a term previously applied to the use of endangered species in traditional East Asian medicine. Not only the plant species themselves are at risk, but also the livelihoods and healthcare options of those that depend on them.

BMZ funding of TRAFFIC’s work has directly contributed to reducing this knowledge gap. BMZ funds supported both field research and communication of research findings via reports, articles, convening and participation in conferences and workshops, and liaison with the media. Equally important, these funds enabled TRAFFIC to bring together a

range of stakeholders concerned with the medicinal plant trade, facilitating the exchange of information and providing an environment where problem areas could be identified and possible solutions addressed.

The results of TRAFFIC’s medicinal plant work have also been communicated more widely, in order to raise the profile of medicinal plant related issues, share research results and encourage international responses that complement emerging local and national initiatives.

Key results from BMZ-funded work in East Asia, India and South America are highlighted in the following pages, as are plans for future medicinal plant work based on the experience and knowledge gained.

For more information, please visit www.traffic.org or e-mail [Teresa Mulliken at \[teresa.mulliken@trafficint.org\]\(mailto:Teresa.Mulliken@trafficint.org\)](mailto:Teresa.Mulliken@trafficint.org).



Zhong-Kai Yan



TRAFFIC India



Carlos Cerón

The conservation of culturally and economically significant medicinal plant species, and their contribution to human health and rural development, is enhanced through effective management measures at the local, national and international levels.

TRAFFIC staff working on medicinal plant issues met in May 2001 to assess the network’s progress thus far and to chart a course for future action. It was agreed that work on the medicinal plant trade should remain a high priority for TRAFFIC. A medicinal plant ‘target’, above, and related outputs, below, were established to guide TRAFFIC’s work through 2005.

Further funding support and partnerships are being sought to enable TRAFFIC to achieve these important objectives.

Priorities include:

- further use of stakeholder dialogue processes to identify and seek support for implementing workable solutions to conservation, livelihood and healthcare concerns associated with the medicinal plant trade;

- improvements in regulation and enforcement practices to support sustainable management of medicinal plant populations;

- increasing understanding of the potential role of voluntary certification schemes to achieve conservation and development objectives related to the use of wild medicinal plants;

- expanding knowledge of the inter-relationships between existing medicinal plant supplies, regulatory and market structures, benefit flows and incentives for wild harvest and cultivation in order to design measures aimed at achieving both conservation and development objectives

Conservation of plant resources traded for traditional medicine in East Asia

For many years now TRAFFIC East Asia (TEAS) has been actively contributing to traditional medicine-related activities in a number of roles. Through the BMZ project a need to expand the knowledge of the plants traded for medicinal purposes was endorsed and an array of activities initiated in 1998 and the following two years. The interest towards the medicinal plant trade in East Asia comes not as a surprise, considering that as many as 1,000 plant species are estimated to be in common use for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and that 80% of them are wild harvested in the People's Republic of China alone. Estimates also suggest that the traditional medicine industry in China uses as much as several hundred thousands tonnes of plant material annually.

In 1998, under the auspices of BMZ project TEAS set out to collect baseline information on both the trade and trade controls for medicinal plants used in East Asia. Specific attention was paid to collecting information on the trade in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, three of the main markets, and, in the case of China, sources of medicinal plants used in Traditional East Asian Medicine (TEAM). Additional information was collected on the trade in Japan and South Korea and market surveys were also conducted in Taipei and Kao Hsiung in 1999. Unpublished information on the range of medicinal materials of plant origins maintained by trader associations was obtained in China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Information was also collected through interviews with members of the TCM communities in Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.

To assist in identifying accurately the range of species declared as traded in domestic and international markets, TEAS developed the Chinese-language TRAFFIC East Asia Medicinal Plants in Trade (TEMPT) database.

Today TEMPT includes records for approximately 1600 trade names for medicinal plants. Also, it has been expanded to identify CITES-listed species and to provide information on the parts in trade, national protection and conservation status and applicable national import and export controls in China, the major supplier of medicinal plants to the region.

The TEMPT database also provided a platform for producing an English-language database on species in international trade within the region. Approximately 970 species are included in this database, 200 of which are covered by some form of conservation or trade controls and of potential conservation concern, and 37 of which were identified as being of specific concern based on their conservation status and trade for traditional medicine in the region.

These databases have proven useful tools in responding to requests for information regarding the status and trade of species within East Asia, including, for example, with regard to species proposals submitted to the COP11 in April 2000 and analyses of CITES 'significant trade species'. They have also proven useful in responding to inquiries about medicinal plants from researchers and representatives of pharmaceutical companies within Asia and elsewhere in the world.

Through the BMZ funds two Chinese language reports, namely *Medicinal Plant Trade in Hong Kong* and *Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Medicinal Plant Trade in Taiwan* have been published. Also an English-language report *Medicinal Plant Trade in East Asia* outlining the key findings of the research to non-Chinese speaking audiences will be published this year. A Chinese-language *Guide to CITES Plants and Trade* published last year incorporates research funded by BMZ and was published with funding from Taiwan's Council of Agriculture. It is designed to assist CITES implementation and enforcement capacity in the region. (For more information see *Dispatches* #17).

TEAS staff has participated in and made presentations to a variety of meetings, organised and contributed to numerous workshops held looking at the different aspects of medicinal plant trade in the region and initiated collaboration between different stakeholders in a spirit of "seeking collaboration not confrontation".

Looking to the future in East Asia

TEAS has been invited to present its findings of the studies carried out in the International Conference on Science and Technology in Conservation of Biodiversity of Medicinal Plant and Sustainable Utilisation in the coming months. Participation in policy processes and dialogue with individual stakeholders will continue, especially as TEAS has established itself as a reliable source of information and advice amongst government, traditional medicine practitioners and industry alike.

The potential to increase access to information included in the two databases will be explored further, including providing the TEMPT database in English as well as Chinese. Completion of the CITES TCM database within Taiwan will be an important step in this regard. Further assistance will also be provided to government authorities with respect to implementing trade controls for CITES-listed species.

Resources are being sought to undertake more detailed research regarding medicinal plant markets in order to establish trade volumes and trends for priority species. Experience with surveys undertaken revealed that such research is not only critical but also extremely difficult owing to the reticence on the part of traders to reveal the source or volumes of items in trade. Alternative research strategies will be developed in order to build on information collected thus far.



Motivating actions to sustain the medicinal plant resources of the Indian subcontinent

India is home to close to one billion people and a variety of traditional medicine systems, including Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Tibetan and numerous local and folk medicine practices. Healthcare in India is heavily reliant on native medicinal plants as well as the import of hundreds of tonnes of medicinal plant materials from other countries. Demand for medicinal plants drives large scale harvests and trade both within this densely populated country and in neighbouring countries such as Nepal.

The importance of medicinal plants and concerns regarding overexploitation were already relatively well-established in India at the time TRAFFIC India initiated its programme of BMZ-funded work. What was missing, however, was an understanding of medicinal plant markets and trade, regulatory and market mechanisms geared toward addressing concerns identified, and a willingness among stakeholders to work together to secure both wild medicinal plant populations and supplies. TRAFFIC India therefore adopted a multi-faceted approach in order to address these gaps, combining research, communication of research results and stakeholder dialogues.

TRAFFIC India's research focused on several areas: trade volumes and trends; cultivation; and trade controls. Initial research was aimed at documenting trade volumes and patterns of approximately 20 species identified as being important to Indian medicinal systems and of potential conservation concern. Thirteen medicinal plant markets across India were selected for market surveys, and data received were analysed. The initial results were presented to a stakeholders' meeting for review and discussion. individual species. Further analysis is being undertaken, with the results to be published later in 2002.

Following the recommendation of a December 1999 stakeholders' meeting regarding the poor availability of information on medicinal plant cultivation, TRAFFIC undertook to produce a reference guide to increase knowledge of and access to a variety of relevant information sources. The resulting

publication, *Cultivation of Medicinal Plants in India: A Reference Book*, contains information on approximately 1700 publications, research and government institutes, gardens, herbaria and nurseries, medicinal plant growers, and trade and industry contacts within India.

With individual States rather than the national government having primary authority over native plant harvests, TRAFFIC India set out to document harvest and trade controls at the state level and published a report *Regulation of Collection, Transit and Trade of Medicinal Plants and other Non-Timber Forest Products in India* in 2000.

TRAFFIC India organised and convened a series of stakeholder workshops throughout of the project period. They involved representatives from key stakeholder groups including indigenous medicine manufacturers, wholesale traders, exporters, NGOs, medical practitioners, researchers and various government departments. The workshops succeeded in forging a shared commitment to working together toward addressing concerns related to conservation and quality control. TRAFFIC staff also convened and participated in numerous smaller meetings with industry, promoters of traditional medicine practices in India, government agencies and international organisations.

TRAFFIC was also active 'on the ground', providing training to Customs border personnel charged with implementing both CITES and national export controls, and producing a guide

and training materials regarding India's trade controls, including *CITES Listed Medicinal Plants of India: An Identification Manual*. Support was also provided for a pilot project to promote 'Cultivation of Medicinal Plants with Community Participation' in a small Dehradun village. A nursery was developed and farmers were encouraged to cultivate 13 medicinal plant species in marginal lands, a buy-back arrangement having been agreed with traders for products produced. The pilot project is now being expanded (For more information on this project, see *Dispatches* #16).

Looking to the future in India

TRAFFIC is now recognised within India both as a source of expert advice on the medicinal plant trade and as an 'honest broker with respect to encouraging cross-stakeholder collaboration. There is a strong and continuing demand for TRAFFIC's input into policy processes as well as for convening further stakeholder dialogues. As one example, the Director of the Wildlife Institute of India has offered to host a stakeholder meeting on medicinal plant conservation in Uttarakhand in order to maintain the momentum built up by the pilot cultivation project undertaken there. Funding has been secured from the Rufford Foundation to undertake a review of the potential to use voluntary certification as a means to better ensure that medicinal plants in trade are produced in a sustainable and equitable manner.

Home to a wide variety of medicinal systems, a large and growing population dependent upon them, and in many cases a dwindling supply of medicinal plants, India remains a high priority for further work related to medicinal plant use and trade. Additional resources are being sought to allow TRAFFIC India to continue building on work undertaken thus far including multi-stakeholder processes and support for implementation of recommended policy and market reforms.

