

IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC GROUP

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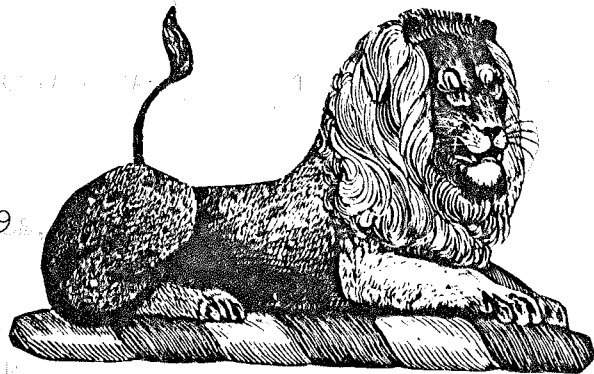
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Cites Conference in Costa Rica

The second conference of the parties to the Washington Convention was held in San Jose, capital of Costa Rica, in March. Delegates representing 39 CITES parties attended, and a further 15 states were present as observers. Also the European Community, 3 UN agencies and 55 NGOs were represented. At least 35 of the NGOs were US or US-based.

Two documents which provoked considerable discussion were Doc. 2.6 Annex 2, based on data from TRAFFIC (which revealed that substantial numbers of cat skins were being imported to the UK and West Germany) and Doc. 2.5 Annex 8 (which described the wildlife traffic between Bangkok and Brussels, and the correspondence which the CITES secretariat has had concerning it).

The UK, Switzerland and West Germany proposed that CITES should adopt a 'minimum list' of parts and derivatives of listed species, on the grounds that there was wide disagreement among member states on just what parts and derivatives were 'readily recognisable'. This proposal was opposed by other countries, plus many of the conservationist NGOs, on the grounds that it would soon become a 'maximum list'. The minimum list was rejected by a narrow majority.

Australia suggested that the increase in trade in non-CITES wildlife was a negative result of the convention. Other countries - notably Botswana and

Brazil - disagreed strongly. They wanted to encourage trade in commoner species as the rational exploitation of a natural resource. India, on the other hand, anticipated that before long it might ban all wildlife exports, of any species. This discussion relates to a fundamental difference in conception of the convention. Is CITES (as its preamble suggests) a means of gradually reducing all trade in wildlife, because this commerce is undesirable? Or is it, on the contrary, a means of regulating trade in a natural renewable resource, with a view to maximising its utilisation in the long run, as many wildlife-rich Third World nations believe. The vicuna debate (see below) also reflected this dilemma.

There was some discussion of the desirability of trading in hunting trophies of Appendix I species. It was agreed that culling of Appendix I species might sometimes be necessary for effective management, and that it was not incompatible with CITES for tourists and sportsmen to pay to shoot the surplus animals, or to sell the trophies. Botswana and Zambia argued this case particularly strongly.

The conference called on party states to produce regular, prompt and detailed reports on the wildlife trade in their countries. It also called for greater uniformity of permits and certificates issued under CITES.

The conference decided that confiscated specimens of Appendix I species should never be allowed to re-enter the commercial trade, but that physical destruction of them should be considered a last resort. The CITES secretariat was asked to establish a clearing house for the international exchange of confiscated specimens for scientific or educational use, or to help customs officials in identification.

It was agreed by the parties that UNEP should be asked to provide funds for the continuation of the work in preparing an international loose-leaf identification manual for CITES countries. The US tabled some sample sheets of an identification manual relating to crocodiles, and Switzerland demonstrated its own different system.

A proposal to abandon the use of subspecies in the CITES appendices was modified; only valid and readily recognisable subspecies should now be included. Alternatively, a species could be included for only one or two countries within its geographic range.

FINANCE

Since its inception, the CITES secretariat has been financed by the UN Environment Programme. UNEP has sub-contracted this task to IUCN, but continued to supply the money. It has been argued that it would not be sensible for CITES to develop its own system of collecting funds.

The UNEP Governing Council decided in 1978 that the CITES party states ought themselves to finance CITES, and determined to phase out UNEP funding completely by the end of 1983. The 1979 CITES conference had therefore to make some moves towards this, but was restricted in what it could do because any contributions from parties would require an amendment to the convention.

CITES decided to call an extraordinary meeting of the parties, to be held in June 1979 in Bonn, West Germany, specifically to do this. It is likely that the parties will then agree to establish a trust fund, to be collected and administered by UNEP (which will deduct the UN's standard 14 per cent handling charge), with each state contributing according to the recognised UN proportions.

