

IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC GROUP

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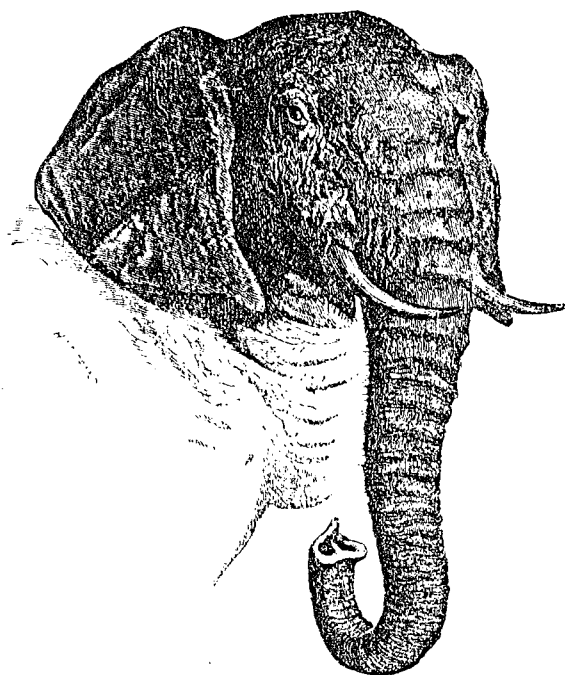
BULLETIN

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Editorial

On the last page there is a note about subscriptions to the Bulletin. It is important that whenever possible organisations make some sort of donation to defray production costs - but we are prepared to continue to send it free to anyone (in addition to members) who can put it to good use.

The original idea behind the production of the Bulletin was to produce regular summaries of the data accumulating in the TRAFFIC office. Since we regard ourselves primarily as a data bank and do not have the facilities to follow up our research, we hope that action orientated groups as well as government departments will take legal proceedings where necessary, and carry out more detailed investigations.

Any part of the Bulletin may be quoted, provided full acknowledgement is made; we would request that the results of any action or follow up are communicated to us, for inclusion in the Bulletin.

John A Burton.

Traffic USA

As mentioned in Bulletin No.1, a TRAFFIC office has been established in the USA. The USA TRAFFIC office has been established as an independent organisation funded by, and responsible to, WWF (USA). Nicole Duplaix and David Mack are running the office, which is located at 1601 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington DC 20009, USA.

Although TRAFFIC USA is an independent organisation, it will be closely linked with the IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC Group - sharing data, using identical or similar data storage and filing systems, as well as a direct Telex link (if the UK post office ever gets round to installing ours!).

Any information or data relating solely to the USA should be communicated direct to TRAFFIC USA; all other data relating to the rest of the world should continue to be sent to the IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC Group; we will also automatically copy any data relevant to US trade.

TRAFFIC USA will be covering the trade in and out of the US, and the IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC Group will continue to monitor the trade in wildlife in all other parts of the world. TRAFFIC USA appears to have got off to a flying start, with WWF providing all the necessary funds, and the US Endangered Species Scientific Authority offering full cooperation. Priorities for TRAFFIC USA are an analysis of the export documents collected by the USDI and an investigation into the phytosanitary certificates issued by the USDA.

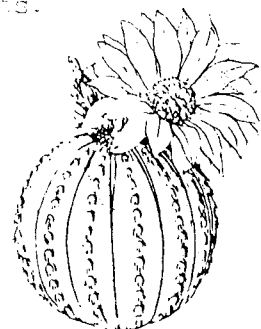
Nicole Duplaix visited the IUCN/SSC Traffic office during June to discuss the methods used to collect and store data, and armed with voluminous photocopies has now returned to the US and hopes to develop similar filing systems so that data is compatible between the two offices.

Regional TRAFFIC Offices

Now that an office has been established in the US, it is intended to establish offices in several other key countries. Priorities are: Japan, West Germany (and Austria), Belgium (and France), Kenya and Brazil. If any readers know of possible candidates and/or sources of funding and a small office please inform us. The right person will need a good head for detail, an ability to work with bureaucrats, a reasonable knowledge of natural history, and be prepared to work for a very low salary!