'Cultivation of Medicinal Plants with Community Participation' meeting in progress.



Support for more effective management of the trade in South America's medicinal plants

Unlike in East Asia and India, use of medicinal plants in South America is not characterised by widespread common medicinal systems, but instead by a wide variety of more localised practices. The approach used to promote more effective management of the trade is therefore approached in South America at a local rather than regional level. Although South America's rainforests are often cited as the source of pharmaceuticals, little work had been done to document the scale of the trade in medicinal plants.

Work initiated by TRAFFIC in the mid 1990s had begun to document this trade, BMZ funding allowing this work to expand in scope, and, in the case of Ecuador, to be undertaken in more detail.

In Ecuador, where research was already well-advanced, TRAFFIC published the report *Ecuador - Uso y Comercio de Plantas Medicinales (Ecuador: use and trade of medicinal plants)*. This report highlighted species for which harvest levels appeared unsustainable, problems with quality control in the manufacture and use of medicinal-plant based medicines.

Release of the report also coincided with the convening of a medicinal plant stakeholders workshop in Quito in September 1999. Later TRAFFIC produced proceedings from the workshop and circulated these to participants and other interested parties.

In Colombia, an effort was made not only to communicate the results of TRAFFIC's own research, but also to provide a platform for others working on medicinal plant issues to present their findings and views.

To this end, TRAFFIC, co-organised a workshop with the Ministry of Environment and von Humboldt Institute. The main results of the workshop were presented during the EXPONAT 2000 Natural Products Fair, held in Bogota in September 2000, where TRAFFIC was invited to participate.

Research findings from work in Brazil have been published as a joint TRAFFIC-IBAMA report *Plantas Medicinales de Brasil: Aspectos Generales Sobre Legislación y Comercio (Medicinal Plants of Brazil: General Aspects of Legislation And Trade)* in February 2002. (See page 2)

A central component of TRAFFIC's work was to engage representatives from all those sectors concerned with the use and trade of medicinal plants in processes to address related conservation, health care and other development concerns. Cross-sector collaboration is ongoing and TRAFFIC is recognised within the region for its 'convening' power, and is receiving requests to continue to play such a role.

Setting the stage for policy reform

TRAFFIC's work in Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil demonstrated the need for development of comprehensive national policies and programmes addressing the use of medicinal plant resources in the context of both conservation and development, including healthcare and quality control.

TRAFFIC's work on medicinal plants in Ecuador influenced discussions and policy development. The Ministry of Environment staff co-ordinating development of the National Biodiversity Strategy asked TRAFFIC to assist in developing a National Action Plan for Medicinal Plants. TRAFFIC was also invited to join and continues to participate in the Legislation Sub-group of Ecuador's National Working Group on Biodiversity.

Reflecting increased understanding of the need to conserve medicinal plants important to healthcare, regulations being developed within the Ministry of Health are addressing environmental as well as health issues. 'Good manufacturing practices' have also been developed and are scheduled to be implemented in 2002.

Results from the Colombia workshop were used as a basis from which to develop the National Medicinal Plants Action Plan. The funding is now being sought for its implementation. The Colombian Government is also analysing the need and potential to develop a law specific to medicinal plants, and to make more effective use of 'good manufacturing practices'.

Discussions are ongoing within Brazil with regard to changes needed in Brazil's medicinal plant policy and priorities for conservation action. An indication of the increased prominence of medicinal plants in this country is provided by the fact that the President of IBAMA has established a Centre for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

within the Institute and as a result of the Brazil study, established a working group to develop an Action Plan for the conservation of medicinal plants.

Looking to the future in South America

In response to work in Ecuador, TRAFFIC South America has been invited to participate in the Iberoamerican Group for Fair Trade in Medicinal Plants and the WIEGO Initiative (Women in Informal Employment, Globalizing and Organizing). WIEGO, which has a programme on medicinal plants, has developed a regional proposal to undertake case studies in Mexico, Argentina and Ecuador examining the situation of women working with medicinal plants and their role in the global marketplace. TRAFFIC has been asked to help develop and participate in the case study for Ecuador.

As a result of TRAFFIC's work within Ecuador and Colombia, TRAFFIC was contracted by the Biotrade Initiative of the UN Centre for Trade and Development to assess the potential role of sustainable use of Ecuador's biological resources in supporting this country's further development, and co-organise a national workshop to discuss both documents.

TRAFFIC has established a working link with Export and Investment Promotion Corporation, which has invited TRAFFIC to participate in various events, and has agreed to collaborate in information exchange and analysis. TRAFFIC has also been invited to participate in meetings of the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI).

There are requests to undertake work on medicinal plants within Paraguay and Argentina which would provide TRAFFIC the opportunity to extend its work to the Southern Cone of South America.



Carlos Cerón

Tiger protection gets a boost in Central Indochina

by Julie Thomson, Representative, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia-Indochina

In early December 2001, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Indochina undertook a CITES and wildlife law enforcement workshop for enforcement officials working in and around the tri-border area of Cambodia, Laos, and Viet Nam. Encompassing some of the most intact contiguous forest blocks in Central Indochina, this area is of international importance for the conservation of Tigers. It is also an area where high levels of illegal cross-border trade in wild species have been recorded.

To help promote collaboration amongst the wildlife officials working in the tri-border area, TRAFFIC and Viet Nam's CITES Management Authority held a 2-day workshop on wildlife trade controls, attracting 37 wildlife enforcement officials representing five provinces in the three countries. The workshop included sessions on border trade controls and international cooperation, domestic legislation, CITES, and the identification of Tiger products in trade - given by Viet Nam's foremost Tiger expert. Workshop participants were also provided with Tiger posters with the message, "Don't lose your last Tiger", printed in Khmer, Lao, and Vietnamese. The poster was produced in collaboration with Viet Nam's Forest Protection Department, Laos' Department of Forestry



and TRAFFIC's staff in Cambodia. A total of 2,400 posters were handed out to participants to distribute at key border checkpoints, rural towns and villages.

In light of historical and present-day complexities in the sub-region, organizing the workshop and producing culturally appropriate awareness materials did not come without challenges or without rewards - as one participant remarked,

"Now I know who to contact on the other side of the border!" Participants asked that the workshop be made into an annual event, with alternating country locations.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Indochina gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Tiger Conservation Programme of WWF US and the Tiger Information Centre at the Minnesota Zoo for their kind donation of the Tiger image used in the posters.

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the highest ever sentence was imposed on a wildlife smuggler in UK, when a UK national was sentenced to six and a half years in prison for smuggling CITES-listed birds, setting a precedent that such gross violation of wildlife laws can be dealt with the utmost strictness in the future too.

In Germany, smuggling of wildlife can result up to five years of imprisonment and a fine of DM100,000. In a major wildlife trade case in December 2000, a German national was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for smuggling CITES protected live animals for zoos and wildlife parks. However, even though prosecution stated this case involved organised criminal activity, the prosecution charges on organised crime were dismissed.

Another widespread problem identified at the workshop is that violations of the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations are often deemed insignificant and therefore the appropriate application of the law is only rarely used. Too often illegal wildlife trade is only considered a petty crime and smugglers get away with just minor

warnings. For example, in the UK a trader offering many shahtoosh shawls was fined only £UK1,500 for shawls that were worth around £UK353,000.

The lack of such coordination and awareness in the past has been a factor allowing some of the most extreme criminal violators to go unpunished. The workshop offered examples of such cases, where non-citizen smugglers managed to evade punishment. These examples seriously undermine international efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade. The EU, as one of the largest marketplaces for wild animals and plants, should acknowledge its responsibility and ensure that wildlife trade crime is adequately prosecuted and penalties fit the seriousness of the crime.

Recognizing that penalties are an important part of the equation, the workshop highlighted recently designed national programs for calculating monetary and other penalties. These mechanisms could form the basis of the sentencing guidelines (depending on national law) and also form a part of a more general

framework on how countries can improve the effectiveness of their awareness in protected or threatened species.

Workshop participants also offered several examples of international cooperation, where the same type of violations have been successfully stopped and the violators penalized. Three examples of developing specialised prosecutors for environmental crime were highlighted, showing the value of having a centre of expertise for dealing with these specialised cases. The participants focused on the need for EU members to recognize and learn from these examples, and to develop co-operation mechanisms as a more permanent part of the arsenal for combating illegal wildlife trade. In this way, the EU can take its place as an example of the next steps in the evolution of international wildlife protection.

The proceedings of the workshop will be available in April 2002. For more information, please contact Monika Anton at TRAFFIC Europe. For contact details see page 16.

In the black:

Study on American black bear completed

A TRAFFIC North America report titled "In the Black: Status, Management, and Trade of the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) in North America" will be released later this month. This will complete TRAFFIC North America's nearly 10-year effort to examine conservation issues surrounding the American black bear. Today, the American Black Bear is the only bear species out of the eight worldwide that is thriving throughout most of its range. Nevertheless, interest towards the species continues to be a priority issue among conservationists. Chief among the concerns was that North America's black bear population could come under increased pressure from poachers to replace the dwindling supply of parts available from other species. Because most Asian bear populations are now endangered, a new source for the continuing demand for bear parts, primarily for use in traditional Asian medicines, might be the American Black Bear.

In the early 1990s, apprehension that bear parts from protected Asian bears were entering trade falsely labeled as unprotected American Black Bears led to national and international action to prevent this practice. In 1992, the CITES parties agreed to list the American black bear on CITES Appendix II. The listing came under the "look-alike" provision of the Convention, which imposes documentation requirements for export and reexport of all bears and their parts so that trade in Asian bear parts could not occur under the guise of mislabeling the parts as derived from the American black bear.

The 1996 Black Bear Questionnaire

TRAFFIC North America's first study that compiled results of surveys carried out in 1989 to monitor black bear populations, regulations on legal harvest, and information about legal and illegal trade in North America was followed by a second survey in 1992 covering the species status in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These two surveys together with the latest survey, 'the 1996 Black Bear Questionnaire', provide comprehensive data and information over an extended period on the status and trade of the species.