In the meantime, the conference approved a two-year 1980-81 budget of \$ 1 023 000. Of this, \$ 350 000 will come from UNEP and \$ 673 000 will be contributed voluntarily by the CITES parties, according to the recognised UN scale. This will involve the US paying 25 per cent (\$ 246 000) and Cyprus, Guyana, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Paraguay and twelve other small states paying \$ 98.48 each. The United States indicated that it would in addition make a further voluntary contribution in 1980 of \$ 100 000.

CHANGES TO THE APPENDICES

Although a large number of proposals were submitted, a high proportion of them were withdrawn, usually because insufficient data was presented by the proposers.

Some of the most drastic changes were with the whales and dolphins. Most of the river dolphins were added to Appendix I.

The conference asked all CITES parties not to import any whales or whale products which came from any species or stock protected from commercial whaling by the International Whaling Commission; encouraged all CITES parties to adhere to the International Whaling Convention; and placed all whale and dolphin species not already on the appendices on to CITES Appendix II.

Three species of South American fox (heavily traded in) were added to Appendix II, and a fur seal was transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II. A number of proposals to remove cat species were either withdrawn or defeated.

Grevy's zebra was added to Appendix I, and Hartmann's zebra was added to Appendix II. the lechwe was dropped from Appendix I to Appendix II, as there is evidence that there are now substantial numbers.

Chile proposed to downgrade all vicuna from Appendix I to Appendix II; this was heavily defeated, because in most countries vicuna are still rare. Peru proposed to shift only the Pampa Galeras populations of vicuna to Appendix II - a much more acceptable proposal, since this reserve has been carefully managed for over ten years, and numbers have increased from under 5 000 to almost 40 000. Brazil called the Pampa Galeras vicuna "the best managed natural resource in Latin America", and Peru now wants to crop the vicuna and sell the wool. However, some protectionist groups lobbied and spoke strongly in favour of its retention on Appendix I, and the proposal was rejected. It was argued that the La Paz treaty on the conservation of the vicuna (Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador and Argentina) was being re-negotiated in September 1979, and that any CITES changes should wait until after that date. In fact, Peru had stated that she did not intend to start trading in vicuna wool until 1980 at the earliest.

A certain sense of having been manoeuvred by the US-based protectionist NGOs (the US government had supported Peru) led 21 delegations to call for the issue to be reopened. A vote was taken, which was two short of the two-thirds majority needed to reconsider it. Peru may now take the issue to a postal ballot within CITES.

The two most significant changes in the birds were the addition of all birds of prey, both nocturnal and diurnal (except New World vultures) to Appendix II. This will enable close monitoring of owls, hawks, eagles and other species, which are often highly vulnerable to threats from trade, especially falconry.

The major reptile changes were the addition of yet two more crocodiles to Appendix I - Crocodylus acutus (USA population) and C. porosus. In the latter case the population of Papua New Guinea (which is being effectively managed) was excluded. The Mississippi alligator was downgraded from Appendix I to II, as this species, at least in Florida and Louisiana, is now locally abundant and can sustain a harvest; in addition there are a number of alligator farms.

The biggest changes to the appendices were also those that provoked the least discussion - the plants. The CITES parties readily agreed to the addition of nearly twenty genera, including Banksia and many other Australian species. The Chilean population of the monkey puzzle tree was added to Appendix I.

Rhino Report

The numbers of black rhinoceros (Dicenos bicornis) are decreasing rapidly, particularly in East Africa. In 1969 there were between 6 000 and 9 000 in Tsavo National Park in Kenya; it is now estimated that there are somewhere between 80 and 200.

The main reason for this decline is the demand for rhinoceros horn, which weight for weight is worth more than gold. Trade is flourishing, but more information is needed on the actual uses of rhino horn. It is believed to be endowed with qualities of masculinity and used as an aphrodisiac, particularly in the Far East, and this has received widespread publicity, but evidence is required to back this up. It is also used in medicines in the Far East, notably as a fever reducing agent. Formerly its most important use was for making poison-detecting cups, and currently it is reported to be used in the Middle East for making dagger handles, which are alleged to sell for 6 000 US \$ or more.