Cacti Index

TRAFFIC now has a cross-referenced index to genera and species of cacti and succulents in trade, prepared by Charles Jarvis.



Comment

Fishy success

The "Conference to conclude a Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals", which started on 11 June in Bonn just managed to complete its work in time for the signing of the convention, at midday on 23 June, by 22 out of the 50 nations still present.

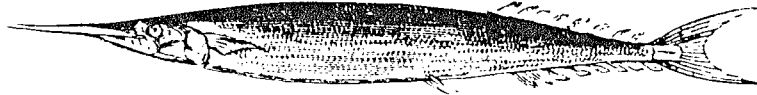
The original draft convention was prepared by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and subsequently taken over by the Federal Republic of Germany. The treaty demands that the parties "(a) should promote, cooperate in, or support research relating to migratory species; (b) shall endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species included in Appendix I; and (c) shall endeavour to include agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species included in Appendix II". The first appendix lists endangered species, while the second catalogues those "migratory species which have an unfavourable conservation status and which require international agreement for their conservation and management".

A key issue at the conference was whether fish, whales,

molluscs and other marine animals should be included. The overwhelming majority of delegates was adamant that such a global treaty should cover all species. Lesotho, Morocco, Sri Lanka, India, Togo and Chad were among a large number of extremely eloquent adherents to this principle—in fact, all the European, African and Asian nations except Japan were in support. However, a minority including the US, Japan, USSR, and South Africa, was clearly subject to political and economic pressures and wanted marine animals, particularly fish, excluded. But they were resoundingly beaten by 41 votes to 9.

It remains to be seen whether the US really is as implacable as it claimed, and whether the conservation body can exert enough influence to persuade it to sign the convention. Meanwhile the most significant effect of it not signing now will be cash. The US would no doubt have contributed substantially to any budget if it had become a party. But the conservationists represented as observers at the conference were unanimous in their support for the hard line adopted by the majority of delegates, and saw this treaty as the most significant step forward since the coming into force of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

John A. Burton
Fauna Preservation Society



Bengal Tigerskin for sale

The UK's Sunday Observer carried an article in May entitled "How £600 Tigerskin was put on Offer". It told of how the reporter Geoffrey Lean and Tim Clarke, wildlife campaigner for Friends of the Earth, visited the home of Dr Begum, who had advertised the skin of a Royal Bengal tiger in a medical journal, which was spotted by an MD who sent TRAFFIC the cutting; we passed this on to Tim Clarke.

The 3-metre long skin was brought into the UK by a Mr Shariful Islam, a Bangladeshi businessman and brother-in-law of Dr Begum. He obtained it from poachers who had killed it in the Sundarbans forest at the mouth of the Ganges, where at the last estimate there were only 350 Bengal tigers extant; they are considered as among the most endangered species.

Dr Begum said that her brother-in-law had bought it as a gift for her. Importing tiger skins into the UK is banned under the 1976 Endangered Species Act, unless accompanied by a licence, but the Department of the Environment confirmed that it had not issued a licence to Mr Islam.

Friends of the Earth notified the police, who confiscated the skin and have sent in a report of the incident to the Director of Public Prosecutions; and in about a month's time we should know what further action, if any, the police will take. See next Bulletin for further developments.

Rhino update

Dr Kes Hillman, Chairman of the IUCN African Rhino Group, has sent some data on the average weights of rhino horns, which has been compiled with the help of the African Elephant Group. This data, used in conjunction with the summary of TRAFFIC's rhino data published in Bulletin 3/4, gives an idea of the numbers killed. The average weight of rhino horns in Kenya was 1.97 kg, with an average of 3.93 kgs from each rhino (one horn being considerably larger than the other). In Zambia the average was around 2.5 kgs/horn.