The 1996 Questionnaire was sent to state, provincial, and territorial wildlife management agencies in July 1997 and responses were received from a total of 46 U.S. states and 10 Canadian provinces and territories. The requested information covered the years 1992 to 1995 and included questions on population status and trends, legal status and hunting

regulations, annual harvests, the significance and trends of black bear trade, and the effectiveness or perceived effectiveness of law enforcement in addressing illegal trade of black bear parts.

The information gathered from the questionnaire revealed an encouraging picture of the status of the American black bear in the United States and Canada. But the study also suggests some specific areas where actions should be taken to further the cause of conserving North America's black bears. The report focuses on four major issues: the status of the species; American black bear management; trade in bears and bear parts; and poaching, law enforcement, and penalties.

Status

The estimates of black bear population in the USA were higher in 1996 survey (735,000-941,000) than they were in 1988 (625,000-757,500). During the same period, Canada's black bear population estimate rose from 372,500-382,500 to 396,000-476,000.

Little information is available regarding the status of the black bear in Mexico. In 2000, however, Mexico established a committee to study protection, conservation, and recovery issues of the American black bear. This may serve as a vehicle to address the current lack of data.

Management

The information provided to TRAFFIC indicates that in 1992 approximately 40,000 bears per year were

killed. In the 1996 survey the figure showed an increase of approximately 10,000 bears per year, which is consistent with the estimated increase in population over that time period.

The 1996 study showed that an average of more than 2,000 black bears per year were killed through nuisance animal control, road kills, poaching, and other human-caused mortality. The majority of states, provinces, and territories require a specific license or tag to hunt black bears. Only 15 U.S. states prohibit the killing of black bears under almost all circumstances, and two of those have recently considered opening hunting

American Black Bear
(*Ursus Americanus*)



TRAFFIC

seasons because of the growth of their bear populations. Sale of black bear licenses generated significant revenue for a number of jurisdictions. These revenues can contribute significantly to black bear conservation.

All but one U.S. state requires hunters to report the take of black bears, while mandatory reporting is less prevalent in Canada. TRAFFIC found that little effort is made during the obligatory reporting process in either country to determine the extent to which gallbladders and other parts from legally harvested bears might be entering trade. Most jurisdictions utilize reporting requirements simply to record the age and sex of the animals for research and management purposes or to determine when hunting quotas have been met.

An effort to harmonize reporting requirements and require sealing or marking of parts in a consistent way could provide useful information regarding the legal bear trade while helping to combat illegal trade.

Trade

Black bear gallbladders and other parts are used by a number of different groups for various purposes, including traditional Asian medicine, food, souvenirs or curios, jewelry, trophies and taxidermy, and Native American ceremonies. Live bears are used in zoos, wildlife parks, and other collections or displays.

A range of laws govern the trade in black bears and black bear parts. Federal laws control interstate, interprovincial, interterritorial, and international trade, while state, provincial, and territorial laws control sale within those jurisdictions.

States, provinces, and territories have moved to tighten restrictions on trade in recent years, with a growing number banning the sale of gallbladders and other parts. Sale of gallbladders and paws is illegal in the vast majority of jurisdictions. The majority of jurisdictions overall also prohibit sale of claws and teeth. Laws regarding sale of hides are far less restrictive. Four U.S. states and one Canadian province have no laws governing the bear trade. Though these jurisdictions have no black bear populations, TRAFFIC remains concerned that they may still have involvement in the trade.

For example, one of the four states in the USA, Illinois, reported trade, and other jurisdictions reported Illinois as a destination for black bear parts. This is a gap in the overall legal framework in North America that TRAFFIC believes should be remedied.

Markets for black bears and black bear parts exist in North America and overseas. Nine U.S. states and four Canadian provinces reported the existence of external markets for gallbladders, with some of these in Asia and others primarily in Asian communities in North America. Varying numbers of states, provinces, and territories also reported external markets for parts besides gallbladders.

Twenty-one U.S. states and 7 Canadian provinces and territories reported local markets for black bears and their parts. The most widely used parts were carcasses and hides, for which local markets were reported in 24 jurisdictions. Twelve jurisdictions reported markets for gallbladders, 14 for paws, 19 for skulls, 17 for teeth, 20 for claws, and 8 for live bears.

Prices for some black bear parts reported in the 1996 survey increased from those reported in 1992, while others remained relatively stable. Reported prices also varied considerably. For example, in the USA estimated prices received by hunters for gallbladders ranged from USD20 to USD300, and for retailers from USD250 to USD1,000. Because trade is illegal in most places, it is difficult to firmly establish a price. TRAFFIC believes that further work needs to be done by wildlife management authorities and law enforcement agencies to understand the price dynamics of the bear trade.

TRAFFIC also concluded that further laws banning all trade in bear gallbladders or other parts at the national level are currently unnecessary. Concerns exist that closing legal markets may have the unintended consequence of raising prices in the underground market and perhaps stimulating poaching and illegal trade. In addition, TRAFFIC is concerned that expending the necessary resources to enforce such a ban could detract from the

conservation of other species that are far more endangered or threatened by trade or for other reasons.

TRAFFIC believes that public agencies and private organizations should increase efforts to heighten consumer awareness within North America and abroad about what is legal and illegal with regard to trade in bear parts, the potential impacts of trade on bear populations, and the availability and efficacy of medicinally acceptable substitutes for bear parts.

Poaching, law enforcement, and penalties

Illegal hunting remains poorly documented, with some jurisdictions not maintaining careful records of arrests, convictions, and seizures of black bear parts. In some cases incidents of black bear poaching are not recorded separately from those involving other species, which makes it difficult or impossible to determine how many reported poaching cases involve black bears. Not enough information was available to draw any firm estimates of how many bears are taken illegally in a given year. While in most of the reporting jurisdictions the numbers were fairly small, more needs to be learned about this subject.

TRAFFIC's 1996 survey found incidents in a number of states and provinces of carcasses being found with only the paws and gallbladder removed, which suggests that the motive was to obtain those parts, in all likelihood for trade. Commercial poaching rings were also exposed during the survey period, and investigations into others were ongoing. But to draw the conclusion that bear poaching is the result of illegal trade pressure, or that illegal trade is necessarily the end result of poaching, is to overgeneralize a complex subject.

TRAFFIC found that actual penalties given to offenders often fell far below the maximum allowed under the law, and some jurisdictions have no laws or penalties set at all. TRAFFIC concluded that an effort should be made to increase possible penalties in jurisdictions where they are weak, and to encourage prosecutors and judicial authorities to use the laws to impose penalties that actually serve as true deterrents to illegal take and trade.

TRAFFIC North America will continue to closely monitor the status, management, and trade of the American black bear, and to advocate on behalf of measures to maintain the abundance of the species.

For the report and recommendations, please contact TRAFFIC North America, (contact details on page 16) or visit TRAFFIC website at www.traffic.org for

Seized bear parts.



TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC celebrates 25 years of conservation action

A gathering marking TRAFFIC's 25th anniversary was held at London Zoo, on the 27th of November 2002 almost exactly on the site where TRAFFIC occupied its first "official" desk space in 1976. The event was attended by nearly 100 representatives from government agencies, conservation organisations, foundations, donor institutions, WWF, IUCN and other partner organisations.

The Minister for the Environment, the Rt Hon *Michael Meacher* MP, delivered a keynote praising TRAFFIC's efforts in assisting in CITES implementation internationally since its establishment.

"The support you have given countries to help them reduce the threat that trade poses to wildlife species is widely recognised and much appreciated," Meacher said. "Your professional and impartial analyses of trade patterns and your assessments of the impact of that trade on particular species has been invaluable." Meacher added that he was also impressed by TRAFFIC's efforts to promote dialogue between conservationists and wildlife retailers and consumers.

At the event Meacher announced a number of actions to boost enforcement of wildlife trade regulations in the country. Among these was also funding support for TRAFFIC's enforcement work carried out in UK, and progress in the establishment of the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

Also present at the event was *Mr Achim Steiner*, Director-General of IUCN and *Dr Christopher Hails*, Programme Director of WWF. Hails said that TRAFFIC's work has gone well beyond just addressing smuggling. "It is engaging important areas right at the interface where humans interact with nature."

Steiner said that TRAFFIC's most impressive success was how it has become a voice for rational dialogue and systematic action. "TRAFFIC's work is not only about preventing trade but also enabling trade."

TRAFFIC Executive Director *Steven Broad* concluded by stressing that TRAFFIC is committed to building on its experience so far to play a strong role in ensuring that wildlife trade 25 years from now is not as great a conservation concern as it is today.



Left (top): the Rt Hon *Michael Meacher* MP; WWF Programme Director *Christopher Hails*, Right (top): Director-General of IUCN *Achim Steiner*; TRAFFIC Executive Director *Steven Broad* and his predecessor, Senior Vice President of Conservation International *Jorgen Thomsen*; Right: First Regional Director of TRAFFIC Oceania *Frank Antram*, CITES Deputy Secretary General *Jim Armstrong* and TRAFFIC Funding Development Officer *Elizabeth Scoggins*;
Below: TRAFFIC alumni, staff from past and present



On the date TRAFFIC launched a special website looking at 25 years of TRAFFIC's work across the globe, featuring also an on-line donation facility that can be located at www.traffic.org.

TRAFFIC publications and posters were displayed at the event and an anniversary issue of *Dispatches* was made available marking the passing of 25 years of conservation action of TRAFFIC.

Road to CoP12 Santiago, Chile



2002

- 8-12 April** 18th meeting of the Animals Committee of CITES, San José, Costa Rica
- 6 May** TRAFFIC CoP12 Conference Room launched at www.traffic.org
- 13-17 May** 12th meeting of the Plants Committee of CITES, Leiden, the Netherlands
- 6 June** Deadline for submission of amendment proposals, draft resolutions and other documents for consideration at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES
- 9 September** IUCN/SSC and TRAFFIC Analyses of Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices published in English on the IUCN website (www.iucn.org)
- 13 September** TRAFFIC Recommendations on Proposals to Amend the Appendices published in English on the TRAFFIC website (www.traffic.org)
- 3-15 November** 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, Santiago, Chile

TRAFFIC staff thank the following supporters for their contributions to our work during December 2001 - February 2002:

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TRAFFIC DISPATCHES

Number 20 February 2003

Hot trade in cool creatures:

Live reptile trade in the European Union

by Karin Berkhoudt, Research Officer, TRAFFIC Europe

Live chameleons, snakes and other reptiles have become increasingly fashionable as pets. They are caught in tropical and temperate countries, and traded to shops worldwide. The European Union (EU) is the second-largest market after the USA and hence European hobbyists may have an impact on populations of reptiles in the wild.