One of the principal importers was formerly Hong Kong, but since March 1979 it has banned all imports of rhino horn, although illegal trade still goes on there. Dr Kes Hillman and others give the following information on prices:

"....According to information from Hong Kong, in 1979 the official price there was 330 US \$ per kilogram, whereas in other black market places the actual price fluctuated from between 3 000 and 5 000 US \$ per kilogram.

In South Yemen in 1978, 675 US \$ per kg were paid, but it must be taken into account that the value there has in the meantime increased to approximately 800 US \$ per kilo.

In Kenya the price paid direct to the poachers remains at present 265 US \$, while the middle-man gets around 397 US \$. According to information from Kenya, prices in Hong Kong went up to 7 700 US \$ per kilo, and there is even information maintaining that offers have risen there to as high as 166 600 K Shs. - that is about 20 000 US \$.

The profit margin on the black market is enormous, and we can only hope that the illegal export from Kenya and the attempt to import illegallywill be punished accordingly....".

TABLE 1. KENYAN EXPORTS OF RHINO HORN FROM 1974 TO 1977

COUNTRY	1974		1975		1976		1977	
	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE
BRAZIL	31	7 750						
DENMARK							74	1 280
GREECE							10	1 000
HONG KONG	676	132 079	3 912	640 642				
TAIWAN	111	40 871						
USA	20	5 000						
W GERMANY			92	8 938				
YEMEN			779	463 565	1 946	914 764		
OTHER COUNTRIES					1 393	2 066 846		
TOTALS	838	185 700	4 783	1 113 145	3 339	2 981 610	84	2 280

*Weight in Kgs *Value in Kenyan schillings.

Source: Customs & Excise Annual Trade Report, Mombasa, Kenya.

An interesting feature of Table 1 is the comparatively small amount of rhino horn exports from Kenya in 1977. There could be a variety of reasons for this: that Kenya is not showing its complete rhino horn export figures in its trade statistics; there is not enough rhino horn around to match previous years' figures; or Kenya is including rhino horn in under another category, e.g. not listing it separately.

TABLE 2. JAPANESE IMPORTS OF RHINO HORN FROM 1974 TO 1978

COUNTRY	1974		1975		1976		1977		1978	
	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE
HONG KONG	27	921	16	1 109	55	1 357	229	7 446	120	8 229
KENYA	409	7 453	143	2 726	704	13 459	304	8 748	367	22 587
SINGAPORE							3	165	16	1 337
S AFRICA	164	3 538	22	457	64	1 754	25	1 005	350	21 776
TANZANIA	84	1 704								
TOTALS	684	13 616	181	4 532	823	16 570	561	17 364	853	53 929

*Weight in Kgs. *Value 1 000 Japanese Yen. Source: Japan Exports & Imports Statistics

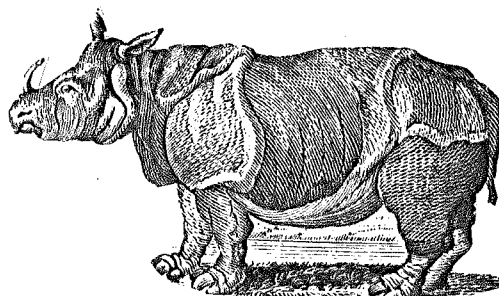


TABLE 3. TAIWAN IMPORTS OF RHINO HORN FROM 1974 TO 1978

COUNTRY	1974		1975		1976		1977		1978	
	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE
HONG KONG							200	100		
JAPAN	5	7								
TANZANIA							24	42		
OTHER COUNTRIES	103	169								
NOT KNOWN	1 492	2 061	1 908	2 319	681	1 028			802	2 301
TOTALS	1 600	2 237	1 908	2 319	681	1 028	224	142	802	2 301

*Weight in Kgs *Value NT\$ 1 000

Source: Statistics of Trade, Republic of China

TABLE 4. TOTAL IMPORTS OF RHINO HORN BY JAPAN AND TAIWAN FROM 1974 TO 1978

COUNTRY	1974		1975		1976		1977		1978	
	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE	*WEIGHT	*VALUE
NOT KNOWN	2 284	15 853	2 089	6 581	1 504	17 598	785	17 506	1 655	56 230

DEPOSITS AND WITHDRAWALS OF RHINOCEROS HORN FROM THE IVORY ROOM IN DAR ES SALAAM FROM 1972 TO 1976		
	DEPOSITS (No. of Horns)	WITHDRAWALS (No. of Horns)
1972	6	3
1973	96	20
1974	181	90
1975	122	51
(Jan- Oct only) → 1976	99	368
	504	532

ANY data, apocryphal, factual or otherwise, relating to rhino horn trade is urgently needed. IUCN has established a Rhino Specialist Group under the chairmanship of Dr Kes Hillman in Nairobi and TRAFFIC is working in close cooperation. The rhino group have already started an impressive emergency campaign in Kenya, and President Moi recently gave the black rhino special protection.