From these figures it can be deduced that in 1978 the Japanese imports from Kenya represented around 93 rhinos; that between 1974-77 Kenya exported the horn of some 2,300 rhinos, according to official statistics....
.... what the real exports were is unknown.

Overweight tortoises

A lorry crammed with tortoises was stopped at a weighbridge in the UK in June. It was on its way to Birmingham Zoological Co. UK, having come from Istanbul; the tortoises were being shipped by Biopet. The charge was being overloaded by three tons, and a fine of £250 was imposed, plus £20 costs.

Sexy snake snacks

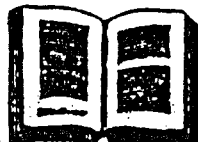
According to a new animal welfare newspaper published in the UK, 'The Beast', the Korean equivalent of McDonalds Hamburgers and Kentucky Fried Chicken is snakes, which they believe nourish the body, stimulate sex drives and cure a variety of ills. In Seoul alone there are 400 snake snack shops where hungry customers can consume whisky spiked with powdered python, and tang - a thick, pale yellow serpent soup, a bowl of which can cost from around £8 to over £60. To improve your sex drive you need a bowl a day for ten days - an expensive business.

Skins from the sea

Tanned fish skins, suitably dyed, are providing fashion designers with a completely new material for handbags, belts and other accessories as the world's supply of snake and reptile skins becomes smaller.

These skins, the result of development work carried out by Dan-Cod, a Danish exporter of wet-salted cod, are superior in strength to snakeskin and can be reinforced to meet virtually any strength requirement by bonding to nylon or other material. The result has already been marketed very successfully in Italy, and TRAFFIC is meeting with the manufacturers to discuss their products.

Publications list



Since we do not have funds for copying and distributing copies of our publications, if possible please enclose a donation with any orders, to help defray costs.

If any reader has published articles relating to trade in wildlife, we would welcome a supply of reprints for inclusion in our list of publications. We also welcome summaries of trade data for inclusion in the Bulletin; publication in the Bulletin is normally within six weeks of receipt.

TRAFFIC BULLETINS (£ 10 per annum)

IUCN BULLETINS

LIST OF OFFICIAL TRADE STATISTICS IN TRAFFIC OFFICE FROM 1973 TO 1979

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA, 1973 (Revised 1976)

THE SPONGE TRADE

by Sue Wells, May 1979

A report showing the species involved, their distribution, uses etc.

KENYAN SHELL TRADE 1978

by Sue Wells, 1979

A report giving details of Kenyan legislation, shop survey, example of export permit, international trade, etc.

WHALE TRADE DATA 1977

Official statistics relating to trade in whale products

THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TURTLES

by John A Burton, May 1979

A report on the exploitation of the marine turtle

SUMMARY OF TORTOISESHELL TRADE 1976 AND 1977

Compiled by Sue Wells

Figures taken from Official Trade Statistics on worked and raw tortoiseshell

TORTOISES COME TO BRITAIN

by John A Burton and Mike Lambert, 1977

An article in the World of Wildlife magazine about the trade in tortoises to the United Kingdom

UK IMPORTS OF TORTOISES 1965 - 1975 inclusive

Table showing species of tortoises imported and numbers imported

PRIMATES INTO UNITED KINGDOM, 1965 - 1975

by John A Burton

Reprint from Recent Advances in Primatology Vol. 2 Conservation (1978)
Academic Press

BIRDS IN PERIL

by Tim Inskipp and John A Burton, 1979

The Threat of International Trade. Article in 'The Encyclopedia of Birds'

PASSAGE FROM INDIA

Article in 'Birds' magazine, 1978, about a field investigation made by Tim Inskipp to find out about the trapping methods used to catch birds destined for the international bird trade.