To gain better understanding of the live reptile trade in the EU, TRAFFIC Europe examined the trade over a period of five years by collecting information through market surveys, visits to trade fairs, interviews and literature research, as well as an analysis of trade data available from 1990s. The study, which covers trade in non-CITES as well as CITES-listed species, is now nearing completion and its results will be published later this spring.

The EU market for live reptiles is diverse and trends can change quickly. For example, the demand for commercially produced colour morphs, especially snakes and geckos, has increased over the last decade and this is likely to have reduced the pressure on wild populations.

Owing to a lack of comprehensive trade data it is difficult to assess the extent of the trade in non-CITES species. Based on data collected by TRAFFIC, it is estimated that the ratio of CITES-listed to non-CITES species in trade in the EU is around 3:7. Among the non-CITES species in trade in the EU were species classified as critically endangered by the

IUCN Red List (2002), such as the Cyclades Blunt-nosed Viper *Macrovipera schweizeri* and Roti Island Snake-necked Turtle *Chelodina mccordi*.

On average, more than 130 000 live CITES-listed reptiles were imported annually to the EU from 1990 to 1999. During this period demand boomed and EU imports increased by over 300%, from about 60 000 specimens in 1990 to 225 000 in 1999. Shipments contained a range of 273 species from 22 different reptile families. Around 45% of the specimens were declared captive-bred.

The Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* comprised 45% of all imports, of which 85% were reported captive-bred specimens from Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. The most significant supplier countries of wild-caught specimens such as geckos, chameleons, pythons and monitor lizards were Madagascar, Ghana and Togo. The main EU importers were Spain and Germany, each importing a total of around 300 000 specimens between 1990 and 1999, followed by the Netherlands, France, the UK and Belgium, each importing around 150 000 specimens.

In general, CITES-listed species were found to be more expensive than non-CITES species, the highest price observed was for one Angolan Python *Python anchieta* (EUR10 226). High prices and the increasing demand of wide variety of species in trade are strong incentives to



Reptile trade fair, Nimwegen, Germany; left *Chameleon melleri*

import live reptiles illegally. Unscrupulous traders that wish to abuse customs controls can use the confusion around reptile taxonomy as an excuse for mis-declared specimens.

According to CITES trade data between 1990 and 1999, 10 128 specimens were seized by EU Member States upon importation. Levels of penalty currently in place in some EU Member States in case of violation of wildlife trade regulations are insufficient to deter these illegal activities effectively. Enhanced co-operation between stakeholders, including governments and commercial partners in the EU and range States, is essential to promote sustainable levels of collection and discourage illegal trade practices.

For future updates on the report, see www.traffic.org.

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Special section: TRAFFIC East Asia

Ashish Bodasing

TRAFFIC is greatly saddened by the untimely loss of Ashish Bodasing on 15 January 2003 at the age of 35. He died of heart failure at his home in Johannesburg, South Africa. Nearly 11 years ago, Ashish joined TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa and, at the time of his death, was a Senior Programme officer. Ashish's career, while short, was nonetheless remarkable for its achievement. Ashish will undoubtedly be best remembered for his lead role in capacity building and training initiatives within Africa and beyond. In this regard, he was instrumental in setting up the ivory stock management programmes in Botswana and Zimbabwe, wildlife permit databases in South Africa and Tanzania, and law enforcement assistance initiatives in Zambia, Djibouti, and Laos. Ashish brought innovation, technology and humanistic values to all of his work and he was at the forefront of many of TRAFFIC's greatest successes. Ashish, your colleagues at TRAFFIC salute you at this moment of passing.

Staff news

Director of Operations starts at TRAFFIC International

Marcus Phipps joined TRAFFIC International as the network's new Director of Operations in mid-August 2002. Marcus joined TRAFFIC at the beginning of 1995 as head of the Taiwan office of TRAFFIC East Asia. He became Deputy Director of TRAFFIC East Asia in 1998, worked as Acting Regional Director during 2000 and again as Deputy Director in Hong Kong, while helping TRAFFIC International with the network finance systems capacity-building project. Marcus's new role covers a range of financial and administrative management issues; a new post at TRAFFIC International that greatly strengthens the network's institutional capacity.

James Compton started as Director at TRAFFIC Southeast Asia in mid-July 2002. James joined TRAFFIC in January 1999 as head of the Indochina office of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia after a previous career in journalism. He then worked as Senior Programme Officer at TRAFFIC Oceania from April 2000 until commencing in his current post.

Julie Thomson, the Representative for Indochina has been appointed the new Deputy Director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia in October 2002.

Rob Parry-Jones started his work as the Co-ordinator of a TRAFFIC Oceania CITES Capacity Building project based in Suva, Fiji in January 2003. Prior to this post, Rob worked in TRAFFIC East Asia Regional Office as the Senior Programme Officer.

Alexandre Affre, Research Officer, moved from TRAFFIC Europe-France to TRAFFIC Europe Regional Office in Brussels in February 2003.

Welcome

June 2002

Pavel Fomenko started his work as part-time Russian Far East Representative of TRAFFIC Europe-Russia.

Mats Forslund started his work as Programme Officer in TRAFFIC Europe's new national office in Sweden.

Nicholas Phoon joined TRAFFIC Oceania as a new Programme Officer.

August 2002

Megan Whelan joined TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-South Africa as the Assistant Research Officer.

September 2002

Zeenith Md. Abdullah started as Finance and Administration Officer at TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

Alexandre Shestakov commenced his work as National Representative of TRAFFIC Europe-Russia Programme.

October 2002

Attila Steiner started as Co-ordinator and Katalin Kecse-Nagy as Assistant of the new TRAFFIC Europe Candidate Countries Programme.

Sware Semesi started as a Research Officer of TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-Tanzania office.

Tina Leonard joined TRAFFIC North America as the Senior Administrative Assistant.

Verity Saunders joined TRAFFIC International as the Accounts Officer to cover Tammy Tam's maternity leave.

January 2003

Wolfgang Kathe joined TRAFFIC Europe Regional Office as a Senior Research Officer.

Goodbye

Josephine Mremi, Programme Officer, left TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa-Tanzania in June 2002.

Christopher Robbins, Senior Programme Officer, left TRAFFIC North America in June 2002.

Elizabeth Scoggins, Funding Development Officer, left TRAFFIC International in July 2002.

Janet Ong, Office Administrator, left TRAFFIC Southeast Asia in September 2002.

Peter Paul van Dijk, Senior Programme Officer, left TRAFFIC Southeast Asia in October 2002.

Lorena Hidalgo, Administrative Assistant, left TRAFFIC South America in December 2002.

Fumihito Muto, Regional Fisheries Officer, left TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan in February 2003.

*

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

TRAFFIC Dispatches is published to keep partners and supporters informed about our activities and accomplishments. TRAFFIC works in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

TRAFFIC

is a joint programme of



IUCN
The World Conservation Union

TRAFFIC Europe expands programme in Hungary and Sweden

On the first of October 2002, *Attila Steiner* started his work as Co-ordinator of the new TRAFFIC Europe Candidate Countries Programme. The new programme office is hosted by WWF Hungary in Budapest and will focus its work on five countries that are soon to accede to the European Union: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.

The office will assist relevant authorities in their CITES implementation and enforcement efforts as well as in the preparation of the EU accession. To this end, the office will provide technical

support and expertise among other tasks to ensure that the candidate countries are adequately assisted in their efforts to reduce illegal wildlife trade along their borders, soon to become those of EU.

Prior to joining TRAFFIC, Attila worked for the WWF Hungary Programme Office where he was designing a number of nature conservation projects focusing on river and forest management.

The establishment of the new office has been made possible through the financial support of the Austrian Government, WWF Austria and TRAFFIC Europe.

TRAFFIC Europe-Candidate Countries Programme Office opening ceremony was held on 22 October, 2002.

From left: Attila Steiner, TRAFFIC; Katalin Rodics, CITES Management Authority, Hungary; Marcus Ferenc, WWF-Hungary

A new TRAFFIC office in Stockholm was opened in October 2002 and is hosted by WWF-Sweden. The office is led by Mats Forslund, who has, since the late 1980s, been investigating the illegal wildlife trade in Sweden, particularly the wild bird trade. Mats will now spend 80% of his time for TRAFFIC examining trade concerns in Sweden and in other Nordic countries.

This development is linked to a new funding arrangement affecting TRAFFIC as a whole. Through the hard work of WWF Sweden, TRAFFIC has been included as one of the beneficiaries of a new three-year funding package to WWF from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - SIDA. Together with a new pledge of additional direct support from WWF Sweden over the next three years, the SIDA money will provide over one million Swedish Krona (USD107 000) a year to support general programme funds of TRAFFIC offices in Southeast Asia, East Asia, East/Southern Africa and Sweden.

-- Laurie Kint, Communications and Administration Officer, TRAFFIC Europe



Timber: In harmony with CITES?

A TRAFFIC report titled *In harmony with CITES* released in October 2002 focuses on Malaysia as a case study to review the challenges to effective implementation of a CITES timber listing and recommend approaches to overcome the constraints, both perceived and actual, that were found. For example, the report identified a number of legal issues that need to be addressed and is calling for new regulations that will address the appointment of relevant CITES agencies, and administration, management and enforcement for CITES species.

The report also identifies the great need for co-ordination between agencies that are implementing CITES timber species, as well as those with the potential or expertise to assist in implementing CITES. These include the Department of

Agriculture, Department of Forests in all the States, Malaysian Timber Industry Board, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, Customs, and Wildlife Departments.

Such co-ordination is vital in enhancing enforcement efforts for timber species and ensuring that the relevant agencies, such as Customs, can improve their ability to control and prosecute timber-related crimes, both within the country and internationally. Efforts to monitor timber trade data also need to be co-ordinated so that it can be put to much greater use in, for example, detecting instances of illegal timber harvest and trade.

