

IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC GROUP

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BULLETIN

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The Bulletin replaces the TRAFFIC Newsletter and will reach a wider readership. There will be ten issues in the course of the year and information will be presented as far as possible in the form of detachable reports, tables etc. to enable a wider distribution of data. Please send any material which might be suitable for publication to our London office:

TRAFFIC
1 Marshall Street
London W1V 1LQ.

The Bulletin is available to anyone interested for a minimum donation of \$ 10 (£ 5) p.a. (payable to Fauna Preservation Society). Since this only covers the actual costs of production and postage we hope that institutions and anyone else who can afford it will contribute more generously.

MEMBERS

ALBERTO DONADIO is spending a year at the International Commission of Jurists on a scholarship from the University of Minnesota. A court action brought by him in Colombia led to an investigation of wildlife smuggling (see 'PLAN VALLEGO ABANDONED').

BEN GALSTAUN, director of Taman Margasatwa in Ragunan, Jakarta, joined TRAFFIC last September. Having spent nearly twenty years building up the Jakarta zoo, in 1964 Mr Galstaun converted an abandoned agricultural school into what is now a publicly owned zoo famous for its orang utans and proboscis monkeys.

TRAFFIC USA

TRAFFIC will shortly have a US office, the final details of which will be discussed at the Costa Rica meeting of CITES in March.

ENFORCEMENT OF CITES

On December 1st officials at Amsterdam airport, acting on information from the Danish authorities, confiscated ten baby chimpanzees, all originating from Sierra Leone where there is an export ban on chimps. Eight of the animals were bound for a circus in Spain, the other two were to be sent via a dealer in Copenhagen to a zoo in Mexico; they had been shipped by Dr. Franz Sitter, a well known dealer.

SIERRA LEONE

The story received considerable coverage in the Dutch newspaper 'Telegraaf' in an article by Mr. Van den Hoorn, although the Sierra Leone conservation association SLENCA had previously brought attention to the problem in articles in the local press. The seizure was made under Dutch legislation which covers endangered species in transit - the chimpanzees were confiscated on the grounds that they were not accompanied by import permits. A previous case of chimpanzees from Sierra Leone, trans-shipped through the UK, was not controlled by any such legislation. Two chimps in a consignment for Moscow fell ill during their transit stay in the United Kingdom and were granted import licences rather than returned to the country of origin.

UNITED KINGDOM

Another weak spot in UK legislation was brought to light during the first prosecution under the UK Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act last September. Eaton's Shell Shop appeared in Court to answer charges of possession of illegally imported hawksbill turtle shells. The prosecution was brought by Friends of the Earth, and John Burton gave evidence on their behalf. The case was lost on the grounds that the polished shells could be described as 'worked' (tortoiseshell was controlled only if 'unworked or simply prepared'). The UK Management Authority, the Department of the Environment prepared an order which amended the Act to clarify the situation and close the legal loophole.

On January 27th the second prosecution under the Endangered Species Act (again brought in as a private prosecution by Friends of the Earth) was successful when a London furriers, House of Sears, was fined £550 with £50 costs after pleading guilty to offering for sale three leopard skins (banned from import since February 1977).

PLAN VALLEJO ABANDONED

An arrest warrant was issued last November for six people, including the brother of Panama's head of government, Hugo Torrijos. They were accused of smuggling wild animals and skins out of Colombia.

The story goes back three years when TRAFFIC Group member Alberto Donadio brought a lawsuit challenging the validity of permits granted by Incomex under the Plan Vallejo, an arrangement allowing Colombian businesses to import certain goods tax-free on a temporary licence, in order to process them in Colombia before exporting them to Europe and Japan. The 'Panamanian skins', which were entering Colombia for tanning, were in effect Colombian skins which had been smuggled out of the country. As a result of the publicity given to this abuse of the law, the Colombian government has since suspended all Plan Vallejo contracts.

