

IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC GROUP

Group chairman: John A Burton

c/o Fauna Preservation Society Zoological Gardens Regents Park London NW1 4RY
Telephone 01-586 0872 Cables FAUNASOC LONDON NW1

BULLETIN

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Telex facilities

TRAFFIC is likely to install TELEX facilities in the near future; any members who are contactable through a TELEX Terminal, or any other person or group which might need fast communication, please inform us of your TELEX number. TELEX is considerably faster than cables and cheaper than telephone (and often faster).

Enforcement of CITES

Following several reports to TRAFFIC concerning inadequate enforcement of the UK's Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act in May 1978, a resume of the case histories was supplied to HM Customs and Excise, who replied nearly a month later to say that they were "considering" the incidents. Nothing more has been heard. As a result, TRAFFIC decided to test enforcement at points of entry into the UK, later extending this to compare the UK level of enforcement with other countries' implementation of wildlife legislation.

As an example of Appendix II, which should be monitored on entering the UK, a cactus was chosen as being obviously exotic and relatively convenient for 'volunteers' to transport as hand baggage (the species chosen were cultivated and unendangered). There was also the added advantage that all members of Cactaceae should be checked. A summary of a report on the Cactus Trade, published in this Bulletin, emphasises the sheer volume of trade in Cactaceae which, in the light of the frequent unchecked journeys made by the TRAFFIC specimen, might only reflect a proportion of the real trade.

Although some Customs officials expressed alarm about the earth in which the cactus was planted, there was generally a lack of interest and occasional excess of mirth when wildlife legislation was mentioned. On several occasions phytosanitary certificates were signed by the Customs officers, giving proof that the specimen was imported with their full knowledge. As recently as February/March 1979 a Customs

officer claimed to have never heard of the Endangered Species Act when questioned at Harwich. There was no opportunity to test enforcement upon return from the CITES Conference in Costa Rica, as UK Customs officers were on strike.

Outward journeys have also been used to export a cactus on several occasions, on none of which was there any Customs check. Our information is that similarly, with live animals in cargo sheds at Heathrow, to which there is no public access, Customs checks, where made, are superficial and quite inadequate. Although there may be an argument for further test cases being made, it remains a fact that Customs Officers in the UK have never mentioned let alone enforced the Endangered Species Act.

WHALE MEAT

One of the case histories recorded by TRAFFIC has received a lot of publicity within the UK. A can of whale meat (a 'controlled' product in the UK since 1973) was declared to Her Majesty's Customs Officers by Jon Barzdo, returning from Tokyo in December 1978. He explained the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act to the officer, and that he needed an import licence. He made it clear that he was not in possession of one. The Customs officer's only concern was whether or not gifts, jewellery or cigarettes were involved, maintaining that it was unnecessary to have a licence to import whale meat. New Scientist (11 January 1979) reported the event, which prompted the Department of the Environment to ask the importer to apply for a licence. Knowing that official policy is not to licence whale meat, the importer, Jon Barzdo, applied and the DoE not surprisingly refused.

The Department of the Environment has now asked that the tin of whale meat go to them as an 'exhibit' in the collection of restricted items which they are building up to aid recognition. In fact confiscation by HM Customs is the maximum penalty which could have been exacted under the Endangered Species Act as the meat has not been offered for sale or displayed - although the Department of the Environment may yet do so.

Joanna Gordon Clark, of the Marine Action Centre, has since imported another tin of whale meat. At the port of entry the Customs Officer told her "If it's in a tin it's alright", although this is untrue. Joanna Gordon Clark's licence application is now being processed by the DoE.

Obviously the greater the number of reports on Customs checks the more accurate the picture. TRAFFIC has devised a data sheet and those readers

who would like to assist by compiling factual cases of non-enforcement and enforcement may like to write to us for a copy so that the instances are systematically recorded. It should be added that TRAFFIC recognises the attempts of individual Customs officers to implement the law: the indications are that at least in the UK they are insufficiently informed about endangered species legislation, and lack firm direction which would help them to enforce it.

One correspondent has called for a Public Enquiry into the operation of UK legislation for endangered species. If there is one, conservationist data must be sound, therefore if you are in a position to help TRAFFIC please send us what information you can.

Although the above concerns the UK (since TRAFFIC is based in the UK) similar sampling in other countries has produced very similar results. Countries visited by the TRAFFIC cactus include Switzerland, Germany, South America, United States, Sweden, USSR, Norway and Denmark.