More research is needed to gather information that can help determine whether trade in CITES-listed species is detrimental to the survival of species. Current research plans for forest species in Malaysia need to devote efforts towards research on tree species found in Malaysia that can benefit from using some form of eco-labelling, including the possible use of CITES Appendix II listing.

TRAFFIC is calling for the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, the only CITES Scientific Authority in Malaysia, to co-ordinate these efforts with the relevant agencies and organisations in the country.

The report identifies a number of steps forward that would help countries to put to rest the misconception that CITES is just an international trade ban. When implemented effectively, CITES can help facilitate the controls, processes and tools that will assist countries in managing their timber resources so that species' populations do not reach the point where trade bans may be the only conservation option left.

For full copy of the report, visit www.traffic.org. A Spanish version of the report will be available later this month. It will be distributed to South America region, to support among others implementation efforts of a recent inclusion of Big-leaf Mahogany to CITES Appendix II (see page 4). The report was generously supported by Environment Fund of UK Foreign and Commonwealth office.



Significant progress made for timber and fisheries conservation at CITES CoP12

Landmark decisions to regulate international timber and marine fisheries trades under the auspices of CITES were endorsed at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP12) held in Santiago, Chile in November 2002. CITES proved once and for all to be a key tool to complement other conservation and management measures, both at national and international level, for commercially important wildlife resources.

Acceptance of the proposal to list Big-leaf Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla* in Appendix II, first attempted ten years ago, was a major step towards sustainable management of this valuable tropical timber species. It is hoped that implementation efforts resulted from the listing will greatly support efforts to reduce unsustainable and illegal logging in the range states of South and Central America. The challenge now is to demonstrate that CITES Appendix II can help to prevent Big-leaf Mahogany suffering the same fate met by other American mahoganies (*Swietenia humilis* and *S. mahagoni*), which reached commercial extinction levels some years ago.

Appendix II listings of the world's two largest fish species, whale sharks and basking sharks, together with support given for international efforts to improve management of sharks and develop complementary ways of action to assist the implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) strengthened global commitment to find long-term conservation solutions for sharks fisheries. Parties directed the CITES Animals Committee to review in the future progress towards IPOA implementation with also a request for the Management Authorities of CITES to collaborate with their national customs authorities.

For the first time, Parties to CITES also committed to action on a large-scale

commercially exploited marine fish.

Despite the withdrawal of a proposal to list highly valuable and threatened Patagonian Toothfish in Appendix II of the Convention, the Parties endorsed a resolution aimed to boost efforts to control trade in Patagonian Toothfish and support the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in its efforts to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU). While welcoming these steps taken by CITES, concern remains whether this collaboration can move forward rapidly and effectively enough to address the imminent threat this commercially valuable species is facing from illegal fishing.

Thirty-two species of seahorse that are threatened by demand for traditional medicines, curios and the aquarium trade were also approved for Appendix II listing.

At CoP12, elephants proved once more to be a controversial issue. In the end, a proposal was accepted by the Parties allowing for controlled one-off sales of existing ivory stocks from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa (20, 20 and 30 tonnes of ivory respectively). These sales are strictly conditional and will go ahead earliest in May 2004 and only once monitoring baselines have been established under MIKE - Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants - in both African and Asian elephant range states.

The first analytical report on the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), the other of the two CITES monitoring mechanisms set up to guide decisions relevant to trade in elephant products, was presented to the Parties by TRAFFIC. The results showed an increase in ivory seizures since 1998, linking it to demand of ivory in China among other factors. The report also identified number of other countries of concern and the Parties agreed a formal mechanism to assess control measures applied in these countries. Further analysis of ETIS will be reported back to the Parties at CoP13.

The listing of 26 Asian species of tortoises and freshwater turtles on Appendix II marked also significant progress made in species conservation efforts to date. A resolution on Asian big cats was also accepted, calling for better protection and further action by the Parties to control poaching and illegal trade of Leopard, Snow Leopard and Clouded Leopard.

In total, 49 species proposals were considered and about 100 species added to the CITES Appendices at CoP12. Now the challenge for CITES is to implement effectively the decisions taken by Parties through stronger international collaboration and sound conservation and economic strategies reflecting wider sustainable development goals and socio-economic factors. TRAFFIC will continue to build on these successes and seek long-term conservation solutions for commercially exploited wildlife resources.

A full TRAFFIC report on CoP12 will be published in *TRAFFIC Bulletin Vol.19 No.3* later this year. To learn more about TRAFFIC's efforts on key issues highlighted above, see briefing documents and other TRAFFIC documents available at www.traffic.org/cop12.

TRAFFIC CoP12 communications work was generously supported by *The Rufford Foundation* and *WWF Species Target Driven Programme*.



Working towards sustainable development

by Teresa Mulliken, Research and Policy Co-ordinator, TRAFFIC International

Although better known for its efforts to stem illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade, TRAFFIC has an equally important programme of work aimed at addressing wildlife trade within the wider context of sustainable development. This includes increasing understanding of the socioeconomic forces underlying the wildlife trade, researching the role wildlife trade plays in supporting rural livelihoods, and examining how market-based tools such as product certification schemes can be used to benefit both wildlife and people.

Much of TRAFFIC's work on resource security thus far has been linked to the use of wild species for medicine and food. TRAFFIC's work on the medicinal plant trade documented the importance that wild plants play in traditional and western healthcare systems. Based on this research, TRAFFIC staff in East Asia, Europe, India and South America have convened stakeholder dialogues involving representatives from governments, conservation, healthcare, development and other organizations to identify means of securing the future of both wild plants and the healthcare practices dependent on them (see *Dispatches No19*). Work in East/Southern Africa has demonstrated the critical role that wild animal species play in the diets of both rural and urban dwellers, expanding understanding of the 'bushmeat crisis' as a human as well as a conservation concern. TRAFFIC has been collaborating with IUCN-The World Conservation Union and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to bring this message to a wider group of stakeholders.

More recently, TRAFFIC has been working in partnership with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to examine the

livelihood impacts of wildlife trade controls, including those used under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The resulting report, *Making a Killing or Making a Living? Wildlife Trade, Trade Controls and Rural Livelihoods*, was released in mid-2002, and its findings presented at a workshop at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in August 2002. Among the reports conclusions was identification of a need for stronger linkages between the implementation of CITES, with its strong conservation mandate, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, with its wider focus on linking biodiversity use to achieving sustainable development.

As part of the follow-up to this report, TRAFFIC has been working with IUCN, ResourceAfrica and Fauna & Flora International (FFI) to build support for a workshop seeking greater CITES-CBD linkages. A similar partnership also involving IIED is working to bring greater attention to the issue of economic incentives within CITES decision-making. This group has offered to assist the CITES Secretariat in responding to the decision agreed at the most recent CITES meeting (CoP12) calling for a workshop to develop a research methodology to examine the interaction of incentives and policy, and the subsequent impact on conservation and livelihoods.

Another key task in the coming year will be to strengthen the capacity of the TRAFFIC network to understand the economic aspects of the trade in wildlife resources critical to human needs. TRAFFIC will continue to seek support for this and other work related to sustainable development through partnerships with governments, NGOs and others.

A Note of Precaution

TRAFFIC has also teamed up with IUCN, FFI and Resource Africa to examine the application of the 'precautionary principle' to the use, trade and management of wild species. The initial project, made possible by a grant from IUCN's IIIC Fund, looks set to lead to a larger programme of work, including a broad 'situation analysis', case studies in developing countries and regional workshops.

Madagascar: Increasing knowledge - decreasing detriment

TRAFFIC International is leading a new programme in Madagascar aimed to help government authorities improve the country's management of wildlife trade. The work is being carried out on behalf of the CITES Secretariat and with additional funding support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

Madagascar is a key centre of biodiversity: 80% of its 10 000-12 000 plant species are endemic, as are 46% of its birds, 91% of reptiles, 99% of amphibians and 67% of its mammals. The value of this unique flora and fauna presents both opportunities and risks in terms of wildlife trade. Over recent years, scrutiny of Madagascar's substantial wildlife exports under the CITES Significant Trade Project revealed that all too often, exports of individual species were being permitted in the absence of clear evidence about possible conservation impacts. Attempts to introduce better controls have been badly undermined by illegal trade.

Launched officially in mid-February 2003 during a visit to Madagascar by the CITES Secretary General and TRAFFIC's Executive Director, the new programme takes a comprehensive approach to management of Madagascar's exports of CITES-listed species - the first time that such a country-level approach has been employed under the auspices of the CITES Animals and Plants Committees. The programme was welcomed by the new Minister of Environment, Water and Forests, *M. Sylvian Rabotoarison*, and will begin with a comprehensive situation analysis followed by a workshop in May 2003 where a strategy will be agreed to define remedial actions and elaborate resource needs. TRAFFIC is committed to assisting the implementation process that will follow.

Medicinal
plants
sold in
Bogota,
Colombia.



TRAFFIC South America

Ninety-one
per cent of
Madagascar's
reptiles are
endemic.
Here a
juvenile
Chameleon
*Calumna
globifer*,
which is listed
in CITES
Appendix II.



Chris Tappin

South America's role in the global catch and trade of Patagonian Toothfish

A lack of co-ordination of fishing activities between South American countries targeting highly valuable Patagonian Toothfish could be contributing to the severe pressure the species faces globally from unregulated fishing. A new TRAFFIC South America study examines the fisheries activities and trade in the region and calls for urgent dialogue between South American countries to develop much needed management measures to achieve sustainable-use goals for the fishery and trade of the species in the region.

A report titled *Fishery Activities and Trade of Patagonian Toothfish in South America: A Regional Perspective* analyses information for each of the five countries in the region engaged in the catch and/or trade of toothfish: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay.

Chile is the world's largest producer of toothfish products, with the majority of the catch taken from within its national waters. Around 80% of Chile's toothfish catch is exported to Japan and the USA and is worth USD90 million per year. Eighty-five per cent of Argentina's toothfish product is exported to Japan and the USA, and toothfish products provide earnings of USD30-36 million per year. Uruguay has significantly increased capture of the species over the past five years with catches climbing from 163 1997 to 5 000 t in 2001. Almost all of that catch is taken in high sea areas beyond Uruguay's national waters. The other two

countries included in this study, Brazil and Peru, have not engaged in extensive commercial fishing for Patagonian Toothfish to date, however both have plans to expand into the fishery in the near future.