When in May 1978 the Colombian Council of State ruled in Donadio's favour, the newspaper 'El Tiempo' assigned a team to investigate the smuggling of wildlife, publishing their findings in two articles which appeared at the beginning of August and which led to the arrests of the ringleaders. Apart from the trade in skins, live animals also offered rich rewards. In 1974 the Code of Natural Resources had prohibited the export of live animals except for scientific purposes, yet the newspaper stated that crates full of live animals were being shipped out from a Colombian airport manned by officials from Customs and from the Instituto de Recursos Naturales Renovables (INDERENA) to be received by dealers in Panama. The meagre documentation accompanying the consignments was found to be false in the cases investigated by the newspaper and two firms; Panama Sanchez S.A. and Panama Souvenir, S.A., with premises conveniently near the airport, were mentioned as being the major protagonists.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN HARP AND HOODED SEALS

For six months last year TRAFFIC supplied facilities and office space to the Fauna Preservation Society for a study of the international trade in products derived from harp and hooded seals. The study, carried out by Jon Barzdo, established that most of the products come from the kills carried out by Norwegians and Canadian sealers and that less than 20% of the seals killed are taken by Russians or Greenlanders. Even so, the Greenland catch gives cause for concern because of its uncontrolled nature and the fact that it appears to have increased by 240% over the past eight years, while the other kills have been decreasing. Skins are the principal product, with perhaps as many as 50% going to leather and the rest to furs. These normally go for processing either in West Germany or Norway and the final products are marketed mostly in West Germany, Norway, France, Denmark, East Germany and smaller quantities in other countries. The real value of sealskin has been declining for at least five years as a result of either fashion, anti-sealing campaigns, an excess of sealskins on the market, or any combination of these factors. The recent diversification of fur-use to novelty items such as coverings for pipes, cigarette lighters, and seal dolls supports the excess idea.

Seal oil has been increasing in real value, probably because of the decreased availability of fish oils, which have also been increasing in value. And at the present rate of increase oil may become the most important product of seals as it was before 1950. It is used principally in food production, (e.g. as a constituent in margarines and shortening) in Canada, Norway and other unidentified European countries.

The only other product of importance from harp and hooded seals is meat, but it is not involved in international trade. It is used by sealers and by people living in the sealing areas but very few others. In Canada and Norway there are governmental initiatives to improve marketing and extend the sales to other areas and countries. Despite this there was no cannery of seal meat in Canada in 1978 - apparently through lack of demand. Most of it is wasted wherever the seals are killed.

The original data from which Jon Barzdo prepared his report is being deposited in the TRAFFIC files, and contains detailed analyses of all the values and trends in trade in recent years.

A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON THE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FELIDAE FOR 1977

Statistical information is available from two sources: the annual reports produced by CITES party states (18 of which were available for 1977 at the time of writing) and customs data (which has so far been obtained from seven countries).

Evaluation of the information in the 14 CITES annual reports that contained details of imports/exports of Felidae shows that 426 live animals, about 146 000 skins and 4 000+ products were traded between these countries. Most of the live animals were captive bred big cats (mainly tigers, lions and leopards) moving between zoos or belonging to travelling circuses. 60% of the skins originated from South and Central America (31 700 ocelot, 30 000 margay, 14 600 tiger cat and 13 000 Geoffroy's cat) and 27% from North America (26 600 bobcat, 12 500 lynx). Most of the products were lynx and bobcat garments (1 750), leopard cat plates (1 200), and Geoffroy's cat garments (500). Commercial trade should be restricted to the CITES Appendix II taxa but it is likely that the following were referable to Appendix I taxa: 442 skins and 3 live ocelots from Panama and Colombia (Felis pardalis mearnsi); 5 436 ocelot skins from Brazil and Paraguay (Felis pardalis mitis); and 17 margay skins from Honduras (Felis wiedii nicaraguae/salvinia). Also there is still trade in leopard and jaguar products (156 skins, 18 coats, 47 trophies).

There is very little correlation in the annual reports between the transactions involving the party states. This may be partly due to variations in controls (e.g. the UK controls all live cats, but only spotted cat skins and some of their products), or different methods of recording, but it is likely that some discrepancies indicate an inadequate amount of enforcement of the CITES requirements.

The Customs information for trade in skins indicates that the available CITES annual reports cover only a small proportion of

the world trade. The totals of available figures are about 700 000 imports and 800 000 exports so that it is likely that the trade involved is in excess of 1 million skins when other countries are taken into account. The 260,000 skins exported from South and Central America show that the CITES figures cover at most 35% of the trade. Similarly the Canadian CITES report includes only 35% of the 20 722 lynx skins exported according to Canadian Customs, and the US CITES report (based on 7 months figures) included only 12% of the 96 000 bobcat skins exported. The importance of Asia is illustrated by the 20 000 skins from India (jungle cat), 16 000 from Pakistan (jungle cat) and 130 000 from USSR (mainly wild cat and lynx).