Stop press

President Moi of Kenya last week announced a total ban on the hunting of rhinos in an effort to save them from extinction, saying that without official protection the species could disappear within the next year. Kenyan Standard, May 23rd.

Frankfurt Fur Fair

Following a report published by TRAFFIC on the illegal and substantial smuggling operation in the skins of protected wild cats, World Wildlife Fund organised a press conference in London on 25th April, at which John Burton and Tim Inskipp represented TRAFFIC. It was on the eve of the Frankfurt International Fur Fair and called for an immediate and complete ban on all imports of spotted catskins.

"It is clear that the controls are not working" said Dr Lee Talbot, Special Scientific Adviser to WWF International. "Only a freeze on imports and a careful stocktaking to ensure that all catskins at present in the hands of fur dealers can be recorded will stem this illegal and offensive business".

The fur trade have in the past made efforts to discourage this trade, but unscrupulous dealers still find that the rewards outweigh the risks. In the past five years there has been only one prosecution.

Apart from a few lynx, the domestic retail market for spotted cats has almost disappeared in the United Kingdom. This has been brought about largely by the fact that it has become socially unacceptable and anyone wearing a spotted cat coat can expect, at the least, verbal abuse. Unfortunately in Germany and Switzerland this is not yet the case, and trade in the furs of endangered species of cat is brisk, with shop-windows in the major cities of West Germany displaying coats and pelts quite openly.

The TRAFFIC report, adopted by the Governments represented at the recent CITES convention in Costa Rica, gives factual evidence indicating just how serious this illegal trade is. From the German Government's own customs records it appears that some 75 000 cat pelts were imported from Brazil and 6 000 from Surinam in 1977, yet neither of these countries authorized any exports of these skins to Germany. In total, West Germany imported some 264 000 catskins in 1977.

Britain has little cause for complacency. In 1977 imports of ocelots alone reached 1 995 from Brazil and 2 083 from Surinam, according to the customs records. Again, neither of these countries issued permits, and in addition the Surinam Government suggests that the skins purporting to come from them clearly came from Brazil, since their ocelot population is already too depleted to provide these numbers.

Taken from a World Wildlife Fund press release, 25 April 1979.

Indonesian Journey

A recent report from Ulrike Freifrau von Mengden, Indonesia, gives a disturbing account of a trip to the Aru Islands, including some information and photographs relating to trade in wildlife that was encountered.

On arrival in Dobo, the main town of Aru, in late 1977 about 500 parrots of various species were encountered in cages in front of houses along the beach. These were waiting for shipment to Ambon and Sulawesi - apparently some of them go out in government and navy boats. In front of the local Animal Protection Bureau building were many wooden cages crammed with wallabies (the species of wallaby is not mentioned in the report and we have been unable to find any species recorded from Aru). The bemused reply to questions about the licences for all these animals was that these were perhaps available from the dealers in Ambon.

A Chinese dealer was visited who was just packing a consignment of skins of birds of paradise and parrots. The photographs show a big pile of skins of the Greater Bird of Paradise Paradisaea apoda and a couple of King Birds of Paradise Cicinnurus regius.

Some of the Aru natives refrain from hunting these birds, which they know are protected, but the Papuas in the interior have no such scruples and are mainly responsible for the large number of skins available for export and tourists.

In a small village further south a Dugong Dugong dugon was seen which had just been killed and was being cut up. The tusks fetch US \$50 in Ambon and the meat is also very valuable. Two more dugongs were also killed.

In the islands overall, the Cassowary Casuarius casuarius had declined (probably through being killed for food) and the Green Turtle Chelonia mydas, both the adults and eggs of which are taken by the natives, is likely to have suffered.

Many of the passengers on the boat back to Ambon had bags full of bird of paradise skins. Queries about licences were again treated with derision. Also on board were 250 parrots and 15 cages of wallabies, many of which died because of the rough sea). Apparently Indonesian and Japanese ships meet outside the territorial waters and smuggled animals are traded.