"We have found two main weaknesses in the management of the Patagonian Toothfish resource in the South American region" said *Anita Sancho*, co-author of the report from TRAFFIC South America. "First, at the national level, the regulatory response of governments has often struggled to keep pace with the rapid expansion of the commercial fishery targeting this valuable resource, leading to conflict between fishing sectors and declining catch rates. Second, at the regional level, there is no co-ordinated approach to the conservation and sustainable use of Patagonian Toothfish in waters beyond those governed by the Commission for the Conservation of

Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)."

A major step towards more effective management of Patagonian Toothfish fisheries was achieved last November, when the 160 Parties to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) agreed to co-operate with CCAMLR to strengthen controls over international trade in toothfish products. As over 90% of toothfish products enter into international trade such co-operation will assist to reduce the significant threat posed to the species from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. All five South American countries included in the new study are parties to both CITES and CCAMLR (see page 4).

As in the case of earlier TRAFFIC studies on Patagonian and Antarctic Toothfish, the South American study concludes that there remain uncertainties surrounding catch and trade information for toothfish and makes a number of recommendations to address this problem and to strengthen decisions on management measures for the species.

Regardless of the information gaps that still exist, there is little doubt that Patagonian Toothfish stocks are rapidly declining and urgent action is needed to ensure the sustainability of this vulnerable species and to secure the future of the legitimate industry that depends on it. Recommendations contained in the report are aimed to support efforts in South America to develop regional management measures as well as strengthen national ones.

For more information on the study contact TRAFFIC South America, or visit <http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/toothfish1.pdf> for a full copy of the report. The production of this report was supported by David and Lucile Packard Foundation.



Patagonian toothfish processing plant in Peru.

East Asia: A quarter of the world

TRAFFIC

東亞野生生物貿易研究委員會
トラフィックイーストアジアジャパン
트래픽 동아시아

The Challenge

With a population of over 1.5 billion, East Asia is home to a quarter of the world's people. It holds a quarter of the world's economic power, as well. By helping to solve conservation challenges in East Asia, we help ensure sustainable use of a significant portion of the world's natural resources.

East Asia draws in a wide variety of products derived from wild plants and animals, particularly from its neighbours in Southeast Asia and the Russian Far East. This wildlife ranges from Tiger to musk deer and seahorse, to wild ginseng, orchids, and timber.

East Asia's people need basic commodities such as timber for housing and fish for food. They also have the economic power to buy luxuries, such as ivory and marine turtle shell. The challenge is to keep this trade in wildlife sustainable.

Japan is the world's second-largest economy and a major consumer of

wildlife. The "Tiger economies" of South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong are heavy consumers as well.

China supplies many of the wildlife products used in East Asia and throughout the world. It is the world's largest harvester of fish and the largest exporter of plant medicines. China also is a growing consumer, with increased wealth leading to greater use of both commodities and luxuries.

Since opening our first office in the region in 1982, TRAFFIC East Asia has worked with local and international partners to address the challenge of keeping this trade sustainable. There is still much to do, however. Policy-makers and frontline enforcement officers need more information to stop unsustainable and illegal trade. And consumers - as well as the industries that serve them - must learn that their purchasing decisions can decide the continued survival, or extinction, of endangered species.

Our role

TRAFFIC East Asia is part of the global TRAFFIC network with offices in 23 countries and territories. TRAFFIC works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Four approaches guide TRAFFIC East Asia's work:

- Producing objective information for a scientific approach to conservation.
- Providing tools and training to wildlife regulators through collaboration with frontline enforcement officers.
- Working with industry for voluntary measures to increase sustainability.
- Helping consumers know the environmental impact of their purchasing decisions.

The key to TRAFFIC East Asia's success is partnerships. We work with many groups, including government, industry, and consumers. Together, we make a difference.

The TRAFFIC East Asia regional office is in Hong Kong, with additional offices in Beijing, Taipei and Tokyo. In the following pages, we highlight recent achievements and ongoing initiatives in the region.



TRAFFIC East Asia works to ensure the sustainability of trade in wildlife.

One of our specialties is conservation of species used in traditional medicines. Over 80% of the world's traditional medicine comes from plants.

Here, plants collected in the wild are sold in Yunnan, China.

Working with practitioners of traditional medicine

TRAFFIC

F.A.O. / W.F.O.

東亞野生動物貿易研究委員會

トラフィックイーストアジアジャパン

트래픽 동아시아

Traditional medicines are used alongside "western" medicines in East Asia. Traditional medicines often use plants and animals harvested from the wild, and sometimes these are endangered.

TRAFFIC's recent survey of traditional medicine doctors in South Korea shows the effectiveness of consumer and industry awareness. Since TRAFFIC's initial work in South Korea, use of species such as tiger and rhinoceros has gone down. Doctors will prescribe substitutes if they are proven effective. This has led to TRAFFIC's work to find substitutes for endangered species used as medicine.

Eighty per cent of the world's traditional medicines are plants - with 40% of the world's exports coming from China, and 40% of the imports going to South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. TRAFFIC recently produced East Asia's first overview of this massive trade and, through both Chinese language and Korean language newsletters, we have

now entered dialogues with industry about international issues in conservation and sustainability.

With funding of over USD200 000 from the pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson and WWF, we are now expanding this work in China. A new Traditional Medicine Advisory Group, for example, aims to lead policy discussions about sustainability in China's use of traditional medicines. Members are drawn from across China's traditional medicine community.

TRAFFIC East Asia continually finds that the conservation community and the traditional medicine community share a mutual goal: to keep the wildlife resources of traditional medicine available for future generations.



Tiger bone medicines are now less prevalent in East Asia than a decade ago. This success has shown that East Asia's consumers can change, if given information and approached in the right way, respectful of the region's cultures and traditions.

Achieving sustainable fisheries

East Asia is both a major consumer and producer of fish. The world's fish stocks have declined dramatically in recent decades. Therefore, East Asia is essential to sustainability in the world's fish trade.

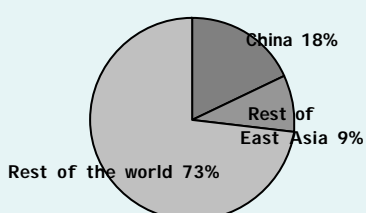
Early work by TRAFFIC East Asia centered on the trade in live reef fish for food. Our analysis of the trade in Hong Kong, and review of aquaculture in Taiwan, allowed for better regulation and

effective conservation actions.

Our current work has broadened to include issues as diverse as East Asia's trade in eels, China's sturgeon fisheries, Hong Kong's seahorse trade, and Taiwan's impact on whale shark populations. Funding partnerships have included The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Project Seahorse, and Taiwan's Council of Agriculture.

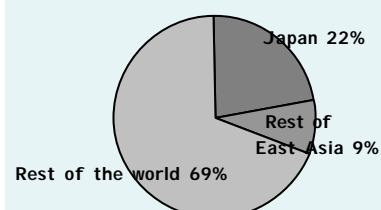
With support from the Packard Foundation, TRAFFIC recently began a review of the illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) trade in tuna. By describing IUU trade in tuna, we help regional fisheries organizations better regulate this resource. Finding complementary approaches to support regional fisheries organizations continues to be a key element in all TRAFFIC's fisheries work.

World volume of fish catch



East Asia is both the leading producer and consumer of the world's fish products. To resolve global issues of fishery decline, East Asia must be involved - particularly China and Japan. [Data from FAO, 1999]

World value of fish imports



Providing tools for regulators of wildlife trade

TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC

東亞野生動物貿易研究委員會

トラフィックイーストアジアジャパン

트래픽 동아시아

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is the principal guide for regulating trade in endangered species. All the countries and territories of East Asia have legislation to implement CITES, with the exception of North Korea.

TRAFFIC works with CITES Management Authorities in the region to develop jointly the tools they need, such as up-to-date training and good identification manuals. In partnership with the CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC continues to develop strategies for CITES capacity-building worldwide. In East Asia this is most clearly seen in China and Taiwan.

Sponsored by Taiwan's Council of Agriculture, we are developing a comprehensive training package for enforcers of Taiwan's wildlife trade laws. A similar initiative is underway in China,

in collaboration with the State Forestry Administration. The initial focus is on training packages for the CITES-sponsored Elephant Trade Information

A trainer's perspective of a CITES workshop held in Taipei in 2000:

"From the high-level discussions that took place with Deputy Director General of Customs, Chen Mao-ting, there was a definite willingness shown to have a closer working relationship with TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei. This can only bode well for the future."

Charles Mackay MBE

Senior Officer

CITES Enforcement Team

Her Majesty's Customs and Excise
Heathrow Airport, UK.

System, funded by a generous grant of USD30 000 from the Rufford Foundation. Furthermore, TRAFFIC East Asia is regularly invited to give training to Customs officers in Japan.

Recent publications include the Chinese-language Guide to CITES Plants in Trade for use by Customs officials and a CITES Checklist to find species' scientific names from their Chinese common names.

TRAFFIC also works with government officials and academic specialists to find proper controls for wildlife trade. In Japan and Taiwan, we have provided expertise when wildlife laws need to be strengthened. Currently, we are researching the implications for wildlife trade of China's accession to WTO, the World Trade Organization. In this way, TRAFFIC East Asia helps develop policies for the sustainable use of wildlife.

Applying the ecoregional approach

Wildlife species do not pay attention to national borders. The borders of "ecoregions," which are collections of ecosystems, bind them instead.

The use of these biological units, rather than administrative units, to guide resource management is an exciting new approach to conservation. TRAFFIC East Asia uses this new approach to monitor trade's impact in ecoregions such as the Yellow Sea, the Mountains of Southwest China, and the Indo-Burma "Hotspot".

In partnership with WWF, TRAFFIC East Asia has begun a socio-economic analysis of fisheries in the Yellow Sea,

bordering China and the Korean Peninsula. As wild fish stocks decrease, aquaculture increases. Aquaculture leads to habitat loss and the introduction of non-native species. Our analysis aims to find policy changes and positive economic incentives to protect and restore native species.

In the Mountains of Southwest China, TRAFFIC works with WWF and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. We are building a conservation alliance to protect traded species, such as traditional medicines and wild fungi.