Comparison of the UK CITES and Customs statistics shows that of the 57 500 skins recorded by Customs 68% are not listed by the CITES management authority. Many of these refer to species not controlled by the UK but 1 000 ocelots and 2 000 margays originating from Brazil are definitely not in the CITES figures and 1 830 skins from China were almost certainly leopard cat and therefore should have been licenced.

THE SHELL TRADE IN KENYA

by Susan Wells, TRAFFIC

In 1972 and 1974 studies were made on the shell trade in Kenya and in a report in *Oryx* (Vol. XIII, No. 5, pp. 480-485, February 1977), Evans et al. concluded that serious over-collecting of molluscs had already taken place. Legislation passed in 1968 made it an offence to collect shells without an official permit and in 1974 a total ban on collection and sale of shells was imposed. This was lifted in 1975 and since then collectors have needed an official permit and are restricted to taking a maximum of 5 kg. of shells at one time. The ban on the export of game trophies introduced in 1978 applies to all animals, but these do not appear to have been defined; in practice molluscs are not controlled.

A brief survey in December 1978 showed that, although several shops are said to have closed down, the trade is still continuing. In Mombasa two shops and ten street stalls were counted selling shells, shell jewellery and objects made of or decorated with shells; in Malindi there were eight street stalls and hawkers were also seen on the beaches and at hotels. There was little evidence of any major international trade, although according to the official trade statistics Kenya exported nearly 90 tonnes of coral and shells in 1977. One shell exporting firm was found in Mombasa but unlike Evans et al. (op. cit) I found no warehouses full of sacks of shells and few stalls appeared to be selling imported shells. Apparently smuggling does take place over the borders with Tanzania and Somalia.

All the stalls and shops tend to sell the same selection of shells, mainly the large, colourful, shiny ones which are attractive to tourists. These include cowries, especially Cypraea tigris and C. mauritiana., spider conches Lambis spp., helmet shells Cypraecassis rufa., silver conches Strombus lentiginosus., frog shells Bursa sp., tritons Charonia sp., cones Conus spp., and the Green Turban Turbo marmoratus.

Formerly much of the Kenyan coast was rich in these species but the main collecting areas are now restricted to the northern and southern extremities of the coast: Kiunga, Lamu and Shimoni. A few years ago lorry and plane loads of shells were to be seen leaving these areas but such large scale collection has apparently ceased. Three marine parks have been established (Malindi, Watamu and Shimoni) and a fourth one is proposed for Kiunga. It is forbidden to collect shells within the parks and

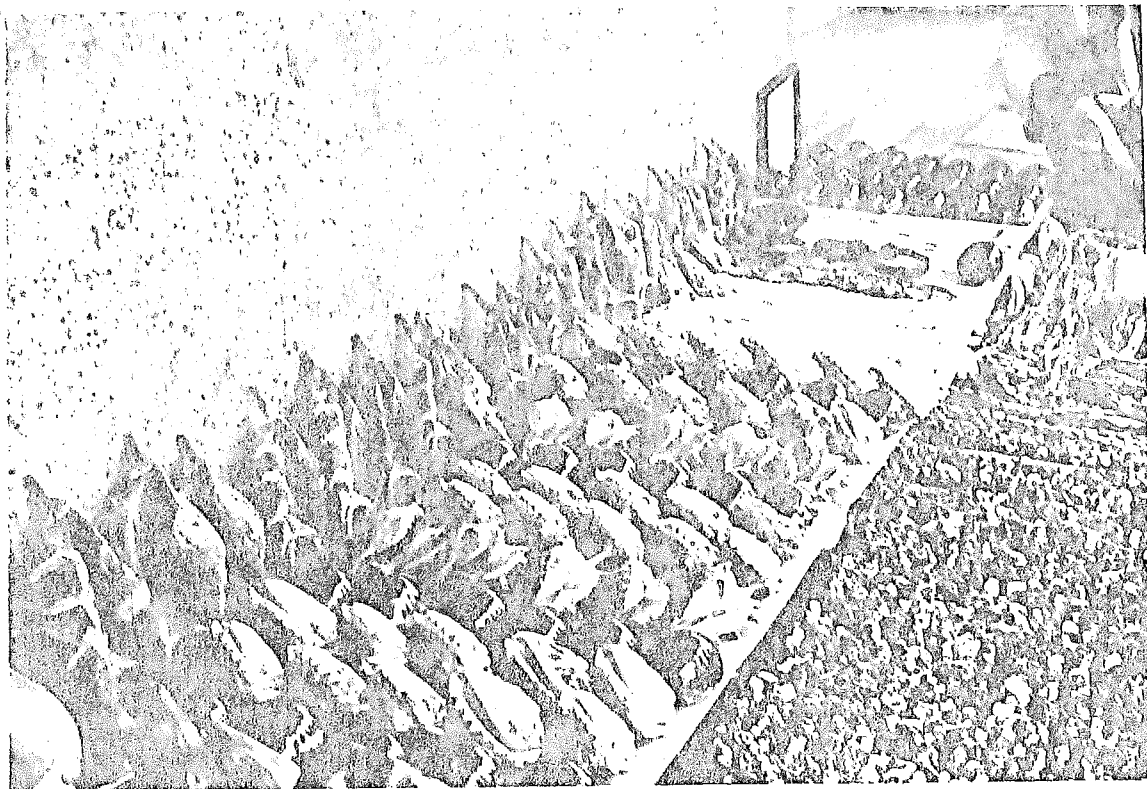
although poaching does occur there is general agreement that shell numbers are higher within the parks than without.