Sponges

A survey of the natural sponge trade was recently completed, but it appears to raise more questions than it answers. Information on the following topics is urgently required:

1. Uses of natural sponges - they are still important as bath sponges; in the past they were used in a variety of industries: pottery, lithography, cars, leather, jewellery, medicine. The large quantities traded in suggest they may still have industrial uses, but what and where?
2. A sponge importer in the UK spoke of renewed fears of over-fishing in the Mediterranean. We would like to contact other people in the trade who would give us information on the present situation. The main countries involved are Greece, Turkey, Tunisia and in the Caribbean, Cuba and the Bahamas - any contacts who know anything about sponge fishing today in these countries would be useful.
3. The USA sponge fisheries seem to have died out - post 1960 information wanted.
4. Sponge culture has been attempted on several occasions. Information required on recent attempts, in particular results of Greek experiments in 1963, and confirmation that there is still a privately owned sponge 'farm' in the Bahamas.

UK Trade in Wildlife

The following synopsis of UK trade in wildlife and wildlife products is extracted from Customs statistics which are published monthly. Approximately six months after the provisional annual totals given in December figures, an amended total for the year is published (based on change of tariff heading or on corrections supplied by importers/exporters). However, no corrections whatsoever were made to the 1977 totals; therefore the figures for December 1978 are probably indicative of volume checked. The figures are gathered by Customs and are based on the declarations at ports of entry; at the time of importation the Customs officers should also check any licences required under the Endangered Species Act.

The information has, in recent years, become more general; for instance ivory, tortoiseshell, waste and whalebone are currently grouped together, and dressed reptile leather now appears under the same tariff heading as fish leather. The imports of wild felines still gives considerable cause for concern; coral is grouped with unworked shells. All this illustrates the difficulties encountered trying to pinpoint and supply factual proof of the pressures on wildlife.

Apparently the decision to amalgamate unworked ivory and unworked tortoiseshell with unworked horns and antlers was made by the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), who devise the nomenclature used by the UK and most of the world. In the Council's opinion the volume of international trade in these commodities did not justify separate status. The fact that ivory has assumed political overtones may, of course, be incidental. A letter from HM Customs and Excise reassures TRAFFIC that 'the merging of the previously separate Tariff/Trade code numbers for unworked tortoiseshell and unworked ivory with other items is not regarded as any impediment to effective enforcement of the conservation import and export controls relating to those particular items'.

However, the data available to us suggests that there is still a substantial import of ivory, tortoiseshell and skins into the UK which is not covered by the licences required under the Endangered Species Act. This topic was discussed at some length by the Meeting of the Parties to CITES in Costa Rica, and a fuller account will be published in the report of the meeting.



TABLE 1. UK IMPORTS OF WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS - 1977

	TOTAL VALUE (£)	TOTAL NUMBER	TOTAL WEIGHT (Kg)	MAJOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES
Live birds (excl. chicks)	254 923	108 908	14 074	Senegal India Singapore
Raw ivory	343 151		18 827	Zambia
Other articles of ivory	268 250		5 695	India
Raw tortoiseshell	2 304		26	USA Cayman Islands
Sheets etc. tortoiseshell	1 185		4	Mexico
Other tortoiseshell	10 903		773	Philippines India
Sperm oil	2 477 204		5 196 250	Not available
Other fats and oils of marine mammals	234 316		881 251	Not available
Coral, unworked shell, waste	521 048		3 999 494	Denmark
Raw sponges	39 451		880	Greece
Natural sponges other than raw	138 963		7 178	Greece
Raw hides and skins nes	519 670		528 814	USSR S W Africa
Raw furskins - seals and sea lions	469 583	41 345	39 014	Canada Norway
Tanned & dressed skins of seals & sea lions	554 279	29 580	18 038	Finland
Raw furskins - sea otters, nutria & beaver	4 101 487	384 580	91 001	Poland
Raw furskins - leopard	176	2	19	South Africa
Raw furskins - ocelot	526 687	8 408	2 646	Bolivia
Raw furskins - felines nes	369 434	42 805	14 282	Pakistan (number and weight) USA (value)
Dressed skins - felines nes	244 161	6 308	1 773	China Argentina
Raw furskins - cheetah jaguar	-	-	-	-
Raw reptile skins - not split	354 992		16 011	Indonesia
Dressed reptile leather	182 438		2 586	Switzerland
	<u>£11 359 682</u>			

Final figures for 1977 (no amendment from December totals)

Source : HM Customs statistics

nes = not elsewhere specified

NB: Where more than one country is indicated as a major exporter, this reflects the fact that the largest quantity imported is not necessarily the largest value.