We are also planning a monitoring

programme for the China/Indochina border. This will help regulators in both China and Indochina prevent illegal and unsustainable trade in wildlife from the Indo-Burma Hotspot. The ecoregion holds threatened species as varied as elephants, orchids, and turtles. For example, three quarters of Asia's species of freshwater turtles are threatened, including critically endangered species like the Arakan Forest Turtle, the Painted Terrapin, and the Burmese Star Tortoise, all native to this region. According to IUCN, the primary threat is trade.



The Mountains of Southwest China ecoregion is home to the most diverse temperate biodiversity in the world. Zhong Tai, the science officer for Baimaxueshan Nature Reserve, works with local villagers to develop easy methods to ensure sustainable collection of economic threatened species such as pine mushroom and "worm grass". Partnerships throughout the trade chain - from local villagers and reserve officials all the way to end consumers - are the best way to protect this ecoregion.

Get the word out!

Information is not meaningful unless it is understood and used. Communication is therefore key to success. TRAFFIC East Asia is committed to getting information to the consumers, producers, and government officials whose day-to-day actions can help - or harm - species in the wild.

We do this through several channels. Our research reports and professional manuals are targeted at government officials for use in policy and management.

Our newsletters, particularly those in Korean and Chinese, are targeted at the traditional medicine community, giving easy access to international trends in

conservation and sustainable use.

Our websites, in Japanese and Chinese, tell the public - East Asia's consumers - about issues of wildlife trade. The general public is also the target audience for TRAFFIC East Asia's Japanese-language newsletter.

These various tools have a single purpose: to build constructive dialogues between all stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use for wildlife resources. We already have much information to allow for effective conservation. We must make sure that information is widely available and in the language of the people who will make the difference.



For more information, please visit:

TRAFFIC in Japanese:

www.twics.com/~trafficj

TRAFFIC in Chinese:

www.wow.org.tw and www.wwfchina.org/traffic

TRAFFIC in English:

www.traffic.org

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A Survey of the Rhinoceros Beetle and Stag Beetle Market in Japan.

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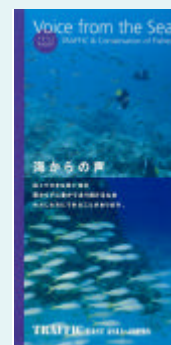
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Rob Parry-Jones and Joyce Wu. 2001. 34 pp. (English and Chinese.)

Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Endangered Species Used in Traditional East Asian Medicine: Substitutes for Tiger Bone and Musk

Sean Lam, Rita Chang, and Michael Song (eds.). 2001. 101 pp. (Chinese.)



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is a joint programme of



IUCN
The World Conservation Union

Management and trade of Whale Sharks in Taiwan

by Marcus Phipps, Director of Operations, TRAFFIC International and
Vincent Y. Chen, Senior Programme Officer, TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei

Taiwan is implementing the world's first Whale Shark harvest and trade monitoring system - an innovative and important step in the sustainable management of the fisheries resource. Despite these efforts, catch data from the Whale Shark Harvest Reporting System and market information from research released in a new TRAFFIC report titled *Management and Trade of Whale Sharks in Taiwan* raises the possibility of unreported or under-reported catches taking place or significant amounts of Whale Shark meat entering Taiwan's market through unofficial channels. The species is currently listed in the 'Vulnerable' category of the IUCN's 2002 Red List of Threatened Species and since last November, in Appendix II of CITES.

The Whale Shark *Rhincodon typus* is the largest fish on earth. The species is widely distributed in all tropical and warm temperate seas, but little is known of its biology, ecology or its life history. The species is currently listed in the 'Vulnerable' category of the IUCN's 2002 Red List of Threatened Species and since last November, also in Appendix II of CITES (see page 4).

Use of the Whale Shark for food is mainly for its meat and has been documented in Taiwan, India, and the Philippines. Work carried out by TRAFFIC in co-operation with researchers at National Taiwan Ocean University in 1996-1997 identified Taiwan as a major, and possibly the largest, market for Whale Shark meat.

As might be expected given its overall size, the Whale Shark has particularly large fins, but the fins are not considered to be good quality shark fin and there is little demand in the food trade for this product in Taiwan. Trade is supplied both by Taiwan's harvest and imports from other countries.

In 2001-2002, TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei carried out a comprehensive survey of Taiwan's Whale Shark trade and markets with funding from the *Taiwan Council of Agriculture's Fishery Administration* and *The David and Lucile Packard Foundation*. TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei's aim was to contribute to a better understanding of Whale Shark trade dynamics, facilitate domestic conservation efforts, and encourage the Taiwan authorities to develop and implement appropriate fishery and trade management regimes for the species.

The project involved market and trade surveys of Whale Shark meat in 14 counties and cities around Taiwan. Harvest data as well as available

international and domestic trade data were reviewed. A total of 1659 retail stalls selling fresh fish at 85 markets in larger urban areas and around recreational fishery harbours were surveyed as were 290 restaurants island-wide.

Preliminary results of the Taiwan survey were presented to a number of forums including an international conference, the *Shark Conference-Sustainable utilisation and conservation of sharks* in May 2002.

The report shows a discrepancy between catch data from the Harvest Reporting System and the large quantity of Whale Shark products on the market. This raises the possibility of unreported or under-reported catches taking place or significant amounts of Whale Shark meat entering Taiwan's market through unofficial channels.

In its recommendations, the report encourages Taiwan's authorities to strengthen its reporting system further with comprehensive catch and trade data. The report also concludes that special attention needs now to be given to development of an action plan for sharks in Taiwan.

The recommendations of the report build on Taiwan's ongoing efforts to

manage the Whale Shark trade better. Taiwan currently implements the world's first Whale Shark harvest and trade monitoring system - an innovative and important step in the sustainable management of the fisheries resource. Taiwan's Fisheries Administration has set up the species-specific, monitoring system for catch and trade of Whale Shark in order to provide information to underpin a Whale Shark management system. In July 2001 the Taiwan government introduced a Whale Shark Harvest Reporting System and in March 2001 established commodity codes specific to Whale Shark to monitor Taiwan's trade in this species. In July 2002, a catch limit of 80 Whale Sharks in 2002/03 was introduced.

TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei's work since 1996 has been instrumental in bringing the need for a management system to the attention of the authorities and continues to support the efforts towards improved management systems of Whale Sharks in Taiwan.

For the report and full recommendations, contact TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei or see www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/taiwan_whale.html.

Whale Shark
*Rhincodon
typus*



Black Gold:

Searching for a sustainable alternative to charcoal

by Rob Barnett, Senior Programme Officer and
Daniel Ndanyi, Research Officer, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa

Charcoal is a major source of fuel in East and Southern Africa, but its production is largely unsustainable. Ten tonnes of wood produces just one tonne of charcoal. Its production is ranked among the major forest depletion activities in the region. However, efforts to regulate production of charcoal or promote alternative sources of fuel seem to have failed. Four decades after independence 82% of Kenya's urban population still depends largely on charcoal.

Although regulatory legislation and a presidential ban on charcoal production in Kenya exists, the trade continues unabated – operating informally, underground and largely unmonitored. In the light of this information void and the critical nature of current exploitation, TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa initiated a project in Kenya to document the extent of charcoal use in its capital city, Nairobi, and to assess the feasibility of using biomass wastes to produce charcoal briquettes as a substitute for wild-produced lumpwood charcoal. The project was generously supported by *The Rufford Foundation*.

Baseline surveys revealed that Nairobi consumes approximately 91 250 t of charcoal annually, equating to the destruction of over 900 000 t of green wood each year. Owing to the informal and underground nature of the trade, around 70% of charcoal is transported at night in order to avoid forest guard and police personnel, as well as the requirement to bribe them.

The trade chain from rural producer to end market involves many players, each taking a substantial cut of the profit. Rural producers sell to transporters at KSH100 (USD1.3) per bag (approximately 40 kg per bag). Transporters then sell in Nairobi to wholesale charcoal depots for about KSH235 (USD3.01). These depots then sell to end market retail outlets (usually street vendors) for about KSH350 (USD4.49) per bag. Such outlets only sell in larger quantities, whereas end market retail outlets sell to consumers in small four-litre tins for approximately KSH20 (USD0.25) per tin resulting in the sale of one bag of charcoal for around KSH800 (USD10.25).

As such, charcoal typically passes through four middlemen before being consumed, and is responsible for ensuring the livelihoods of many, where little

alternative potential for formal employment exists. Profits involved are substantial, with transporters often making a net profit of some KSH47 250 (USD605) per trip, a medium sized wholesale depot KSH50 000 (USD641) per month, and individual street vendors KSH13 500 (USD173) per month. In contrast to national average wages of KSH3 400 (USD44) per month, charcoal represents an extremely important income earner, that after agriculture is the second highest contributor to the country's Gross National Product.

Charcoal is in such high demand from a diverse range of consumers from households to food kiosks and hotels because it is the cheapest and most reliable form of energy available in Kenya. Price is the single most important determining factor, with alternative energy sources such as electricity, gas, and kerosene being prohibitively expensive and largely unavailable to most.

Whilst the survey found that some progress in promoting the sustainability of the industry has been achieved, with 70% of respondents in three Nairobi survey areas using fuel-efficient stoves, little other substantial and lasting progress has been made. An assessment of past projects, programmes and initiatives aimed at solving the charcoal issue over the past thirty years found that little scope for lasting success could be found from alternative energies (solar, wind, bio-gas) and substitute energies (gas, kerosene, woodlots) in the present Kenyan socio-economic climate.

Biomass waste a sustainable alternative to lump wood charcoal?

The assessment revealed that new carbonizing technology for converting biomass waste such as sugar cane bagasse, rice and coffee husks, and maize stover

into charcoal briquettes could substantially contribute to replacing unsustainable lump wood charcoal.

In collaboration with an implementing partner, Chardust Ltd., TRAFFIC set out to determine the viability of producing briquetted charcoal fuel from 27 potential wastes. A ranking system based primarily on availability and accessibility resulted in eight wastes being selected for full production trials using an open pit downdraught type carbonizer and screw extrusion equipment. The final part of the study comprised fuel quality testing, during which the strength, heat output, ash content, and other performance characteristics of the various fuels were determined.