Very little data is available on the current situation; as yet no species has become extinct as a result of the trade but the popular species are becoming more difficult to find, particularly the helmet shells and tritons, and large specimens of any species are rare. Equally serious is the damage to the reefs caused by collectors, both tourists and Africans; stones are overturned and the animals living underneath are left exposed to the sun. The tourist industry is making a heavy impact on the Kenyan coast and is beginning to give rise to widespread concern. A Marine Research Unit has been set up at Malindi and among their top priorities they are proposing a study of the shell trade, but they lack specialist personnel and money. A survey of the distribution and population sizes of the species involved in the shell trade is urgently needed to substantiate and quantify the reports of over-exploitation. Ecological comparisons between the marine parks and the surrounding areas need to be made to evaluate the effect of the parks.

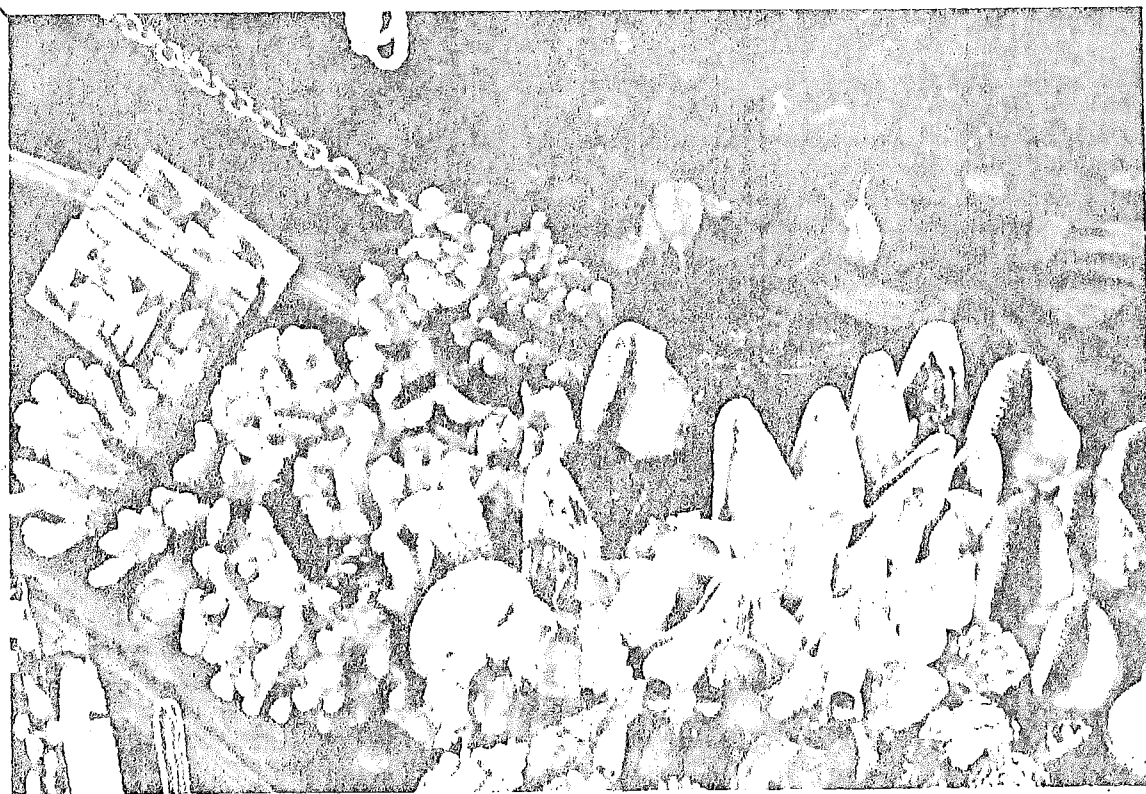
The Kenyan people have made use of the shells on their coast for thousands of years and the shell trade could still provide a livelihood for many people. However it needs to be controlled and organised before it is too late. It takes only about one to two years for species such as cowries and helmet shells to reach maturity; regular changing of collecting areas and ensuring that only fully mature non-egg bearing specimens are taken could provide a useful self-sustaining harvest.