TABLE 2. UK IMPORTS OF WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS - 1978

	TOTAL VALUE (£)	TOTAL NUMBER	TOTAL WEIGHT (Kg)	MAJOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES
Live birds (excl. chicks)	351 102	148 750	19 588	USA India Tanzania
Whale meat, seal meat, frogs' legs	47 641		32 644	India
Ivory, tortoiseshell, waste, whalebone	1 684 218	-	5 911 923	Brazil
Coral, shells unworked	650 688	-	4 257 000	Denmark
Raw sponges	59 957	-	1 122	Greece
Natural sponges other than raw	151 569	-	9 638	Greece Netherlands
Whale oil & oils of other cetaceans (not sperm oil)	-	-	-	-
Whale oil and sperm oil hydrogenated or otherwise hardened	20 212	-	37 800	Norway
Raw hides & skins reptile/ fish fresh, salted, dried	661 317	-	23 297	Indonesia
Raw hides & skins of other animals nes; fresh, salted or dried	1 503 269	-	1 635 461	Japan
Reptile leather - vegetable tanned	361 325	-	9 689	India
Reptile/Fish leather - dressed	164 032	-	3 392	Japan Switzerland
Dressed leather other animals, nes.	233 772	17 422	8 397	South Africa
Complete raw furskins, sea otter, nutria, beaver	4 844 755	361 592	77 881	Poland
Complete raw furskins - leopard, cheetah, jaguar	-	-	-	-
Complete raw furskins - ocelot	745 963	10 886	4 012	Argentina
Complete raw furskins - wild felines nes	410 154	16 860	4 173	Brazil India USA
Furskins tanned, dressed plates, crosses etc. sea lions, fur seals, other seals	364 825	34 621	12 399	Finland
Furskins tanned, dressed, plates etc. sea otter, nutria, beaver	883 562	55 338	13 599	Argentina Poland
Furskins tanned, dressed plates etc. Wild felines nes	407 179	4 065	1 546	UK
Coral, worked	31 116	-	2 146	Philippines Italy
Ivory worked (excl. plates, sheets, etc.)	267 062	-	5 603	Hong Kong
Complete raw furskins: sea lions, fur seals, other seals	276 842	30 032	50 112	Canada South Africa
	<u>£14 120 560</u>			

December figures (to be amended June 1979)

Source : H M Customs statistics
nes = not elsewhere specified

Transport of Live Animals

PART 1 FLAMINGOES IN STOCKINGS

A story which was featured on the front page of the Daily Telegraph and which also received television coverage was intended to show the UK's concern for the transport of live animals. Twenty flamingoes arrived at London's Heathrow Airport in transit from Argentina to a dealer in Japan, who by coincidence has the same name as the director of Ise-shima Zoo. They were being transported with their legs bound against their bodies by nylon stockings. In order to restore the circulation of their blood, the birds had been unbound and photos showed them standing in warm water. What the reader was not shown was the birds bound up again before continuing their journey to Japan.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) distributes a handbook governing animals in transport to those shipping or accepting live animals. In the container note relevant to flamingoes it is suggested that prior to being placed in their container the birds may be lowered into a bag made from cheesecloth or a similar expanding material which restricts movement but enables them to flex their legs. The handbook specifies that the bag must not cover the head and the legs should never be tied together. Binding the legs to the body of the bird must surely prevent the bird from flexing its legs, but Mr John Brookland, deputy manager of the Port of London Animal Quarantine Centre stated that transporting flamingoes in stockings is normal practice, he also stated that it was often necessary to massage the legs of birds transported in this way. The birds concerned were being shipped by British Caledonian, who are represented by Mr Attwood on the IATA live animals advisory panel and was one of the main forces behind the IATA regulations.

PART 2 ILLEGAL CHEETAHS

There are many problems involved in the transport of live animals and another case, reported recently in the Cape Times, underlines several of them. Two young cheetahs, consigned to Rene Corten, were dead when unpacked at Brussels after a 24-hour journey from South West Africa. The consignor, Mr Uwe Schultz, who owns a game farm at Okahanaja, regularly transports animals and insisted that with airfreight charges of R 450 for one large cheetah, he was always careful to send animals which were 100 per cent healthy. However, the cheetahs consigned by him were described 24 hours later as being in a state of decay.