This report was based on a trip made at the end of 1977. Since Indonesia has now ratified the CITES, it is to be hoped that such incidents will soon cease, but careful monitoring of the trade in wildlife is still needed, and WWF Indonesia have proposed a study of the trade of what is probably one of the most important areas in the world.



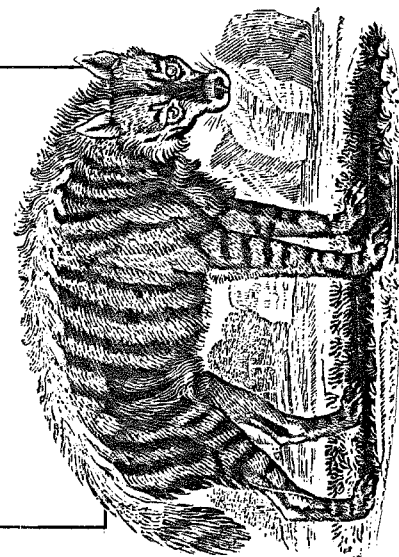
The Bulletin is available to anyone interested for a minimum donation of \$ 10 (£5) p.a. (payable to Fauna Preservation Society). Since this only covers the actual costs of production and postage we hope that institutions and anyone else who can afford it will contribute more generously.



Pakistan Export

STATISTICS OF PAKISTAN WILDLIFE EXPORTS FROM JANUARY TO APRIL 1979

TYPE OF WILDLIFE EXPORTED		COUNTRIES TO WHICH EXPORTED
Striped Hyaena (<u>Hyaena hyaena</u>)	2	USA
Five Striped Palm Squirrel (<u>Funambulus pennanti</u>)	1 520	UK
Rose Ringed Parakeet (<u>Psittacula krameri borealis</u>)	450	WEST GERMANY
Red Munia or Tiger Finch (<u>Estrilda a. amandava</u>)	56 766	HOLLAND
White Throated Munia (<u>Lonchura m. malabarica</u>)	4 400	FRANCE
Black Headed Bunting (<u>Emberiza melanocephala</u>)	7 170	BELGIUM
White Cheeked Bulbul (<u>Pycnonotus l. leucogenys</u>)	200	HONG KONG
Indian Cobra (<u>Naja naja</u>)	70	JAPAN
Saw Scaled Viper (<u>Echis carinatus</u>)	43	SINGAPORE
Russell's Viper (<u>Vipera russelli</u>)	18	KUWAIT
Sand Boa (<u>Eryx johni</u>)	49	SRI LANKA
Dhaman (<u>Ptyas mucosus</u>)	20	
Indian Spiny Tailed Lizard (<u>Uromastix hardwicki</u>)	200	
Indian Garden Lizard (<u>Calotes versicolor</u>)	50	
Blotched Gecko (<u>Hemidactylus triedrus</u>)	100	
Brown River Turtle (<u>Kachuga smithi</u>)	50	
Aquarium Fishes (<u>Puntius</u> and <u>Laubuca spp.</u>)	2 250	



Data provided by Syed Ali Ghalib of TRAFFIC



Texas Skins Seized

17,538 skins, of which 1,556 were of the Mexican lynx, which is endangered, were seized in February in El Paso, USA by Wildlife Service agents and US Customs agents and patrol officers. This is said to be the largest seizure ever made in the States. The skins were confiscated on the 37,000 acre ranch of David W Adams, who was arrested along with four alleged illegal aliens. The men were charged with conspiracy to smuggle and smuggling the skins from Mexico into the USA, violating the endangered species laws and illegally transporting the skins in interstate or foreign commerce. Federal officials are trying to sell the skins, except for the endangered species, before they rot.

Taken from The El Paso Times, February 28 1979.

Mexico Trips.... the continuing saga

This year's fully booked annual trip to Mexico of 'plant lovers' (see Bulletin No. 2, page 12) returned to Germany at the end of March with 3,600 various species of cacti. Frankfurt airport authorities confiscated the entire collection on the grounds that the plant health certificate covering them is not recognised by CITES. The tour operators, Ehlers-Reisen International, have taken the matter to Court, claiming that commercial firms are bringing in plane loads of cacti, paying the Mexican authorities \$1 for a permit. They also claim that somebody from the Zurich Botanical Gardens arranges similar tours. IUCN is looking into the matter.

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