The study's conclusion was that three biomass wastes, namely sawdust, bagasse and coffee husk had genuine potential for commercial fuel production. Indeed following the assessment, the UK Department for International Development has funded a project based at the Chemelil Sugar Cane Factory in western Kenya, aimed at establishing a plant to convert waste bagasse into charcoal briquettes thereby contributing to the overall sustainability of the charcoal industry.

For more information on the study, contact TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa.



Enforcement support training by Justice Institute of British Columbia

by Ernie Cooper, National Representative, TRAFFIC North America-Canada

In the past 25 years TRAFFIC has developed its work on support to law enforcement. In this role, TRAFFIC gathers information to help enforcement through a variety of means, including field based research as well as desk-based investigations, assesses information for its intelligence value, trains and liaises with law enforcers, and provides tools and guidance on policy and other matters related to wildlife trade. From time to time TRAFFIC needs to review and revise its capacity to ensure that it can meet the needs of enforcement of wildlife trade laws.

A unique opportunity arose to further enhance TRAFFIC's enforcement support capacity with an offer from the Justice Institute of British Columbia* to host a week-long workshop in Vancouver, Canada in late June, 2002. The workshop provided a catalytic opportunity to develop and improve TRAFFIC's enforcement support strategy, policies and operational guidelines, as well as train TRAFFIC staff in the typical enforcement support role. This intensive course was the first time an environmental non-governmental organisation received accredited enforcement support training from the Police Academy at the Justice Institute.

During the workshop, the Justice Institute of British Columbia led a series of demanding training sessions. A training programme was developed specifically for TRAFFIC. Sixteen TRAFFIC staff participated from around the world. Training sessions included managing investigations, analysing intelligence information, communications and liaison with enforcement agencies, computer

encryption and covert photography. Attendees were exposed to enforcement officers' points of view and were able to learn enforcement approaches and techniques, so that these efforts can be better supported by TRAFFIC. In addition, TRAFFIC staff were able to review and help each other in development of their regional enforcement strategies.

One of the most important elements was the ability of the Justice Institute to guide TRAFFIC in its approaches to law enforcement and the development of methods and protocols based upon enforcement techniques. This has greatly enhanced our capacity to deal with enforcement agencies in a professional way that is easy for them to relate to. As illegal wildlife trade constantly evolves, also resources are more stretched and increasing demands are made for information, training and support. With the training and accreditation now received, TRAFFIC can further its work on ensuring that governments, particularly in the developing world, are able to perform their enforcement roles effectively and that the wildlife trade is conducted legally and in a manner that does not compromise the sustainability of wild resources.

The workshop was generously supported by The Rufford Foundation and TRAFFIC North America.

* The Justice Institute of British Columbia is a post-secondary educational institution that provides enforcement training in Canada and in a number of countries around the world.

Wildlife trade campaign in UK

In February 2002, WWF-UK in partnership with TRAFFIC launched a campaign on wildlife trade in the UK. The goal of the campaign were set to effectively reduce and deter illegal wildlife trade in endangered species by ensuring that adequate enforcement actions and penalties in the UK are in place. Raising awareness of the impact of the UK wildlife trade through the actions of traders and consumers, was the second goal of the campaign.

A year later, the campaign has reached decision-makers and consumers alike and made a difference in raising awareness as well as impelled change in a number of initiatives undertaken. Especially noteworthy is the engagement in efforts to support a change in the regulation that implements CITES in the UK [Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997 (COTES)] by lobbying for an increase in the maximum penalty for wildlife trade crimes from two to five years thereby making these offences arrestable in the UK.

An Early Day Motion in the Houses of Parliament in support of the campaign goals was signed by 342 Members of Parliament. Over 100 000 people also signed the Campaign's petition asking for a change in law and stiffer penalties on wildlife crime. It is hoped that these developments will result in an appropriate amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill in Parliament later this year.

In the coming months the campaign will be focusing on its second goal, building awareness of the UK's impact on wildlife through trade. A report, which is nearing completion and will be published later this spring, examines how UK consumers can use wildlife and wildlife products sustainably and at the same time minimize the negative impact of the UK wildlife trade. Without realizing the consequences of our actions, we may be buying wildlife and wildlife products that are contributing to over-exploitation of species and habitats and as a result are sometimes threatening rural livelihoods and economies dependent on the wildlife trade.

To date the campaign has released a number of reports highlighting the UK role in wildlife trade, the legal framework, illegal aspects of the trade and links to organized crime as well as examining wildlife trade routes into the UK markets and the European Union.



For more information visit the campaign website at
<http://www.wwf.org.uk/wildlifetrade>
or contact TRAFFIC International.

Cactus poaching, legal harvesting: A growing threat to Chihuahuan Desert Cacti

Demand for wild cactus and rare plants by landscapers and plant collectors may soon surpass supply in the Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico and the USA, according to a new study from TRAFFIC North America titled *Prickly Trade: Trade and Conservation of Chihuahuan Desert Cacti*.

The study, the largest-ever analysis of trade in Chihuahuan Desert cactus, found that unsustainable trade could endanger certain populations of cacti if measures are not taken to regulate their harvesting. The Chihuahuan Desert is home to almost a quarter of the 1,500 cactus species known to science, and booming desert landscaping trend, combined with poor regulation of legal plant harvesting, is putting pressure on many species. Use of cactus for low-water landscaping and demand for rare and newly discovered specimens by "cactophiles" is resulting in the heavy and illegal harvest of desirable species, which is likely a multimillion-dollar-a-year industry.

If the demand for wild plants is not reduced rapidly, especially cacti, from the Chihuahuan Desert, we run the risk of destabilizing populations and losing species.

A whole range of desert dwellers – from hummingbirds to mountain lions –

rely on desert plants for food or shelter. So in some situations, removing the cactus can be as disruptive to the ecosystem as clear-cutting a forest.

In recent years, Europe and Japan have been popular destinations for smuggled plants, seeds and fruits of rare and valuable cacti originating from the USA and Mexico. The UK is the second largest market after the USA for Chihuahuan Desert Species, followed by Germany, Sweden and Spain, Mexico, Italy and Canada. Nearly 200 species of Chihuahuan Desert cactus were identified on the UK market alone. Many consumers and tourists are unaware they may be breaking the law when they collect, purchase or export cactus from countries that restrict these activities. According to the report, Mexican authorities seized nearly 800 cactus specimens from travelers entering or passing through the USA from Mexico in 1998.

The report recommends better monitoring of the cactus trade, strengthening protection for the species that are under the most pressure from exploitation and developing community-based programmes to harvest common species and commercially cultivate slow-growing species. The report has led WWF

to begin work on a programme to establish a community-based nursery industry to grow native desert plants with seeds harvested from the wild. The program would also promote nature-based tourism in west Texas, a biologically rich region with high unemployment.

For further information on the report, contact TRAFFIC North America or see http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/prickly_trade.html



CARRY ELLIS/WWF-US

Working on import restrictions to better manage coral reef resources

by Caroline Raymakers, Director, TRAFFIC Europe

International trade in live corals rapidly grew during the past decade to supply the expanding marine tropical aquarium market. In 1998, concerned about the increase of export quotas for certain species set by Indonesia, the world largest supplier of live corals, the European Union (EU) decided to suspend imports of a number of corals until it is clear that the level of export will not harm the status of their populations in the wild. TRAFFIC Europe has since worked with partners in Indonesia to design a mechanism for better monitoring of the collection of those species. A similar approach was initiated by TRAFFIC Oceania in Fiji in 2002. In both countries these efforts influenced the setting of reduced export quotas and the adoption of a zero quota for certain taxa.

Giant clams (Tridacnidae) are also found on coral reefs and traded internationally as well as locally for the

beauty of their shell (curio), colour of their mantle (aquarium) and taste of their muscle. TRAFFIC engaged in a project with Indo-Pacific countries where high levels of trade could endanger the status of certain giant clam populations.

Late maturity and dependence on sunlight are among biological parameters that render those species particularly vulnerable to overexploitation but few range States have set fisheries or trade limitations. The result of TRAFFIC's work will encourage the adoption of measures such as fishing licences, closed seasons and export quotas, keeping in mind the role of giant clams in coastal villagers' subsistence.

Coral reefs are complex and poorly known ecosystems where each type of organism, ranging from hard corals and giant clams to fish and queen conch (see *Dispatches No19*), has its role to play.

Their fragile balance will be preserved only through a variety of actions, from better resource management, to global climate change campaigns.

For more information, contact TRAFFIC Europe Regional Office.



Giant clam stocks.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

A boost for TRAFFIC's fisheries and ETIS work

In December 2002, TRAFFIC received a generous support of USD200 000 from *The David and Lucile Packard Foundation* for its fisheries programme, allowing TRAFFIC to continue the momentum of its ambitious fisheries programme in 2003 with a full range of activities, aimed to support long-term conservation efforts in marine environment.

*

In January 2003, the UK Government confirmed its support of GBP60 000 to TRAFFIC's work on the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), one of the two monitoring systems operating under the auspices of CITES. Managed by TRAFFIC, ETIS now consists of nearly 8 000 records of elephant product seizures, which have taken place throughout the world since 1989. The funds received now will secure continuation of efforts to stamp out the continuing illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products.

*

New TRAFFIC On-line Series hosted at www.traffic.org

In May 2002, TRAFFIC launched a new *TRAFFIC Online Report Series*. It hosts reports published primarily in a PDF file format on TRAFFIC website. Reports in the series feature new research results and policy analyses for priority issues TRAFFIC is working on as part of its ongoing efforts to ensure that wildlife trade is not a threat to the conservation of nature.



Reports released in the series to date are:

CITES Appendix III implementation for Big-leafed Mahogany Swietenia Macrophylla. Report No.1, May 2002.

An assessment of the illegal trade in elephants and elephant products in Viet Nam. Report No.2, July 2002.

An assessment of China's Management of Trade in Elephants and Elephant Products. Report No.3, July 2002.

An Investigation of the Ivory Market in Taiwan. Report No.4, August 2002

An assessment of the illegal trade in elephants and elephant products in Myanmar. Report No.5, August 2002.

Japan's Trade in Ivory after the Tenth Conference of the Parties to CITES. Report No.6, September 2002.

*

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