The animals left Windhoek on an SAA aircraft on December 10th. They travelled in closed boxes which the Lufthansa general manager for

Southern Africa claimed prevented anyone from seeing the animals (and which by implication must have kept the animals short of air). The plane arrived late at Johannesburg where the cheetahs had to be transferred by ramp immediately onto the Lufthansa plane. The crates were not checked, Lufthansa assuming that an IATA carrier (SAA) would have already done so. This plane was in turn delayed for six hours - at Nairobi and when the animals arrived at Frankfurt they were again transferred by ramp to a flight to Brussels where they arrived the afternoon of December 11th. The Lufthansa spokesman who claimed "They don't have to be fed or watered for up to 36 hours, they cannot be allowed out to urinate, and who would risk feeding them?" was ignoring the fact that IATA style containers provide an excrement tray and water trough. They do not however allow for feeding without opening the cage. Three months later Lufthansa reported that there were no feeding and watering instructions on the airway bill.

The frequent delays and change of airline emphasize the need for comprehensive and clear instructions on handling attached at all times to the container. TRAFFIC recently submitted draft guidelines to CITES covering the transport of live animals by sea, rail, road and air. These were adopted subject to minor modifications at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to CITES held in Costa Rica.

As regards enforcement, three airlines have recently issued instructions affecting live animals. Sabena has instructed all stations to refuse all carriage of CITES protected animals between countries which are not members of CITES and to check carefully export licences required under CITES. Swissair has instructed all stations to observe CITES and the IATA 'Live Animals Regulations' and not to freight any live animals, except pets or tropical fish, from any country in the Far East to Belgium or to Austria, both heavily involved in live animal trade and non Parties to CITES. Thai Airways has banned the acceptance of transit consignments of live animals from Ventiane, Laos, and has brought the whole matter before the airline representatives' board of Thailand. Hopefully more airlines will follow this lead.



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.



Exports from Pakistan

Below is a summary of the wildlife exports from Pakistan for 1977/78, much of which was provided by Syed Ali Ghalib of TRAFFIC. Similar summaries will be published when available.

COMMODITIES	IMPORT		EXPORT	
	1976-77 Value*	1977-78 Value*	1976-77 Value*	1977-78 Value*
Crustacea and Molluscs: Fresh, chilled, frozen, salted or dried.	-	-	273 295	218 906
Ivory, unworked	-	-	-	-
Tortoiseshell and waste	2	10	-	-
Sponges, natural	-	38	22	-
Musk, Castoreum etc.	370	330	491	10 026
Oils of fish and marine mammals	2 324	1 384	-	17
Hides and Skin (Except fur skin)	31 837	23 914	1 948	192
Furskin undressed	291	112	354	-
Worked tortoiseshell and articles thereof	-	-	97	17
Worked ivory and articles of ivory	-	-	-	-

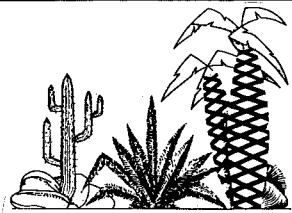
*Value in 1000 Rs.) Source: Pakistan Government Statistic Office

ANIMALS EXPORTED DURING 1977-78	
NAME	NUMBER EXPORTED
Striped Hyaena (<u>Hyaena hyaena</u>)	3
Jackal (<u>Canis aureus</u>)	2
Rose ringed parakeet (<u>Psittacula krameri borealis</u>)	800
Tiger finches (<u>Estrilda amandava amandava</u>)	1 39 000
White throated Munia (<u>Lonchura malabarica malabarica</u>)	11 053
Black headed bunting (<u>Emberiza melanocephala</u>)	4 300
Horned Viper (<u>Pseudocerastes persicus</u>)	60
Russell Viper (<u>Vipera russelii russelii</u>)	10
Leaf nosed Viper (<u>Eristocophis mcMahonii</u>)	30
Indian spina tailed Gecko (<u>Uromastix hardwicki</u>)	10
Fat Tailed Gecko (<u>Eublepharis macularius</u>)	17
Total amount earned through export of wild animals : Rs. 896 449	

COUNTRIES TO WHICH THE ABOVE EXPORTS HAVE BEEN MADE:

Bahrain, Belgium, France, Holland, Japan, Switzerland, Syria, USA, W.Germany.

Trade in Cacti



TRAFFIC recently commissioned a pilot study of the trade in Cacti, which was carried out by Charles Jarvis. His report, which was available for the Costa Rica meeting of CITES, is the first of its type to be undertaken for any group of plants.