Lamps made out of shells in a Mombasa shop.



Mombasa street stall - on right necklaces made of cowrie Cypraea moneta and C. annulus, and of Morula spp.



Malindi street stall.

14th Session of the General Assembly of IUCN Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September-5 October 1978

Resolutions on major issues

24. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CONSCIOUS of the continued threat to the survival of wild populations of fauna and flora posed by uncontrolled international trade;
RECALLING Resolution no. 10 adopted by the 12th Session of the General Assembly of IUCN, at Kinshasa, Zaire, in September 1975;
NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that 48 nations are now Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and that significant progress has been made toward implementation of the Convention;

ACKNOWLEDGING the support provided for the Secretariat of the Convention by the United Nations Environment Programme, pursuant to decision 86C (V) adopted in May 1977 and decision 5D (VI) adopted in May 1978 by its Governing Council in Nairobi, Kenya;

RECOGNIZING that Indonesia and Japan played an active part in the drafting of CITES in Washington, USA, in 1973;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 14th Session, Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September-5 October 1978:

URGES all States that have not yet done so to become Parties to the Convention without further delay so that they can participate fully in the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Costa Rica in 1979;

URGES all Parties to reach early agreement on appropriate arrangements for funding the Secretariat of the Convention;

CALLS ON all Parties to take any necessary measure to make the Convention fully effective;

CALLS FOR the undertaking of detailed studies of the international trade in wildlife, especially originating or occurring within East Asia;

URGES the Government of Indonesia to enforce effectively its existing legislation controlling the trade in wildlife and its products;

URGES FURTHER the Government of Japan to introduce legislation to control the trade in wildlife and its products.

25. International trade in animals caught in the wild for the pet trade

RECOGNIZING that the international trade in animals caught in the wild for the pet trade has had a deleterious effect on many species and populations;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that exotic animals involved in the pet trade have been introduced into ecosystems and have posed serious threats to native species of fauna and flora;

NOTING that pet animals caught in the wild have been identified as carriers of diseases afflicting both man and his domestic animals;

AWARE that the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at their 1976 meeting in Bern, Switzerland, recommended that the Parties restrict the keeping as pets of animals caught in the wild and instead rely upon individuals bred in captivity;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 14th Session, Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September-5 October 1978:

RECOMMENDS that all nations prohibit or restrict as appropriate, the entry into the pet trade of animals caught in the wild.

28. Regulation of the Ivory Trade in Zaire

CONCERNED that ivory-poaching threatens the survival of many populations of the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*);
RECOGNIZING the strict legislation to prevent the illicit export of ivory from Zaire;

AWARE that ivory from Zaire is still being imported into other nations, some of which are Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 14th Session, Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September-5 October 1978:

URGES all nations importing ivory to cooperate with the Government of Zaire in enforcing strict control over the ivory trade;

CALLS UPON all governments involved in ivory trading to assist the IUCN Elephant Ivory Study by supplying information on the trade.

14. Sea turtles

CONCERNED that all sea turtle species occurring in the waters of Mexico are severely threatened, primarily by overexploitation;

CONCERNED ALSO that the industrialized turtle fishery now occurring along Mexico's Pacific coast may cause the extinction of the breeding populations of the Pacific ridley turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* and of the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* in fewer than ten years;

RECOGNIZING that the United States of Mexico played an active role in the 1973 Conference which concluded the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

NOTING that all but the Australian populations of sea turtles are on Appendix I of CITES;

NOTING FURTHER that sea turtles, if scientifically managed, are valuable, renewable resources which can provide continuing benefits to mankind, including high value protein;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 14th Session, Ashkhabad, USSR, 26 September-5 October 1978:

URGES the Government of the United States of Mexico

- (a) to identify and protect immediately the remaining sea turtle nesting beaches;
- (b) to prohibit immediately any commercial take, export, or sale of sea turtles, their eggs or products;
- (c) to ratify the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.