BIRDS ARE BIG BUSINESS

by Tim Inskipp and Gareth Thomas

Article in 'Birds' magazine, 1977, concerning the importation of exotic birds into the United Kingdom

SINGAPORE: EXPORTS

Birds not for food, excluding poultry. Extract from official statistics

THE TRADE IN CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENT PLANTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

by Charles Jarvis, Plant Science Laboratories, Reading University. 1979

UK TRADE IN WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTS 1977 AND 1978

Summary from official statistics, 1979

ANALYSIS OF GERMAN IMPORTS OF FAUNA 1977

Summary from official statistics, 1978

MAMMALS USED IN THE FUR TRADE

Compiled by Tim Inskipp, 1978

Comprehensive list giving the scientific, English and trade name and distribution of mammals used in the fur trade

GROWING AWARENESS, WORLD-WIDE RESPONSIBILITY

by John A Burton

An article on the diminishing resources of wildlife. Naturopa Magazine, 1977

REPRINTS OF NEW SCIENTIST ARTICLES

THE ZOO CONNECTION

by John A Burton and Tim Inskipp, 5 January 1978

Further evidence of the smuggling of protected and endangered species of animals, confirming the need for tighter international controls.

ILLICIT TRADE IN RARE ANIMALS

by John A Burton, 21 October 1976

An account of the first report by the Department of the Environment on the implementation of CITES.

THE IVORY CONNECTION

by John A Burton, 15 April 1976

An article about the illegal trade in ivory and lizard skins and the need for tighter legislation

THE IVORY CONNECTION PART 2

by John A Burton

Article showing the discrepancies in the licences issued by the Department of the Environment and the amount of ivory recorded by Customs, and asks if the Convention is being enforced effectively.



Smuggling in the USA

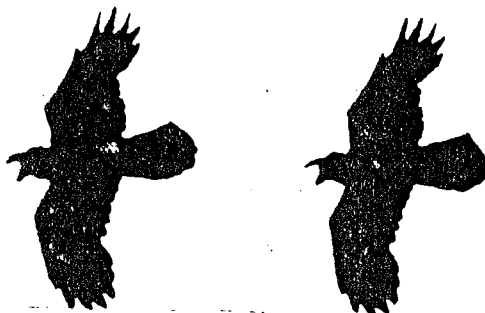
In May the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York announced the indictment of six persons in connection with the smuggling and illegal importation of wildlife into the US.

The defendants are Walter Frey and Alastair MacDonald of Canada, James McKinley Ross of Texas, Lee Sims of Louisiana, Lawrence Curtis of Oklahoma and Gordon Cooke of Leicester, England.

The indictments arose out of a two year investigation by United States Fish and Wildlife Special Agents, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Investigators of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise Service, Nottingham, England. The investigation, led by Special Agents of the US Customs, involved scores of US Agents in various states as well as investigative officers from England and Canada.

The indictments charge illegal introduction into the US of birds and animals and conspiracy to smuggle birds and animals into the US.

(continued over...)



Subscriptions

The Bulletin is sent free to all group members and IUCN consultants. We are making it available to anyone else, but the production of the Bulletin was not provided for in our budget. Consequently we ask readers to contribute towards the cost of production, and many have already. A donation of \$10 covers only the cost of postage and duplication, and so organizations or individuals are requested where possible to be as generous as possible. Please also encourage a wider readership.

If you are NOT an IUCN Consultant or Group Member, and have not already paid a subscription, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAGE AND RETURN TO TRAFFIC.

Specifically the first indictment accuses James McKinley Ross on three counts of smuggling 140 birds into the US on October 13 1977; of violating US Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations; and of violating US Department of Agriculture statutes. The second indictment accuses Walter Frey of smuggling a harpy eagle into the US on or about August 1 1974 and that Frey, Lawrence, Curtis, Gordon Cooke and Lee Sims conspired with each other and with additional persons to smuggle birds into the US.

The final indictment charges Frey and Alastair MacDonald with conspiring to smuggle birds and animals from June 1974 to December 1975. Each of the smuggling counts carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a fine of \$20 000.

(Taken from US Department of the Interior News Release, May 18 1979)

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