Below is a summary of the report. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of it in full should write to the TRAFFIC office - a donation of \$1 would help defray costs of reproduction, postage, etc.

There were two main objectives. The first was to monitor the import and export of cacti and succulents by studying the reports on the implementation of CITES published by the British government. The second objective was the study of trade outlets within Great Britain in order to assess the importance of imported specimens in trade.

The family Cactaceae is almost completely restricted in the wild to the Americas, and Britain imports a large number of plants from these areas every year. During 1976, the total imports of cacti into Britain were 29,145 and in 1977 this figure increased to 44,109. In both years direct imports from the country of origin were only 15 - 20%. However, this does not mean that the remaining percentage was cultivated material because a large proportion of habitat-collected plants come to Britain via other countries. During 1976 and 1977 the main exporters of cacti to Britain were USA, Israel, Malta, West Germany and Belgium, totalling about 26,000 plants in each year.

About 40% of USA exports to Britain were re-exports from Mexico and South America. 40 - 70% of West Germany's exports had a similar origin, and over 90% of Belgium's exports to Britain were originally imported from North and South America. For example, Mexico is the home of many highly prized species of cacti but of all the plants reaching Britain, less than 10% are imported direct, the vast majority arriving via Belgium, West Germany and the USA. Of the remaining major sources of plants, both Israel and Malta report exporting mainly cultivated material.

There were also considerable numbers of imported specimens of the other succulents, all of which are native to the Old World. Imports of all four genera increased in 1977 over the numbers in 1976. 1977 totals were 1003 for Pachypodium, 3014 for Euphorbia, 505 for Anacampseros, and the surprisingly high number of 52,336 for Aloe. This last figure for Aloe represents more imports than for the whole of the Cactaceae and emphasises the importance of the 'other succulents'. Undoubtedly many more succulent groups should be added to the CITES schedule to

permit monitoring.

Exports of Cactaceae and other succulents from Britain are also numerous, particularly in the case of cacti. During 1976 over 20,000 cacti were exported, mainly to Europe. In 1977 the figure was over 30,000.

The retail outlets for cacti and other succulents in Britain come under two main categories. The first is the specialist nurseryman who usually grows succulent plants almost exclusively. He is the main commercial source of supply for many hundreds of enthusiasts throughout the country. There are more than thirty such nurseries in Britain and the vast majority deal only with seed-grown and propagated stock. A small number, probably less than six, deal in habitat-collected plants, as well as propagated material.

The second category includes more general retail outlets such as florists' shops and supermarkets. These others tend to stock the more easily grown plants for a general public as distinct from enthusiasts. Such shops are usually supplied by largely wholesale growers, both in Britain and on the Continent. The range of available species is usually much smaller than that found in specialist nurseries and habitat-imported plants do not, in general, play any part in this section of the trade. Although there were relatively few plants for sale in this sample, florists in other areas have been observed to sell larger numbers of bigger plants. (One such shop in the West End of London has, over the past six months, been offering quite large propagated plants for sale, including an enormous branched specimen of one of the large-growing species of Euphorbia. It's selling price was over £150. See illustration on page 12).

There are in Britain a number of very active societies run by enthusiasts to promote interest in cacti and other succulents. Shows and exhibitions organised by these societies may also have plants for sale. These plants usually represent surplus seedlings and cuttings from the collections of members and imported specimens rarely figure.

The overall situation in Britain seems to be that habitat-collected plants do not play a very major role in trade. Very few specialist nurseries sell such plants and imported plants can play a significant part in the trade for no more than two or three British nurseries. However, there are many nurseries in Europe which depend on habitat-collected imports for a large proportion of their trade, notably in Holland, Belgium and West Germany. A very large number of the wild-collected plants which reach Britain do so through these nurseries.

Mexican trips

March IUCN Bulletin (copies available from TRAFFIC) reported that 'cactus study tours' to Mexico organised by a Stuttgart travel firm Ehlers-Reisen International are an open invitation to plant lovers to uproot and bring back home whatever they can fit into a suitcase. Last year the entire population of a very rare cactus entered Germany in fifteen suitcases bought specially for the purpose.

Last year Customs officials made no seizures - this year's group, who each paid DM 2 790 for the opportunity to look for cacti in places including Cabo San Lukas, Mazatlan, El Salto, Durango, Las Minas and Zacatecas, returned at the end of March - hopefully German customs took action this time. See this space in next issue to find out what happened.



Euphorbia on sale in London's West End November 1978 - £150